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Life on a Royal Navy Ship—Uniforms

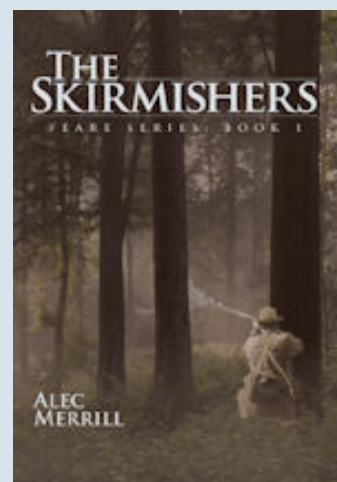
Prior to 1748 there were no established rules for clothing on His Majesty's ships. There were some guidelines, but they were fully open to a Captain's interpretation. Bowing to multiple requests to come up with a standardized uniform, in 1747, the Admiralty asked a number of active captains to provide suggestions for a uniform for each rank. Several captains replied. The end result was the 1748 pattern. The table below outlines the applicable Dress Uniform for each rank generally found on a ship. Daily uniforms or undress clothing varied. Daily wear on board ship was usually in undress uniform. Only the commissioned officers had prescribed undress uniforms

Position	Uniform
Senior Captain (over 3 years)	Hat: Black tricorne with gold trim and a black silk cockade. Coat: Blue single breasted coat with large white cuffs and brass buttons. Double gold trim on the coat and 3 gold stripes on the large white cuff. Waistcoat: White with double gold trimming around the bottom, front and pockets Tie: White silk tie Shirt: White (larger shirts were the fashion in 1748). Breeches: Navy blue with brass buttons. Stockings: White Shoes/Boots: Black
Junior Captain (under 3 years)	Same as Senior Captain except for the coat and waistcoat Coat: Blue double breasted coat with white lapels buttoned back with brass buttons. White cuff with large 'mariners cuff' in blue with simple gold trim around the jacket and cuff. Waistcoat: White with very wide gold edging (senior captains (over 3 years seniority) had wider edging than junior captains)
Lieutenant	Hat: Black tricorne with gold trim and a black silk cockade. Coat: Blue single breasted coat with large white cuffs and brass buttons. Waistcoat: White with simple narrow gold trimming around the bottom, front and pockets Tie: White silk tie Shirt: White (larger shirts were the fashion in 1748). Breeches: Navy blue with brass buttons. Stockings: White Shoes/Boots: Black
Master, Purser, Surgeon, Chaplain	Hat: Black tricorne with gold trim and a black silk cockade. Coat: Blue Frock coat with gold navy buttons Tie: White silk tie Shirt: White (larger shirts were the fashion in 1748). Breeches: Navy blue with brass buttons. Stockings: White Shoes/Boots: Black
Midshipman	Hat: Black tricorne with gold trim and a black silk cockade. Coat: Blue single breasted coat with white cuffs, blue 'mariners cuff' detail and brass buttons. The collar is turned down at the neck exposing the white lining. Waistcoat: White (no edging) with brass buttons, worn buttoned up to the neck Tie: White silk tie Shirt: White (larger shirts were the fashion in 1748). Breeches: Navy blue with brass buttons. Stockings: White Shoes/Boots: Black
Master's Mate. Surgeon's Mate	Hat: Black tricorne with gold trim and a black silk cockade. Coat: Blue Frock coat with white trim Tie: White silk tie Shirt: White (larger shirts were the fashion in 1748). Breeches: Navy blue with brass buttons. Stockings: White Shoes/Boots: Black
Gunner, Boatswain	Hat: Black tricorne with gold trim and a black silk cockade. Coat: Blue Frock coat with Navy buttons Tie: White silk tie Shirt: White (larger shirts were the fashion in 1748). Breeches: Navy blue with brass buttons. Stockings: White Shoes/Boots: Black
All Others	Shipboard issued crew clothing (discussion between purser and captain to determine requirements). Shoes - optional

Note: The ship's Cook, Captain's Clerk, and School teacher (if carried) all wore civilian clothing.



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