

Blue Boot Fi Climb 11 Step

“No meck mi haffie put on blue boot and climb eleven step.” ... that's a threat.

That is the veiled threat you issue to somebody who a badda badda yuh, or somebody who you into BIG argument wid, or somebody who ‘do yuh something’. In your bexedness (vexation) your first instinct is to ‘do dem something’. Better judgment kicks in and you let them know that if dem continue, it going to get out of hand and might end up inna court house. So how do we arrive at the ‘blue boot?’ At one time, the rage was these rather ugly casual ‘crep’ shoes, with a rubber botton and canvas top, locally manufactured, inexpensive and most of all comfortable. So if you anticipated long standing, e.g. in court, you would wear your ‘blue boot’. And where do we get ‘eleven step’? In Jamaica all the major court houses are upstairs, with the court offices being on the ground floor. Also for security reasons, when the judge pronounces a guilty verdict, someone wanting to make good his or her escape would find it more difficult to do so from upstairs. Depending on the width of each individual step, the number of steps can range from eleven to 16. Most courthouses had eleven steps, so people with a matter could climb them, proudly wearing their blue boot.