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B.R. 159/34

ROYAL NAVAL HANDBOOK
OF
FIELD TRAINING

1934

*By Authority of the Lords Commissioners of the
Admiralty*

TRAINING AND STAFF DUTIES DIVISION,
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PART II.

RIFLE AND PISTOL EQUIPMENT.

RIFLE EQUIPMENT.

1. MARCHING ORDER.

The complete rifle equipment for seamen is termed *Marching Order*.

Marching Order can be divided into two parts. The first part consists of such portions of the equipment necessary to enable the following items to be carried:—

Rifle (with sling).

Bayonet.

Ammunition.

Intrenching tool with helve.

Waterbottle.

† Haversack.

The second part consists of the † Pack and supporting straps, which can readily be removed from the rest of the equipment.

2. MARCHING ORDER WITHOUT PACK.

A man normally carries the whole equipment, but when ordered, the pack can be discarded, when extra ammunition may be carried in bandoliers, and the canteen may be strapped to the back of the waistbelt.

† For contents of Haversack and Pack see B.R. 17, Royal Naval Field Service Pocket Book—1932.

3. DETAILS OF RIFLE EQUIPMENT.

(Plates 8 and 9.)

The component parts of the equipment are all directly connected together. The result of this is that the whole of it can be taken off in one motion and, unless it is required to be taken apart for any purpose, remains intact and ready for putting on again at a moment's notice.

The component parts of the equipment consist of the following :—

A. Waistbelt.

This is issued in three sizes, large, medium and small, the over-all length of the webbing being 48, 44 and 40 inches respectively.

B. Frog.

C. Braces (2).

D. Cartridge carriers (1 left, 1 right).

E. Pack.

F. Supporting straps (2).

G. Haversack.

H. Waterbottle carrier.

I. Intrenching tool carrier (head).

J. Intrenching tool carrier (helve).

K. End pieces.

L. Extending piece (cartridge carrier).

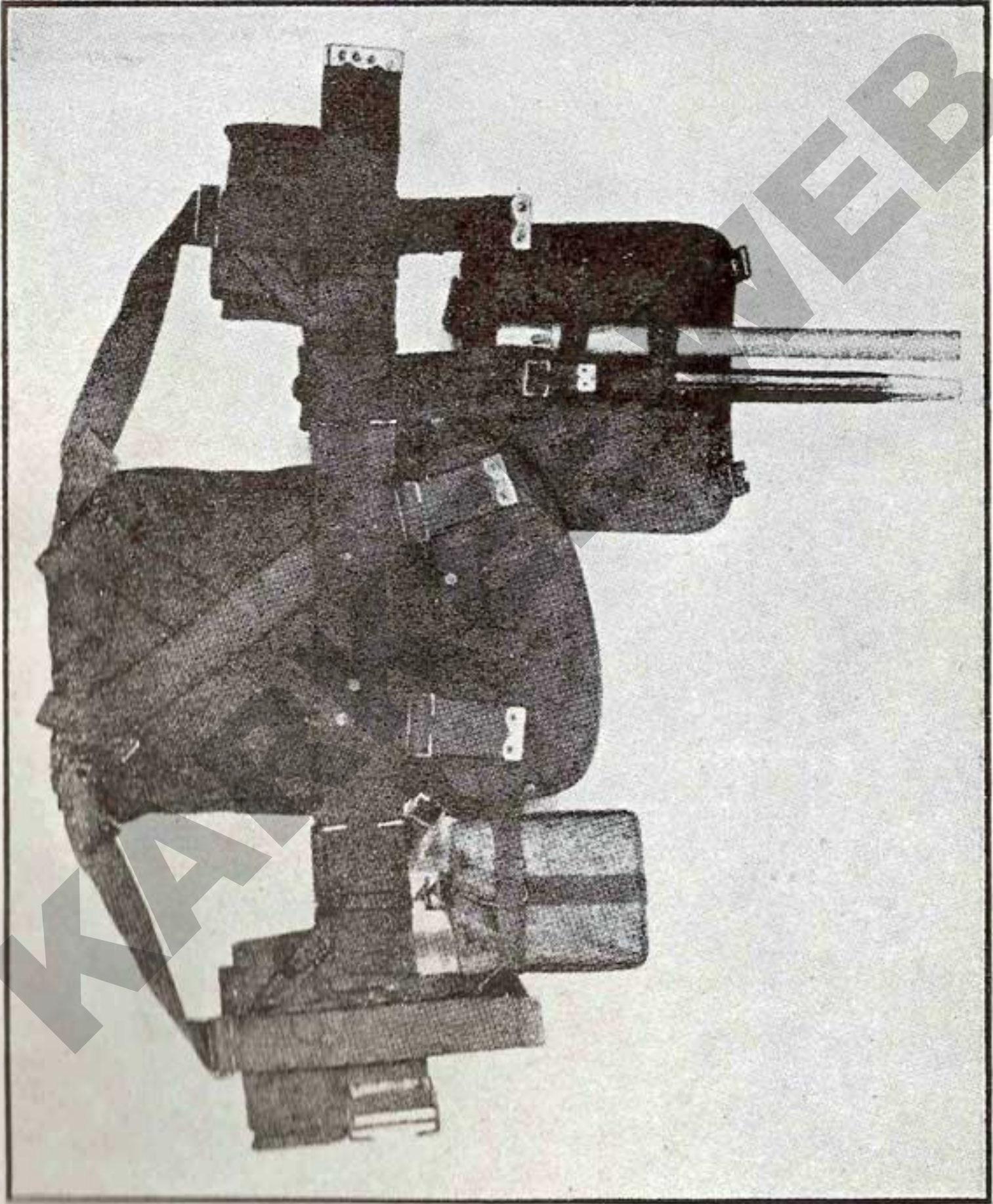
M. Carrier diagonal strap.

4. TO ASSEMBLE THE EQUIPMENT.

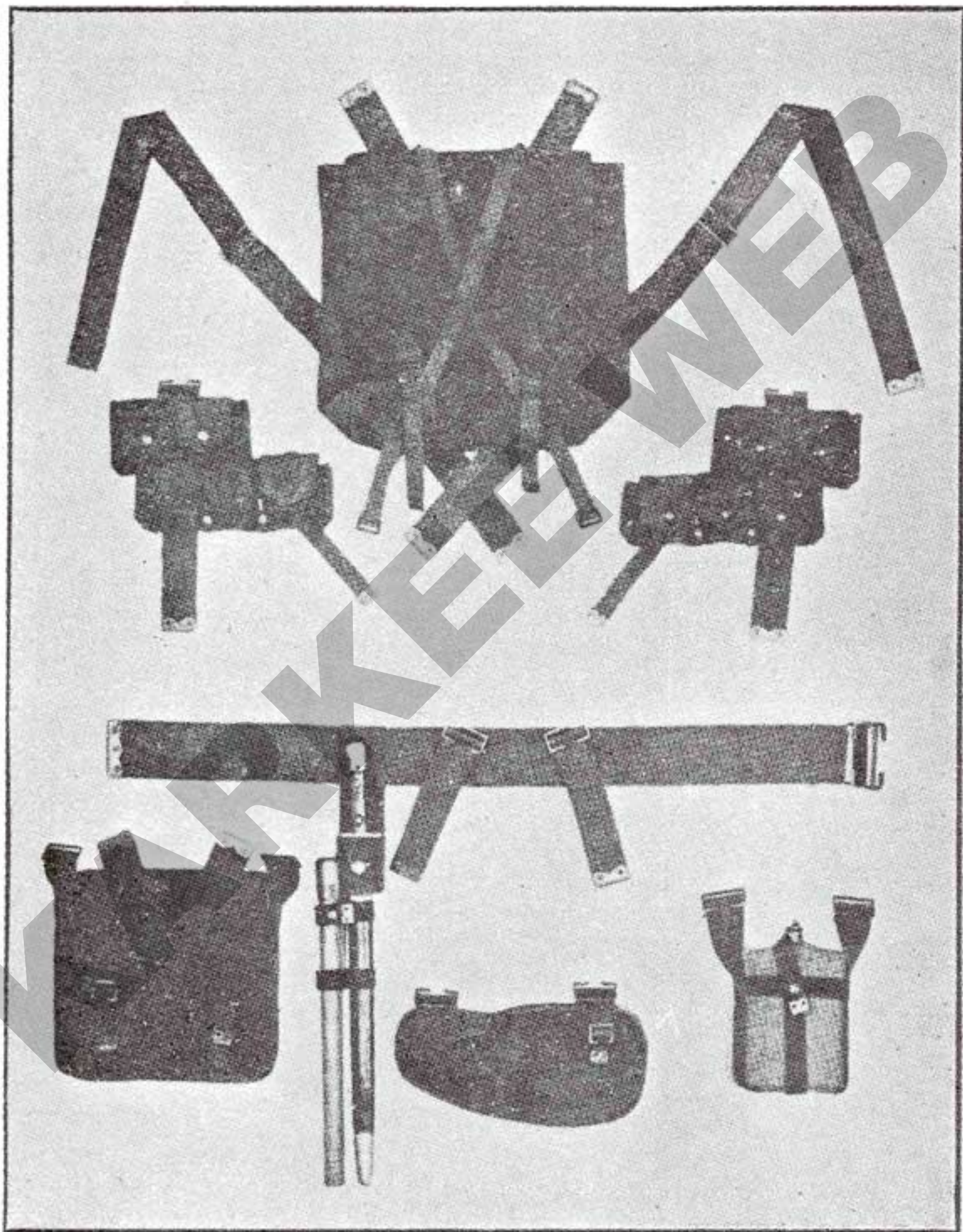
(Plates 10, 11 and 12.)

The design of the equipment admits of variations in the relative positions of certain portions of it, but the normal arrangement will be as now described.

(i) Adjust the *waistbelt* until it is comfortably tight, taking care that when fastened the large buckle comes in the centre of the body in front and that the two smaller buckles are in a perfectly central position at the back.



Marching Order—Assembled.



Marching Order—Components.



Marching Order—Right side.



Marching Order—Left side.



Marching Order—Front.

The belt is to be fastened by passing the end up through the buckle, down through the gate and back down through the centre of the buckle, the end being tucked back under the left side of the belt. The *outside* of the belt is the side on which the rear buckles are fixed. The runner should be slid close up to the buckle.

(ii) When the belt has been satisfactorily adjusted, lay it out on the ground, inside downwards and the large buckle on the right. Slip the *bayonet frog* over the tongue of the belt and bring it round to a position on the left-hand side so that it will hang, when the belt is put on, just in rear of the left hip bone.

(iii) Attach the *cartridge carriers* on the outside of the belt by passing the double hooks over and under the edges of the belt. Their position on the belt may vary with each man, but, generally speaking, the rear double hooks should be set close up to the rear buckles on the belt; the carrier will thus lie over the frog. When the position has been determined, pass the small securing straps round the inside of the belt and snap them on to their studs. The left and right carriers are not interchangeable; the flaps of the lower pockets of the left carrier are secured with small straps.

(iv) Take one of the *braces* and secure one of its ends to one of the rear buckles on the belt, pulling it through the buckle until, in the case of an averagely tall man, it coincides with the fixed end piece on the belt. Pass the other end of the brace (taking care not to twist it) through the cartridge carrier buckle on the *opposite* side, and pull it through until it coincides likewise with the fixed end piece. Repeat this operation with the other brace. The brace coming from the right rear should be on top of that coming from the left rear.

Although each of the braces is symmetrical, that is to say, is reversible fore and aft, it is essential that their sliding buckles should be on the rear part of the braces, and so disposed that the *open* sides are directed towards the front end of the brace.

(v) Try the equipment on in its present state, getting into it as if it were a waistcoat. If it has been properly fitted, the belt should rest in its natural position all round the waist, while the braces should show no slack in them. The latter will be crossed behind and come down vertically in front, while four pairs of end pieces will hang below the belt on each side, two being to the front, and two to the rear, and one of each pair on top of the other. Make any necessary adjustments, then remove the equipment and lay it on the ground as before. Insert the *bayonet scabbard* in the frog.

On many men the bayonet will be found to ride more comfortably if the frog be worn on the belt *between* the two rear pockets of the lower row of the cartridge carrier; in this case the rear small securing strap cannot be passed round the belt, but this is not essential.

(vi) Attach the *intrenching tool helve carrier*, slip the rear loops of the carrier over the scabbard and slide the carrier up until the top edge of the buckle abuts against the bottom edge of the frog.

The strap connecting the two loops should be nearest to the hip. Buckle the carrier to the frog, taking care that the buckle is just below the frog and not between it and the thigh. Insert the *intrenching tool helve* and close the snap fastening round it.

(vii) Attach the *haversack* by its large buckles to the two outer end-pieces on the left-hand side. Adjust it so that it hangs in a convenient position on the left hip over the bayonet scabbard, but without interfering with the drawing or returning of the bayonet.

(viii) In a similar way, attach the *intrenching tool head carrier* to the inner end-pieces on each side, adjusting it until it rests comfortably in the small of the back.

(ix) Then similarly attach the *waterbottle carrier* (with the waterbottle in it) to the outer end-pieces on the right-hand side, and adjust both carriers until they ride comfortably.

The equipment as it now stands represents the part essential to fighting efficiency, known as *Marching Order Without Pack*.

When the complete equipment is to be worn proceed as follows :—

(x) The articles which are carried in the pack call for careful stowing, if a neat result is to be obtained. The Canteen should be the last article placed in the pack.

(xi) Lay the assembled equipment face downwards on the ground and place the *pack*, with the opening upwards, upon it. Attach the buckle of one of the supporting straps to the carrier diagonal strap coming out from the back lower corner of one of the cartridge carriers, taking care that the buckle is as close up to the bottom of the belt as possible. Pass the end of the supporting strap through the web loop on the bottom of the pack and lead it diagonally across the front of the pack up to the small buckle on the opposite suspension tab. Pass it through the buckle, pull it as tight as it will go and secure it. Repeat the operation with the other strap.

As the correct balance of the equipment depends almost entirely upon these supporting straps, it is very important that they should be as taut as possible, as they then bind the pack tightly to the main body of the equipment and prevent it shifting.

(xii) Adjust the sliding buckles on the braces so that they come naturally to the point of attachment of the securing tabs on the pack. Pass the tabs through the sliding buckles on the braces; if properly fitted, the braces should now lie flat against the back of the pack, being neither slack nor in a state of strain, and the bottom of the pack should be on a level with the lower edge of the waistbelt.

The essential point to remember is that the weight of the pack is, in the first instance at any rate, carried by the diagonal straps attached to the carriers and not by the securing tabs at the top of the pack. The function of these latter is to keep the pack from falling away from

the body. After a short time the weight of the pack slightly stretches the narrow end straps of the carriers, the weight then becoming partly transferred to the securing tabs. If the whole, or even the greater portion of the weight, be allowed to be transferred to the securing tabs, the essential merit of the design is sacrificed.

To open the Pack when Attached.

(xiii) Cast off the supporting straps from the small buckles attached to the securing tabs, loosen and open the cover.

To Re-close the Pack.

(xiv) Secure the cover and re-fasten the supporting straps as before, taking care that they are drawn taut. If this is not done the weight of the pack will hang from the shoulders, the most important point to be avoided.

To Discard the Pack.

(xv) Cast off the lower ends of the carrier diagonal straps and free the securing tabs from the brace buckles. The pack will then drop off, the supporting straps remaining attached to it. This is much more easily done when the whole kit is removed.

To Carry the Haversack and Waterbottle on the back.
(Plate 13.)

(xvi) Lay the equipment on the ground and remove the pack, waterbottle carrier and haversack. Secure the 1-in. diagonal end-pieces of the cartridge carriers to the small buckles at the lower corners of the haversack. Draw the sliding buckles down the braces until they come into a convenient position opposite the fixed ends of the tabs with brass tips at the top of the haversack. Pass these tabs through the buckles of the waterbottle carrier and then secure them to the sliding buckles. (The weight of the haversack should be taken by these tabs and not by the lower corner



*Marching Order without Pack.
Haversack and Waterbottle on Back.*



Marching Order with Anti-Gas Respirator.



Marching Order with Steel Helmet and Overcoat.

buckles). Take a supporting strap and pass it, tab end down, through the right side strap of the waterbottle carrier, then under the right flap strap of the haversack, under the centre back strap of the waterbottle carrier, back under the left flap strap of the haversack, up through the left side strap of the waterbottle carrier, and then secure to the buckle at the other end of the supporting strap.

To Carry an Anti-Gas Respirator.

(Plate 14.)

(xvii) When carrying a Respirator, the container is to be worn on the left side behind the arm, so that it lies between the bayonet scabbard and the pack. The container should be put on before the equipment.

When the Respirator is being worn the trunk should be brought close under the left arm. The slack of the trunk should be tucked back into the container and kept in position by buttoning the flap of the container down over it.

Note.—The Mk. IV Respirator and container are carried on the chest as taught at the Anti-Gas Schools.

5. AMMUNITION CARRIED.

The amount of ammunition carried will depend on circumstances. The total number of rounds which can be carried is 150, *i.e.*, three clips of five rounds in each of the ten pockets of the carriers.

6. STEEL HELMETS. (Plate 15.)

Steel helmets are normally stored at the base, to be drawn by ships whose landing parties are likely to require them.

When not actually worn, they may be slung from the belt by the chin stay or stowed flat on the back of the pack of rifle equipment, under the supporting straps.

7. OILSKINS OR OVERCOATS. (Plate 15.)

When an oilskin or an overcoat is carried, it is to be rolled up and then secured around the top and two sides of the pack with lanyards.

8. MUSKETRY ORDER. (Plate 30.)

Musketry Order, used for range practices, consists of belt, bayonet, braces and carriers. The waterbottle and haversack may be carried in the normal positions if required.

9. DRILL ORDER. (Plate 22.)

Drill Order, used for drill, guards and sentries, consists of belt and bayonet only.

10. FATIGUE ORDER.

Fatigue Order, worn by working parties, consists of the haversack and waterbottle slung on braces on the left and right sides respectively.

PISTOL EQUIPMENT.

11. DETAILS OF PISTOL EQUIPMENT.

(Plate 16.)

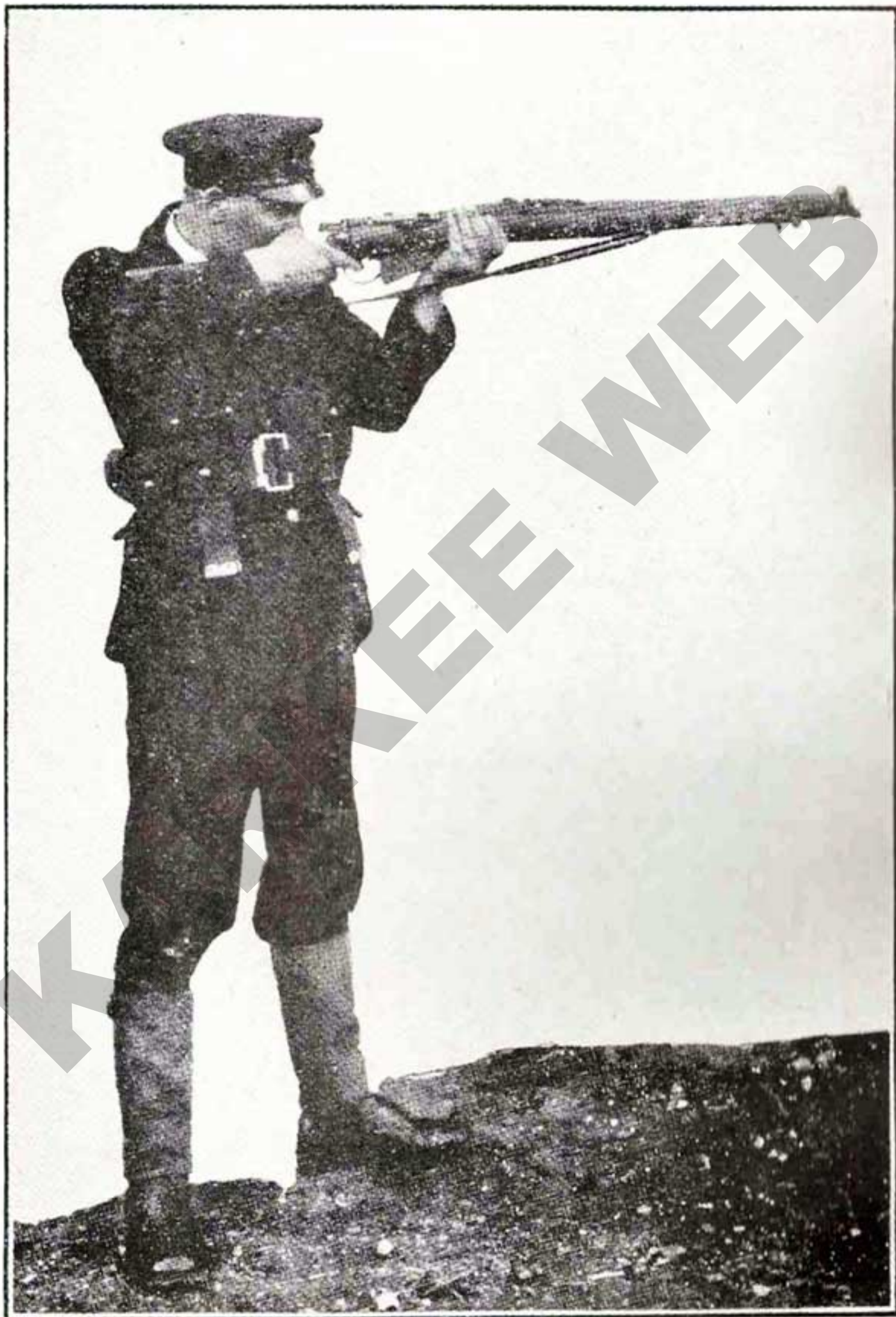
The component parts of the equipment consist of the following :—

- A. Waistbelt, in three pieces, adjustable for size.
- B. Cutlass Frog.
- C. Brace Attachments (2).
- D. Holster.
- E. Ammunition Pouch.
- F. Braces.
- †G. Haversack.
- H. Waterbottle Carrier.
- †I. Rucksack.

† For contents of Haversack and Rucksack, see B.R. 17, Royal Naval Field Service Pocket Book—1932.



*Position of "Order Arms."
(Wearing Drill Order.)*



"Firing Standing—Aim and Fire."