

FIFTH ENDORSEMENTCOPYVFF:WM
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11th October, 1918.

From: Commander, Division Two, Pacific Fleet.
To : Surgeon General.
Via : Bureau of Navigation.

SUBJECT: Sanitary Report for the month
of September, 1918.

1. Referring to paragraph 6, page 3, of Medical Officer's report of August 1st, the attention of the Department is invited to the following copy of a telegram to all stations in the Pacific:

"Direct Commanding Officers of all vessels and stations to take immediate precautions against Spanish Influenza. Medical Officers should promptly detect appearance of this disease and be prepared to treat it. Give warning and instructions to personnel as to symptoms and conduct necessary daily medical examinations or inspections. Be prepared to segregate cases and anticipate hospital demands."

2. The subject of uniform, and specially of knitted garments, was fully treated in the Division Commander's endorsement upon Surgeon Rossiter's sanitary report for the month of August.

3. It is plain from a consideration of paragraph 6, page 3, of the Medical Officer's report that Surgeon Rossiter is persistently contentious concerning orders issued by the Division Commander, and it is considered that he is obsessed with the idea that knitted garments, worn underneath, are essential to the health of men in the Navy.

4. The Division Commander is convinced that this obsession on the part of Surgeon Rossiter, and his ideas generally indicate a lack of sound judgment, an

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unwillingness to benefit by the experience of others and a tendency to question the orders of competent authority.

5. Surgeon Rossiter does not appear to realize that knitted garments worn underneath may be a menace rather than a safeguard.

6. It is proper to state that Army and Navy officers of experience returning from the West Front, frequently condemn knitted garments because they harbor vermin and are conducive to personal uncleanness.

7. In the present emergency and in view of the epidemic of influenza, the Division Commander has issued the following order by radio to all stations on the Pacific:

"Pending the epidemic of influenza, all restrictions concerning uniform contained in the orders of the Division Commander are hereby temporarily removed at the discretion of Commanding Officers of ships and stations. The ill effects of overheating from wearing knitted garments underneath should be considered. Ack. Comdts. 12, 13, 14, Nav.Dists. Nav.Tra.Sta. San Francisco. 11211.

8. This order was issued as a special concession. It is not believed, however, that the knitted garments, worn underneath, will be a safeguard in this case. If men become overheated from wearing these garments near the skin, they are more apt to catch cold or be chilled. People in civil life and officers of the Army and Navy do not rely upon and would not wear knitted garments as recommended by Surgeon Rossiter.

/s/ W.F.FULLAM.
