

B.R. 1920 A (3)

**HANDBOOK FOR
NAVAL LANDING PARTIES**

Volume I Part 3

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT

1950

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AMENDMENTS

Amendment No.	A.F.O. " P " No.	Date of insertion in this copy	Initials

Admiralty,
31st August 1950

G.D. 110/47 Part 12

B.R. 1920 A(3) (Restricted), *Handbook for Naval Landing Parties, Volume I, Part 3, Dress and Equipment*, 1950, having been approved by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, is hereby promulgated for information and guidance.

Attention is directed to the notice printed below.

By Command of Their Lordships,



To Flag Officers and
Commanding Officers of
H.M. Ships and
Vessels concerned.

NOTICE

Suggestions are invited for the improvement of the text or illustrations which can be incorporated by way of amendment or in any future revision of the book. They should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Admiralty through the usual channels.

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SECTION 1

DRESS

CHOICE OF UNIFORM

1. When deciding on the uniform which a landing party is to wear, the main factor to be considered must be the operational one.

If fighting in the field is to be the duty of the landing party then blue or white uniforms will give practically no personal concealment, so khaki clothing should be worn.

On the other hand, if a landing party is sent ashore to aid the civil power, a well turned out force dressed in the distinctive clothing of the Royal Navy will go a long way towards attaining the object.

There may be occasions when operational requirements demand a dress other than blue serge or white uniform, as these would quickly become soiled when landing immediately after an earthquake for example. Action working dress is the rig to be worn on such occasions.

Ships do not normally carry stocks of khaki clothing for landing purposes. Where khaki clothing is considered necessary arrangements should be made by the Commander-in-Chief, or Senior Officer, for such supplies as are required to be obtained from local army sources.

SMARTNESS

2. Regardless of whether men are landed in blue or white uniform, or in khaki clothing, the highest possible standard of dress must be maintained. Ratings wearing khaki clothing while on patrol or sentry duties may be under the eyes of critical, and perhaps hostile, observers. Battle dress and khaki drill can look very smart if well pressed and worn correctly.

BOOTS

3. A man with boots in a bad state of repair quickly becomes a casualty, or at any rate a loss to his section, in wet weather, in a hot climate, or if he has to spend long hours on his feet. Every man liable to be landed must have boots in good repair.

CLEANING GEAR

4. Sufficient cleaning gear must be landed with second supplies to ensure that ratings are able to keep their equipment perfectly clean.

SECTION 2

EQUIPMENT

1937 PATTERN RIFLE EQUIPMENT

5. The standard webbing equipment in use in the Navy is the 1937 pattern. A complete set of this equipment consists of:—

1 waistbelt ;	}	Musketry order.	}	Battle order	}	Marching order				
1 bayonet frog ;										
2 basic pouches (for ammunition) ;										
2 braces (right and left) ;										
1 steel helmet ;	}	Battle order								
1 haversack ;										
2 shoulder straps (right and left) ;										
1 mess tin ;										
1 entrenching tool ;										
1 entrenching tool helve ;										
1 entrenching tool carrier ;										
1 rifle sling ;										
1 pair anklets ;										
1 water bottle ;										
1 water bottle carrier ;										
1 pack ;										
2 pack supporting straps.										

Note : It must be remembered that respirators may have to be carried with any of the above equipment.

1937 PATTERN PISTOL EQUIPMENT

6. This is very similar to the rifle equipment. It does not contain the bayonet frog, basic pouches, or rifle sling, but has the following additions:—

- 2 brass attachments,
- 1 holster,
- 1 ammunition pouch.

In addition, officers may be issued with compass and field-glass cases.

SECTION 3

MUSKETRY ORDER

7. The articles of equipment described in *paras.* 8, 9, 10 and 11 together form musketry order. This is worn during small arms training and when paraded for certain guards.

WAISTBELT

8. This is the foundation of the equipment and must be fitted snugly if the remainder is to be worn comfortably and neatly. When fastened, the buckles in rear and the buckle in front must be central. Adjustments may be made by inserting the metal prongs into the canvas sockets on the inside of the belt. The runners (on some belts these are made of metal ; on others, of webbing) must be close up to the front buckle. (See Figs. 1 and 2.)

BAYONET FROG

9. The frog should be slid over the left end of the belt and pushed to the rear, adjacent to the left rear buckle. (See Fig. 3.)

BASIC POUCHES

10. These are designed to carry ammunition or Bren magazines. A typical "carry" for the rifleman of a section is two Bren magazines in each pouch, or two Bren magazines in one pouch and fifty rounds of .303 ammunition in the other. Grenades cannot be carried in the pouches together with other ammunition. There is no specific place for grenades to be carried, but they are usually placed in the haversack. The pouches (see Figs. 4 and 5) are fitted with metal prongs which fit into the canvas sockets on the inside of the belt. They are worn on the front of the equipment, equidistant from the centre buckle and so that the arms are free to move across the front of the body. (See Fig. 6.)

BRACES

11. The braces carry the main weight of the equipment and its contents. In front, these are secured to buckles on the back of the basic pouches. They are crossed in the small of the back, the one passing over the right shoulder being under that passing over the left shoulder. At the back, the braces are secured to the small buckles of the waistbelt. (See Figs. 5, 6 and 7.)

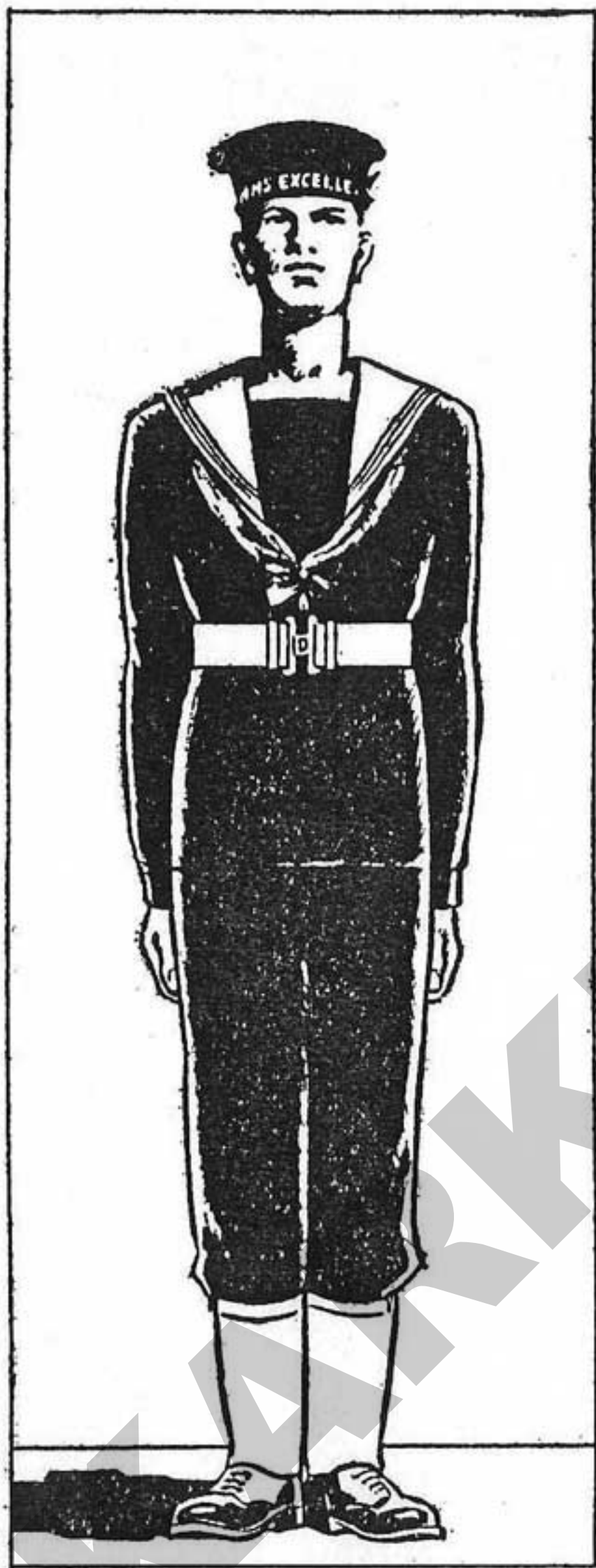


Fig. 1. Waist belt

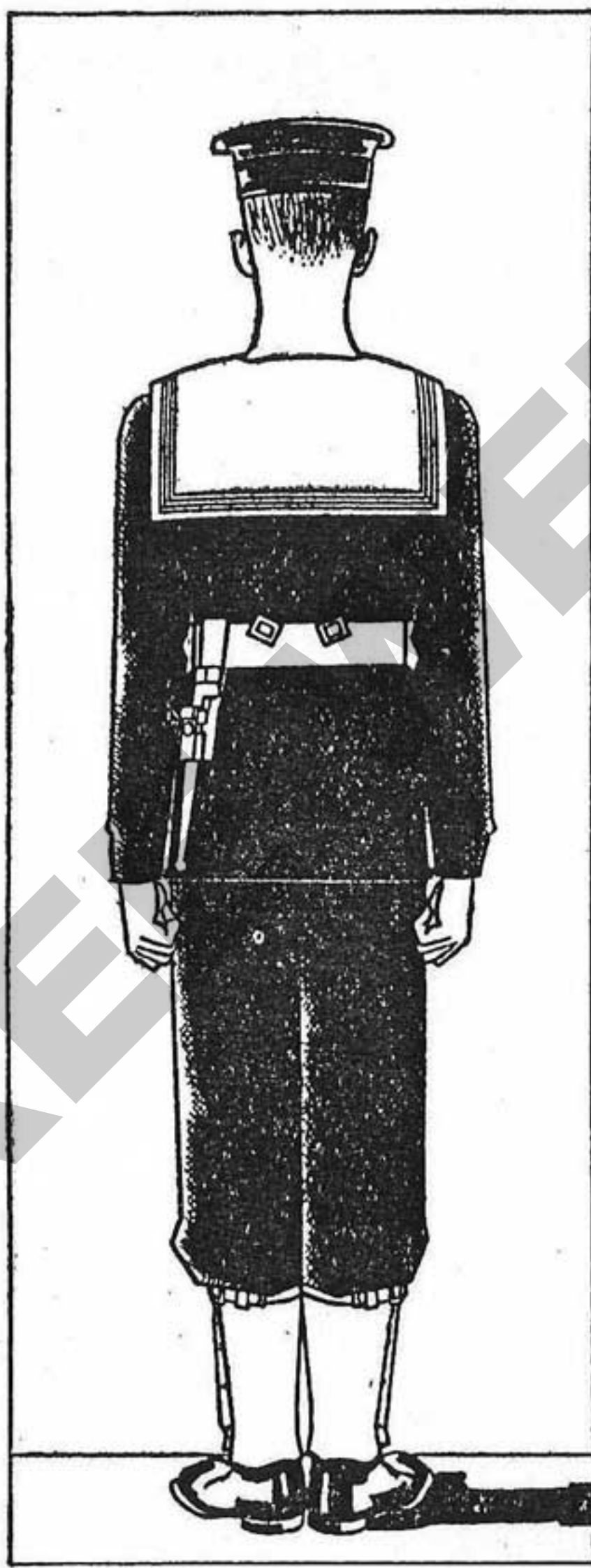


Fig. 2. Waist belt with bayonet frog

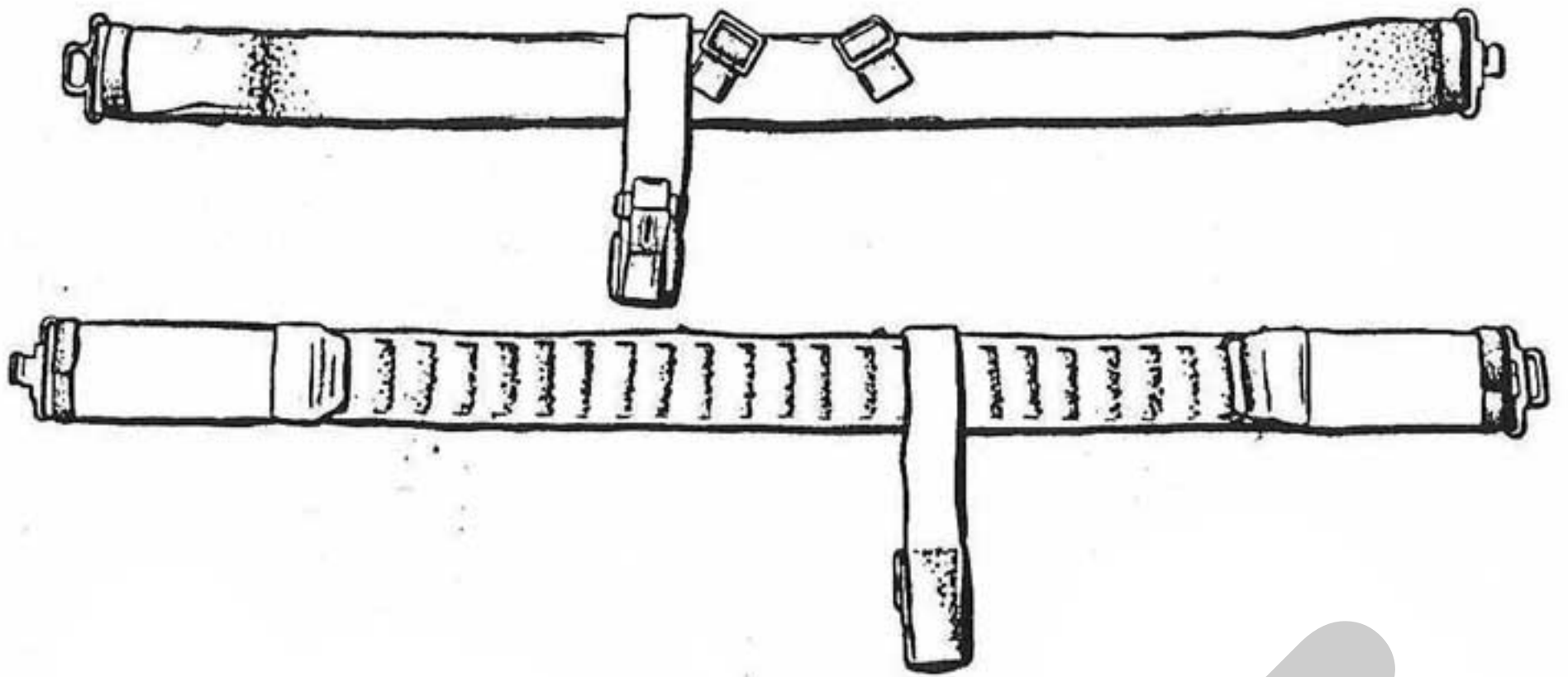


Fig. 3. Waist belt

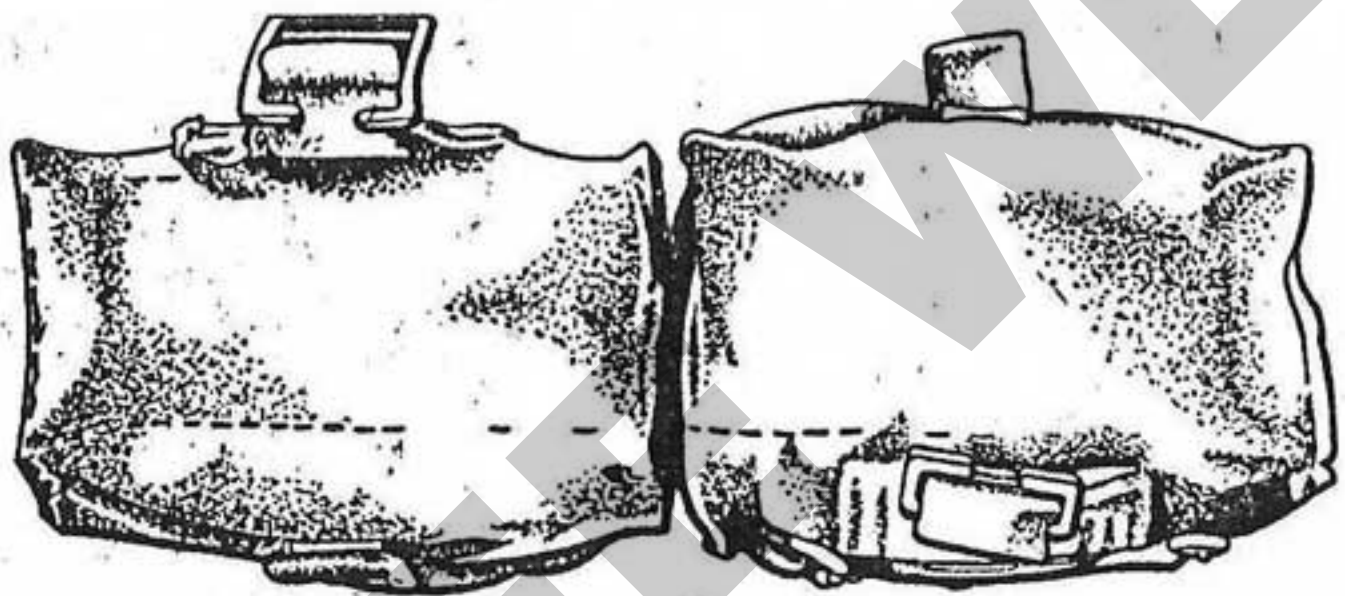


Fig. 4. Basic pouches, top view

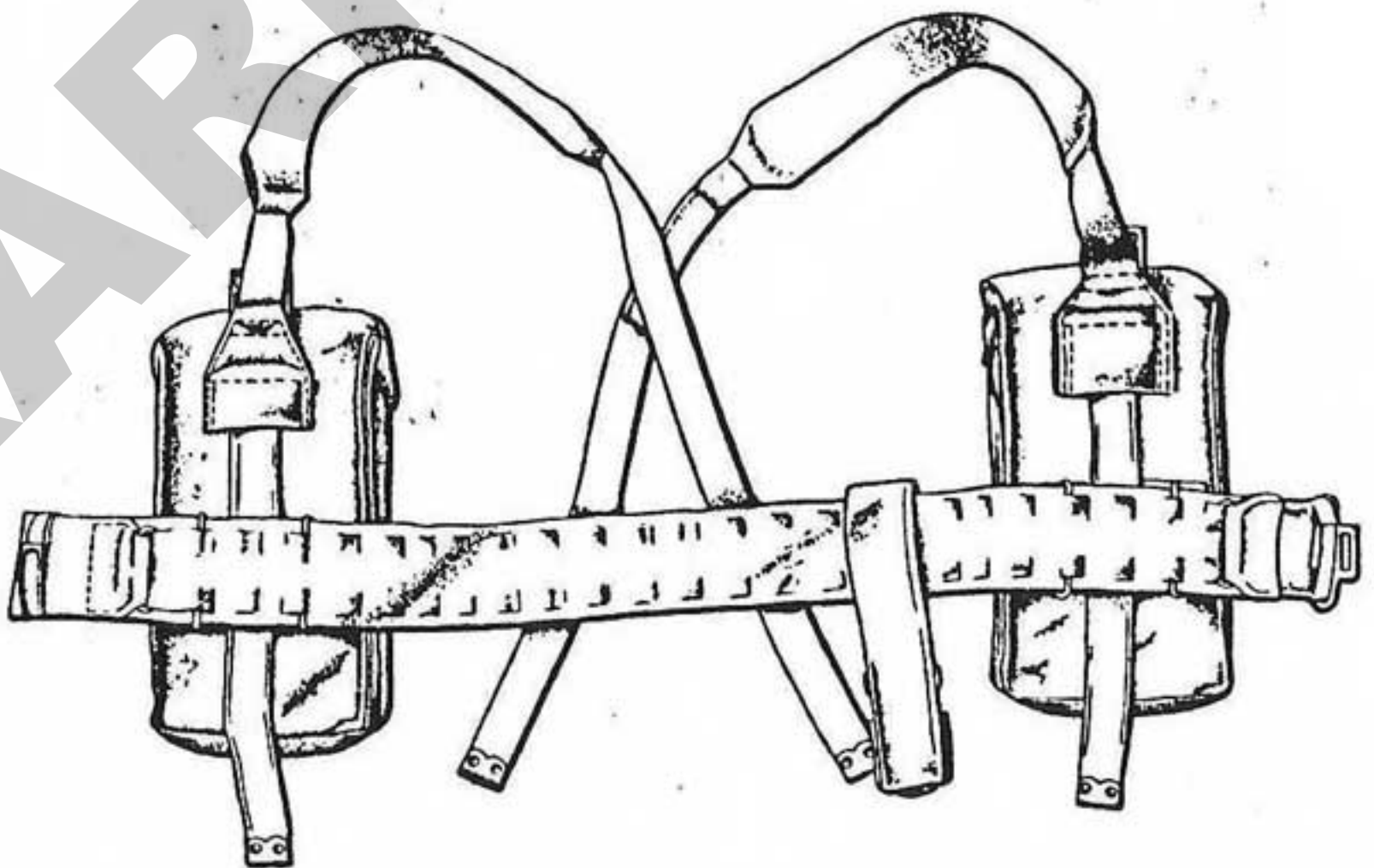


Fig. 5. Fitting of basic pouches and braces

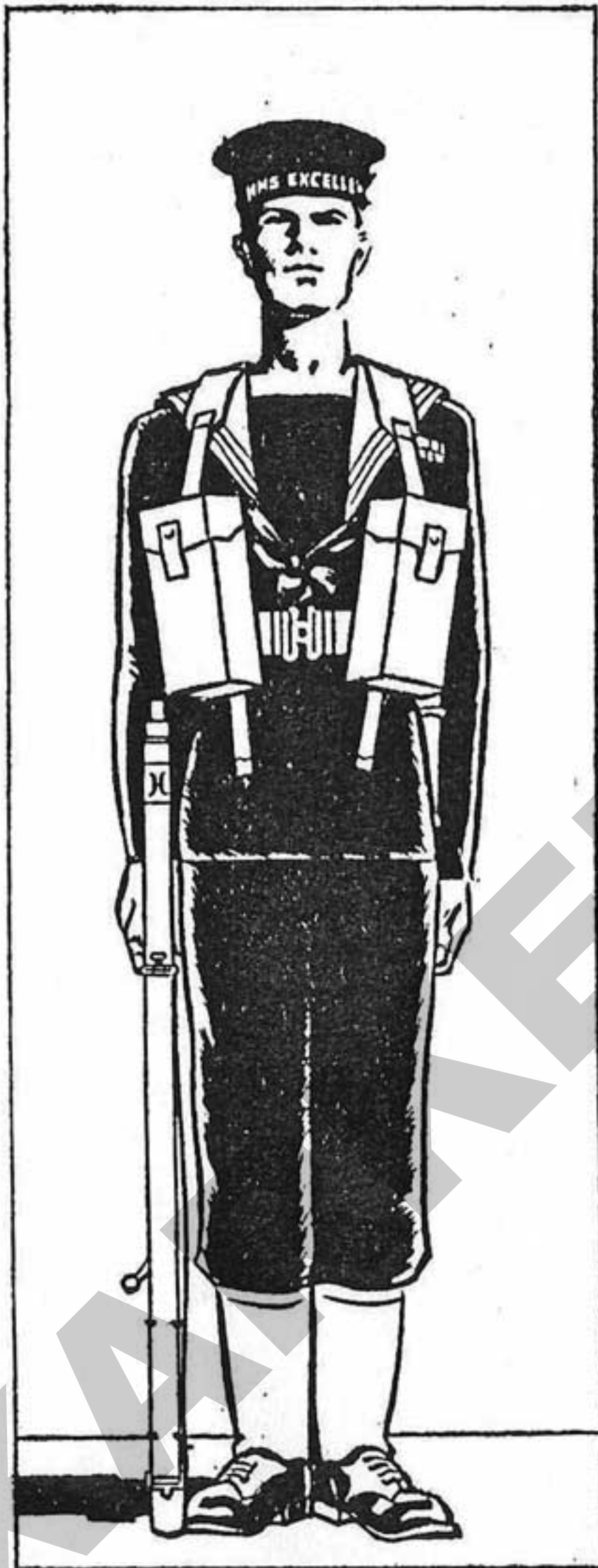


Fig. 6. Position of basic pouches

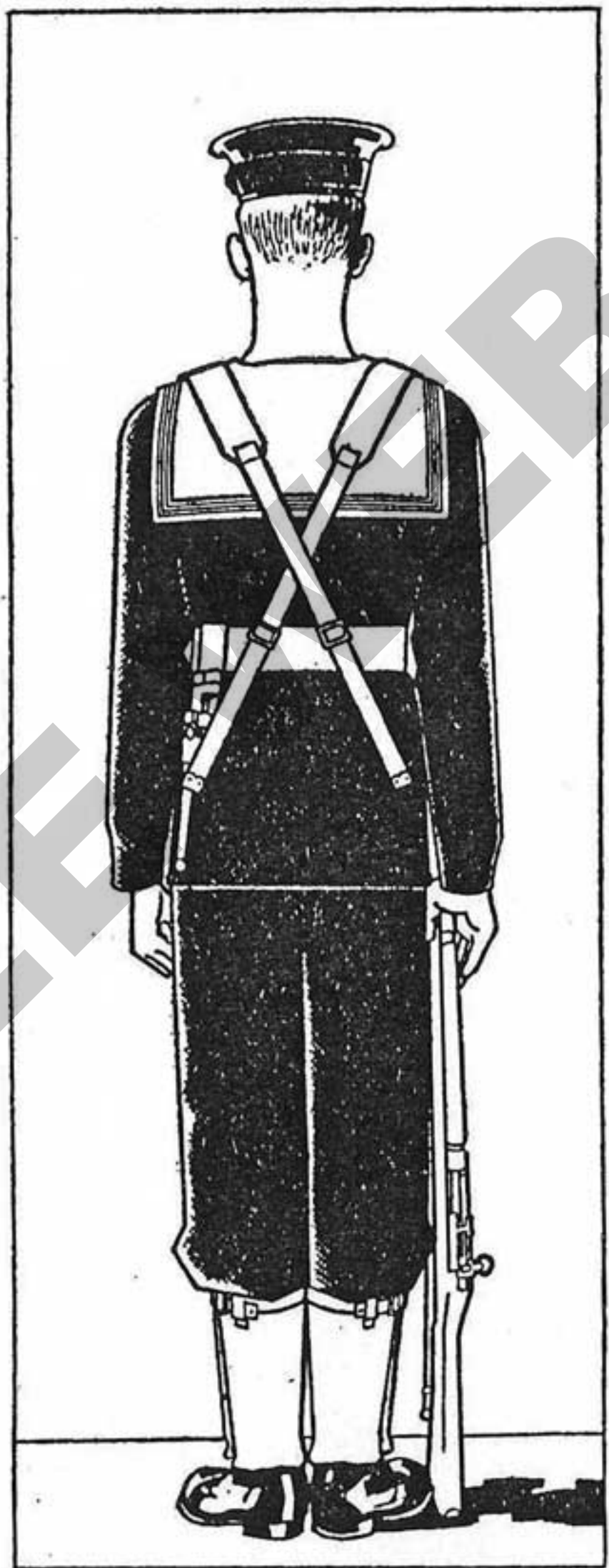


Fig. 7. Braces—rear view

SECTION 4

BATTLE ORDER

12. Battle order is musketry order, with certain additions which enable the wearer to be self-supporting for a certain length of time ashore. The additions are :—haversack, water bottle, entrenching tool and mess tin (see Figs. 8 and 9). This is the equipment which the rating of the landing party will normally wear when disembarked. Once ashore, the commanding officer will decide whether it is to be continued to be worn, or whether musketry order will suffice.

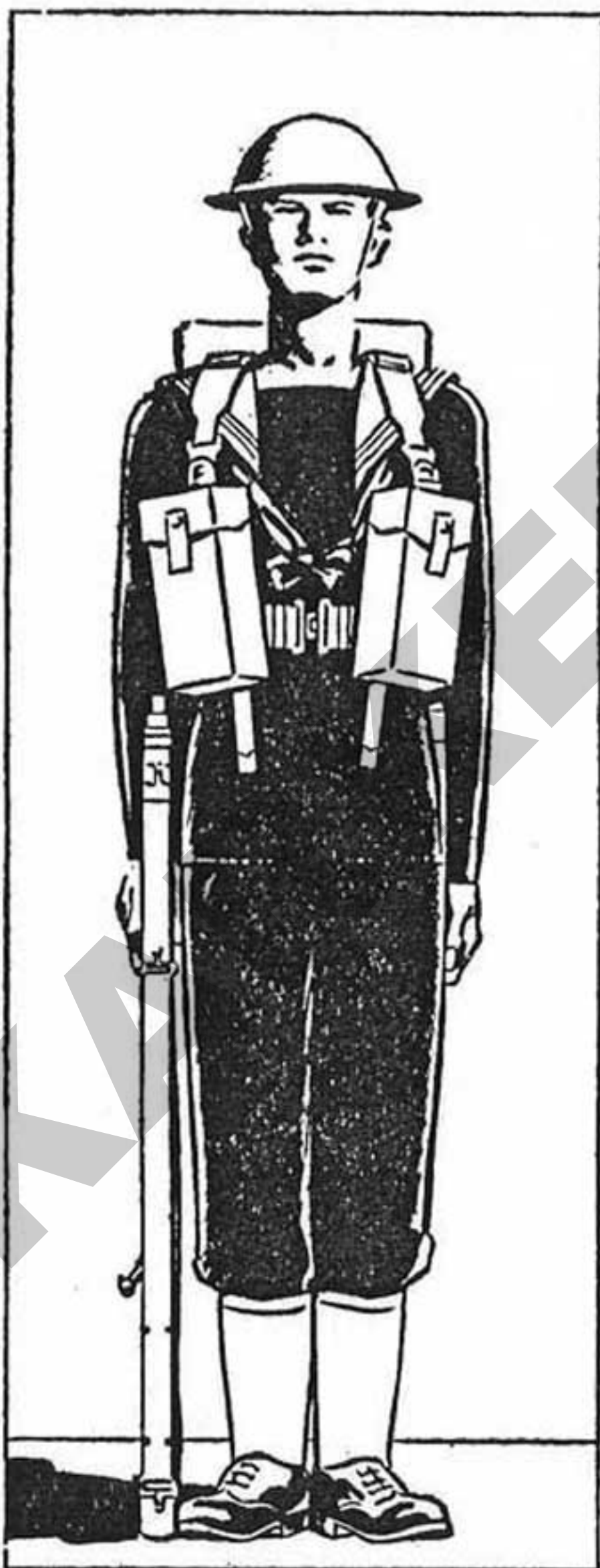


Fig. 8. Battle order—front view

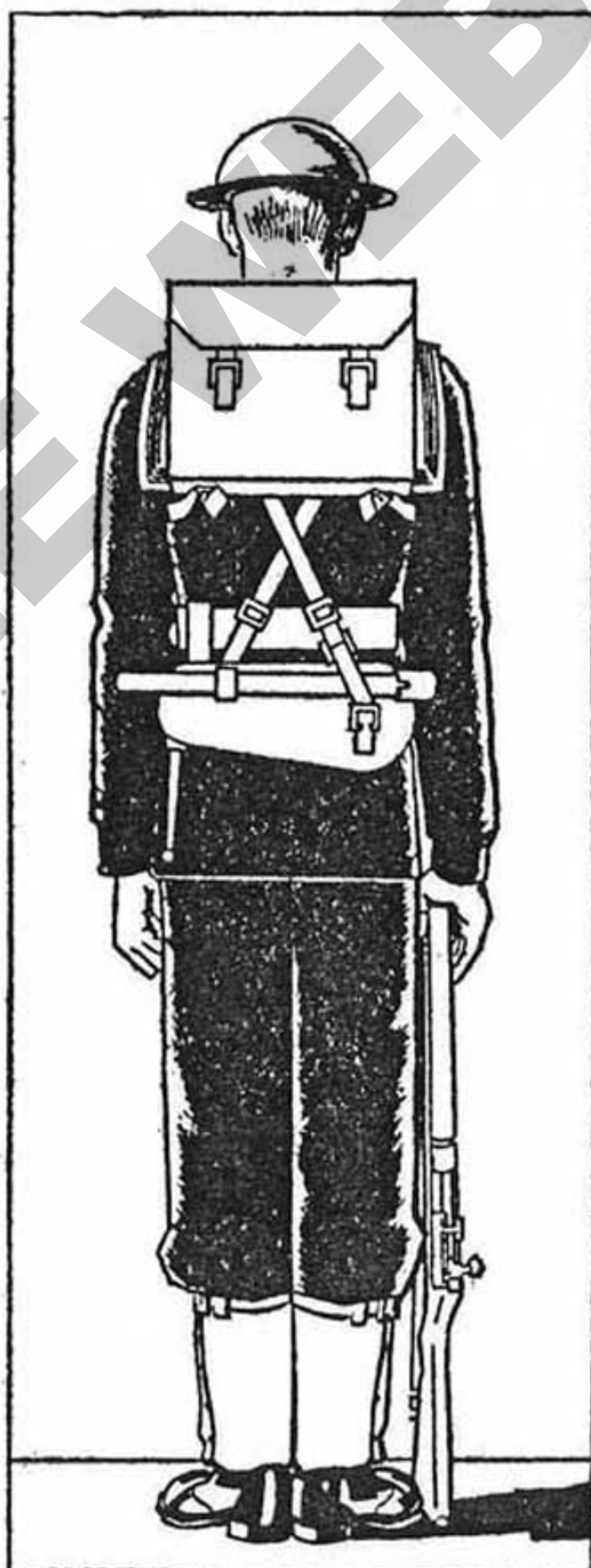


Fig. 9. Battle order, rear view



Fig. 10. Haversack

HAVERSACK AND CONTENTS

13. Battle order will enable the man to carry his essential needs for forty-eight hours. A typical load under such conditions is :—

mess tin,
towel,
soap,
tooth-brush and paste,
comb,
rations,
knife, fork and spoon,
latrine paper,
matches,
string,
spare pair of socks,
water bottle (if not carried on the waistbelt).

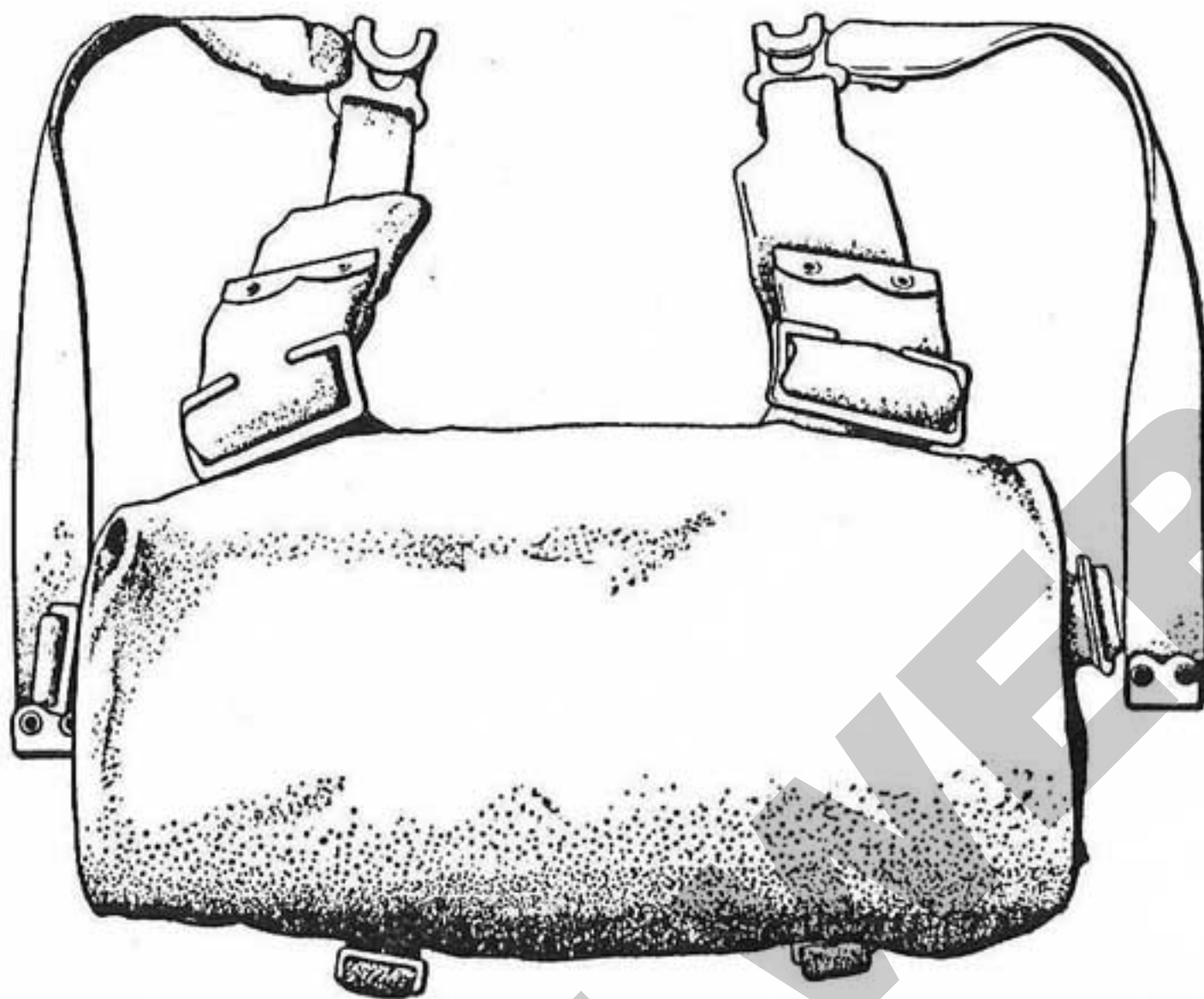


Fig. 11. Haversack (top view) showing right and left shoulder straps fitted

Fitting of haversack

14. The haversack is carried on the back by the right and left shoulder straps (see Fig. 11). These straps are adjustable. The front hooks on to the buckles on the tops of the right and left basic pouches. In this position, the "Ds." on the straps are moved up so that they are on the point of the shoulders. The straps on the top of the haversack are rove through the "Ds." on the shoulder straps. The shoulder straps, with the haversack attached, are now placed on the shoulders and hooked on to the basic pouches. The loose ends of the shoulder straps are passed under each arm and then put through the buckles at the bottom of the haversack.

This method of fitting enables the haversack to be removed while still retaining the remainder of the equipment on the person, thereby resting the man, but still leaving him armed with the ammunition in his pouches.

SECTION 5

MARCHING ORDER

15. Marching order contains the same items of equipment as battle order, with the addition of the pack and its supporting straps. (See Fig. 12.) Its purpose is to increase the man's carrying capacity and so prolong the time he can be self-sufficient ashore. Owing to its bulk and weight, it is not suitable to wear in action. It is, however, a good dress for men disembarking to billets, etc., when it is desirable that each man should carry as much of his own kit as possible.

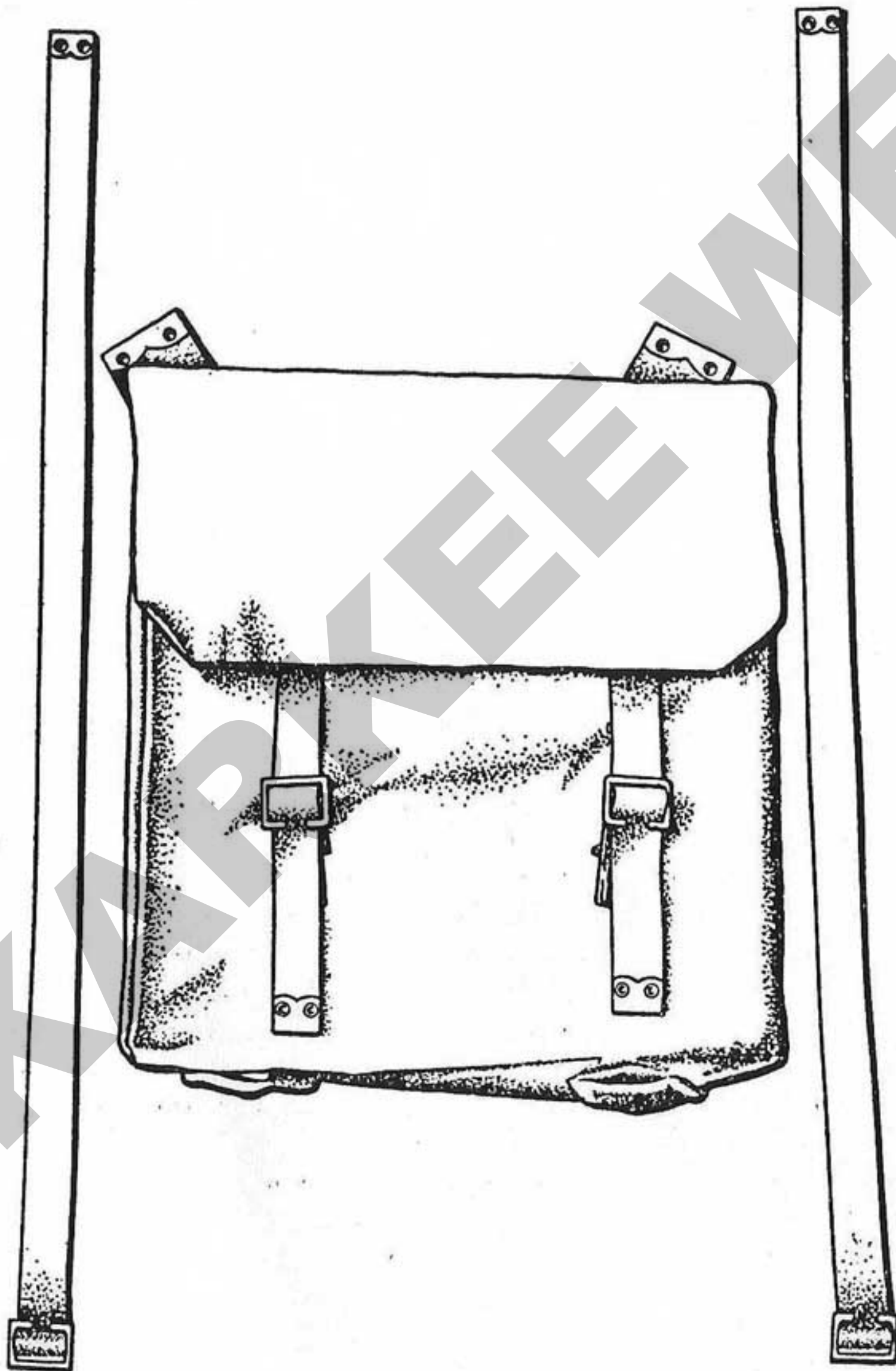


Fig. 12. Pack and pack supporting straps

PACK AND CONTENTS

16. In marching order, the haversack should still contain the man's immediate requirements, as shown in *para.* 13, and the pack should contain the following items (based on the man landing in blue uniform) :—

spare suit,
overall,
spare pair socks,
jersey (if not worn),
housewife,
gloves (if cold and not worn),
spare pair of boots or shoes,

flannel,
pair of drawers,
vest,
jean collar,
clothes brush,
boot cleaning gear,
additional rations.

SUPPORTING STRAPS

17. The supporting straps are passed through the two becketts at the bottom of the pack, the buckles being hauled up close. The ends are then passed up and crossed, then secured to the buckles at the top inside the pack. (See Fig. 13.) The pack is kept in position by the shoulder straps in a similar way to the haversack. It can be removed in the same manner as the haversack is removed. (See *para.* 14.)

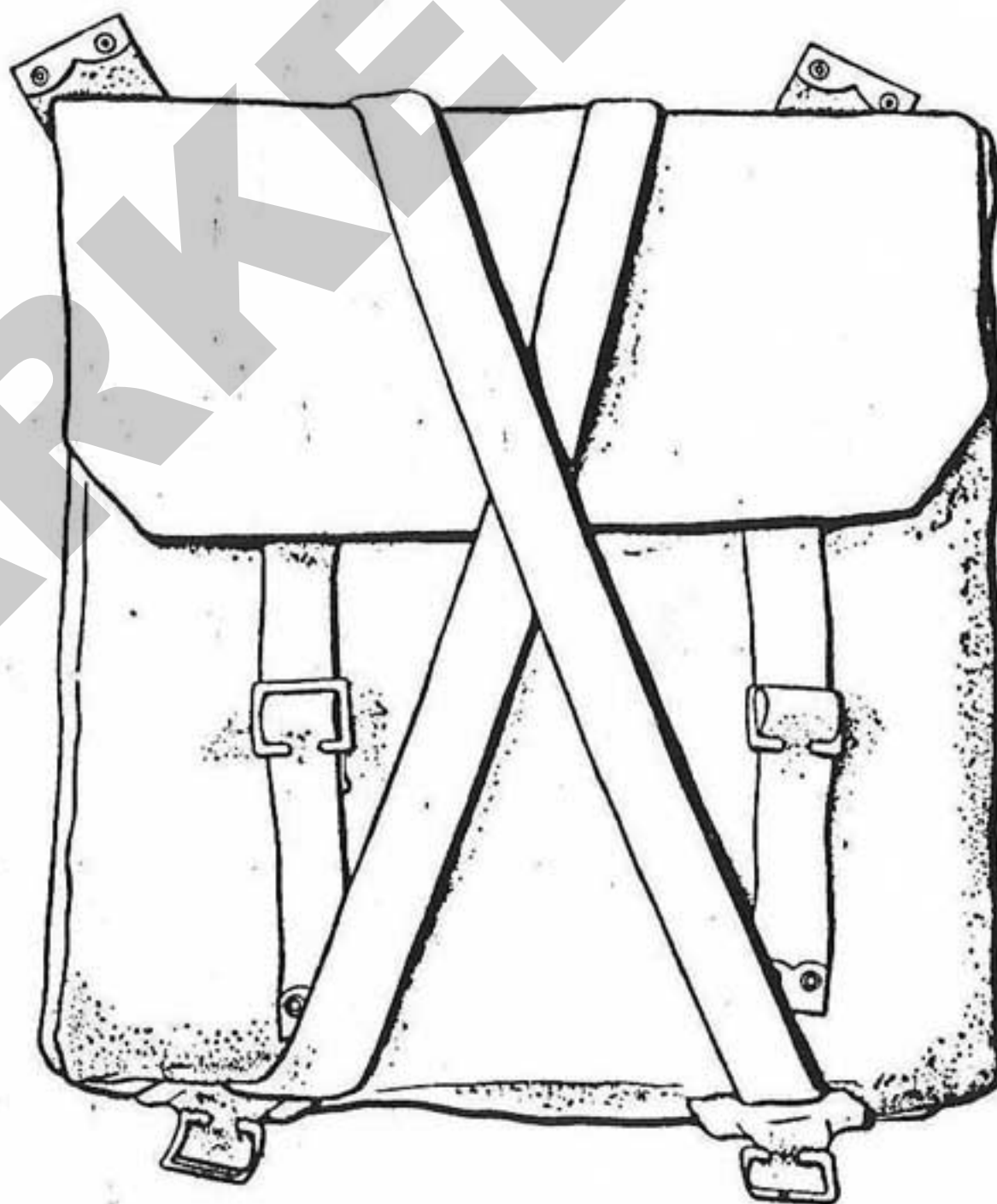


Fig. 13. Pack, with securing straps in place

SECURING THE STEEL HELMET

18. The steel helmet can be carried on the front of the pack by placing it under the supporting straps. (See Fig. 14.)

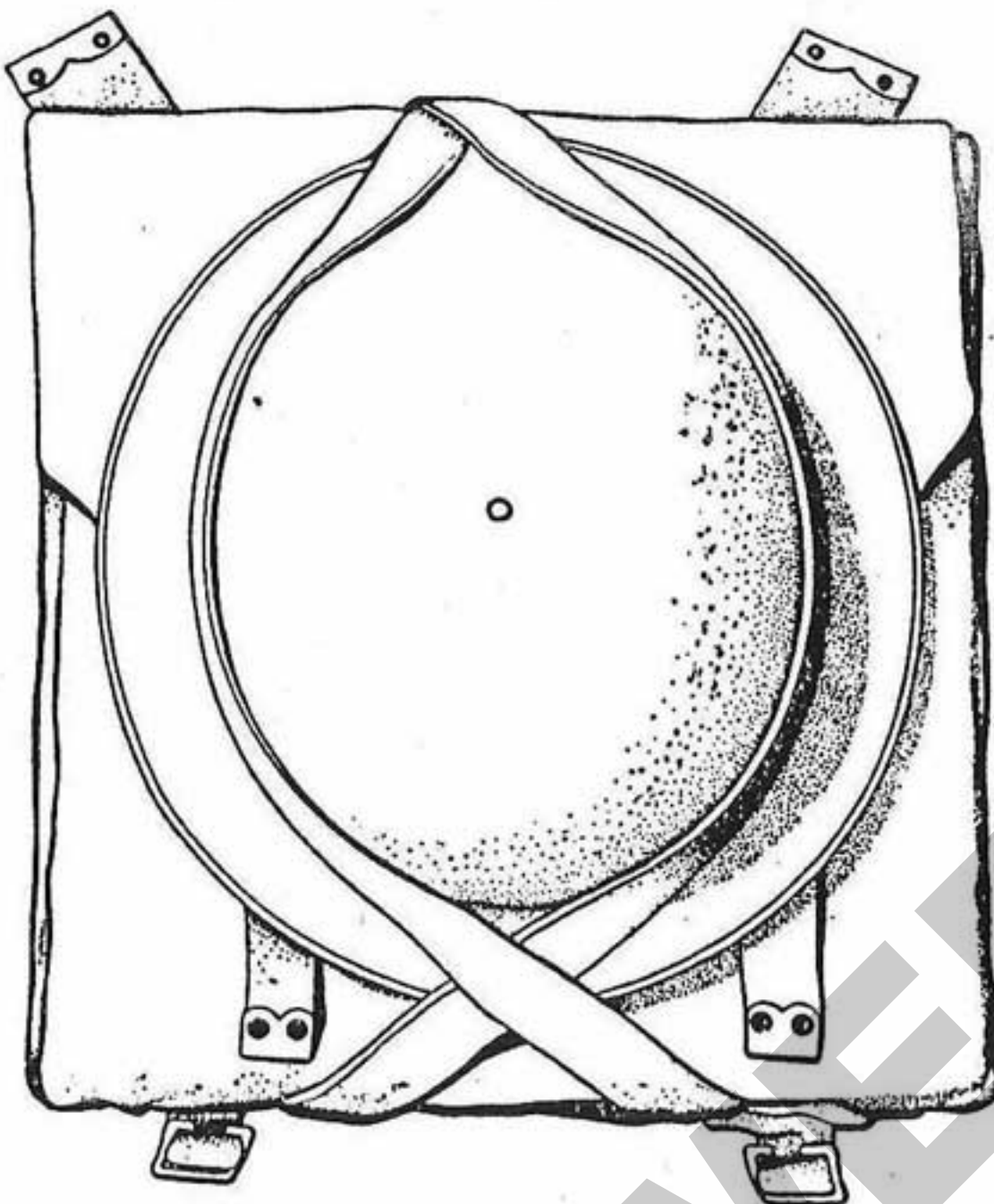


Fig. 14. Pack, with helmet kept in place by supporting straps

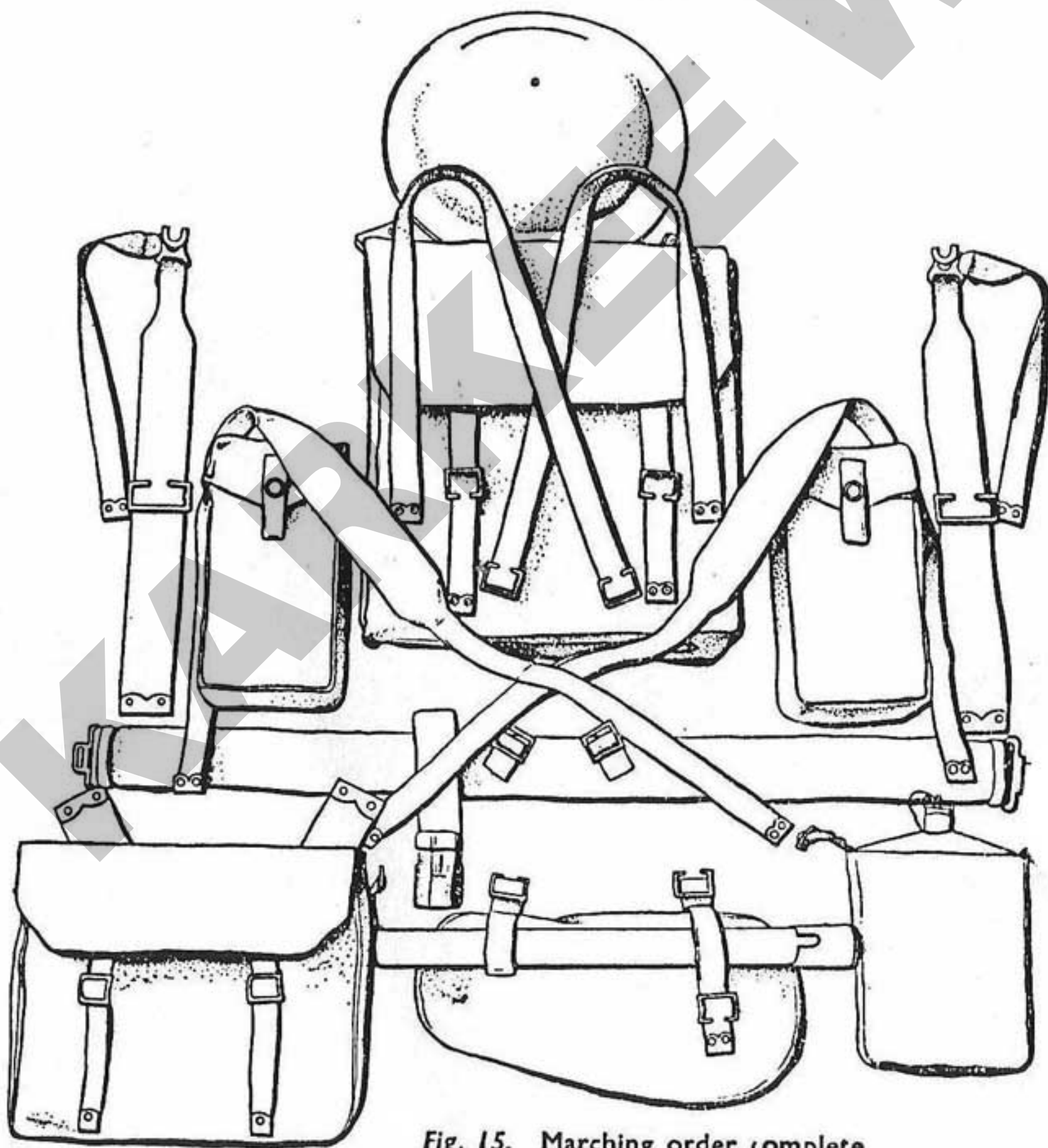


Fig. 15. Marching order complete

FITTING OF MARCHING ORDER

19. Fig. 15 shows a complete marching order laid out and ready to be assembled. The pack is carried on the back and the haversack moved to the left side. The ends of the braces, front and rear, left side, are secured to the buckles of the haversack and those on the right side are fitted, in a similar way, to the water bottle carrier. Figs. 16, 17 and 18 show different views of the fitted marching order, Fig. 17, in addition, showing the method of rolling an oilskin and securing it around the pack.

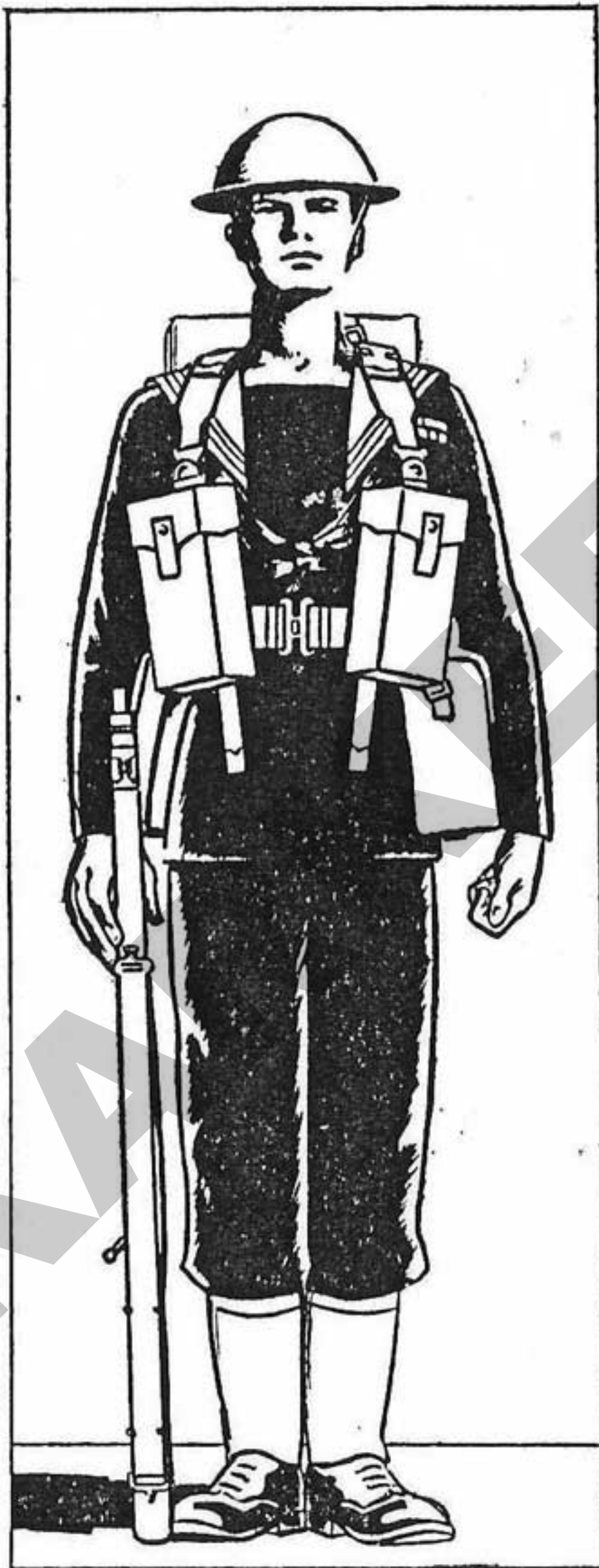


Fig. 16. Marching order—front view

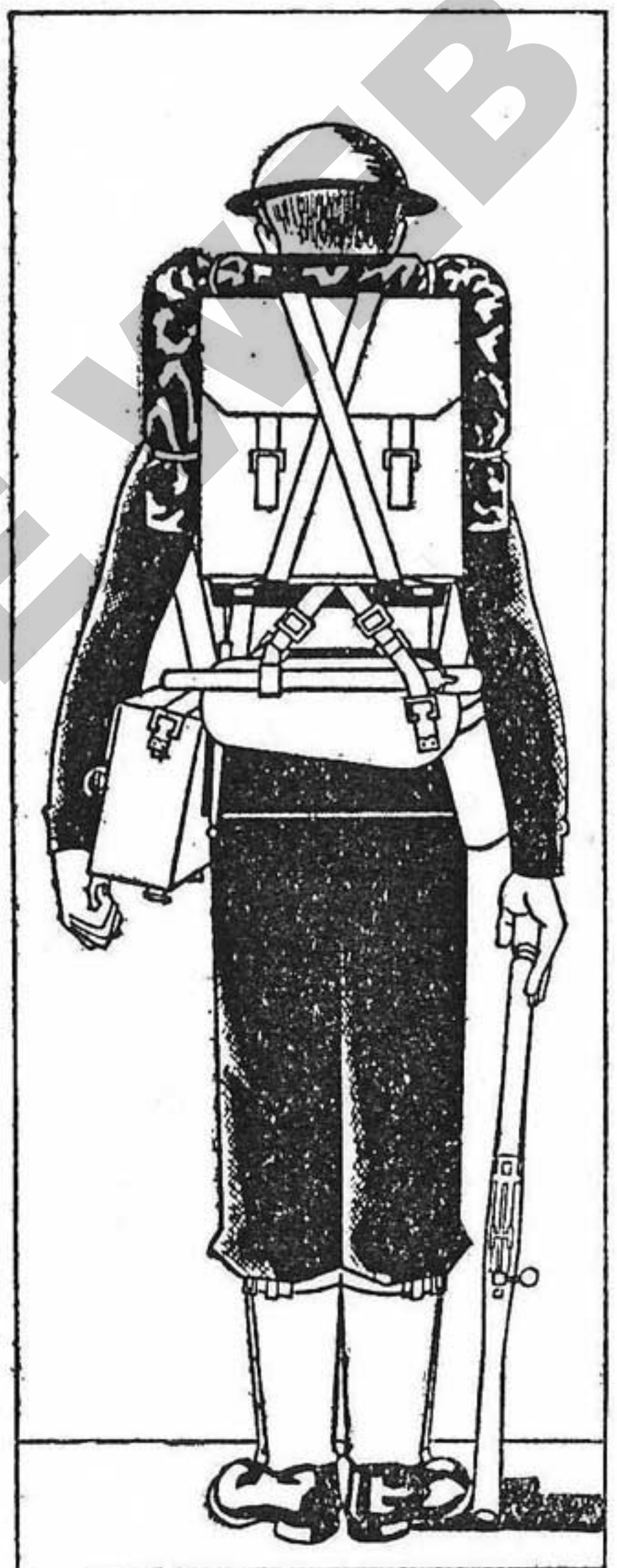


Fig. 17. Marching order, rear view, showing oilskin rolled and secured to the pack

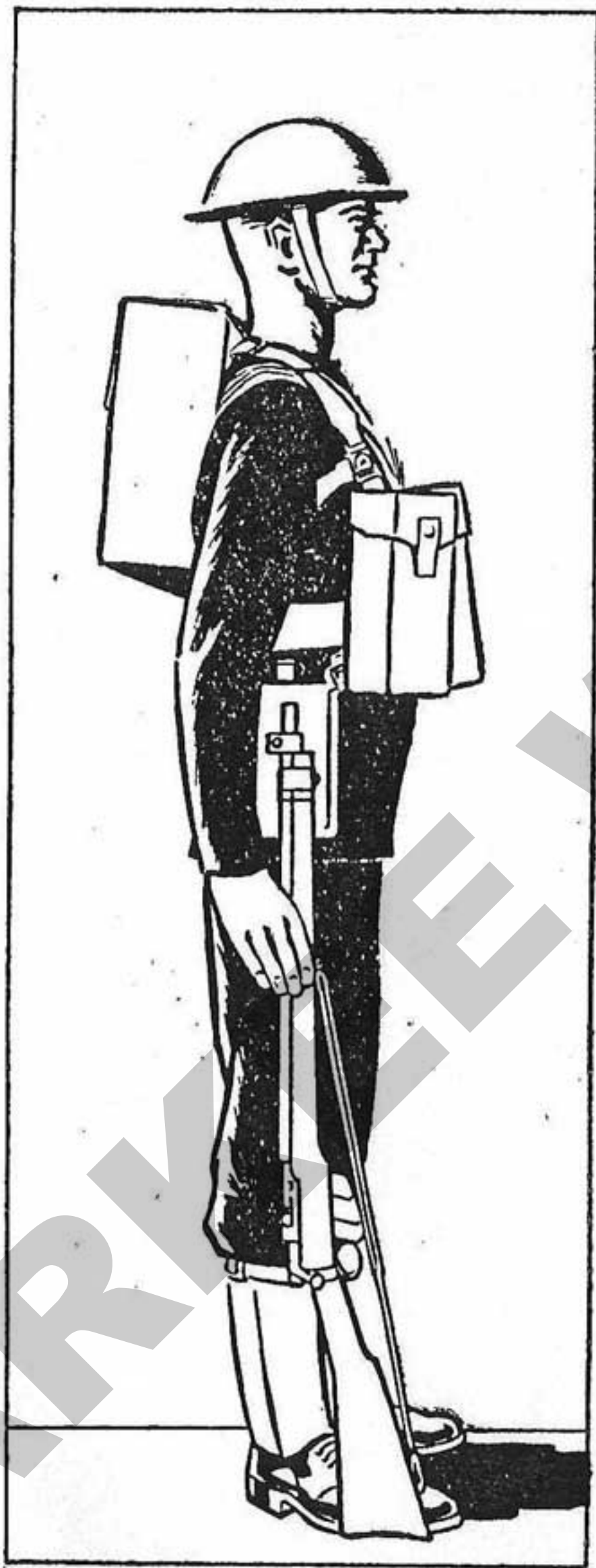


Fig. 18. Marching order—side view.

FITTING OF LANCHESTER ORDER

20. Lanchester order is the same as marching order (see Fig. 15) except for the substitution of Lanchester for basic pouches, ensuring that the Lanchester pouch with the small pocket for the magazine tool is worn on the *right* side.

SECTION 6

PISTOL EQUIPMENT

21. Pistol equipment is very similar to the rifle equipment. The main difference is the manner in which the braces are secured to the front of the belt. With the rifle equipment, this was done by securing them to the basic pouches. These pouches do not form part of the pistol equipment and are replaced by two brace attachments.

BRACE ATTACHMENTS (See Fig. 19)

22. These consist of a short length of 1 inch webbing, to the upper end of which is attached a small buckle, through which the front end of the brace passes, thus securing it to the brace. At the lower end of this short piece of webbing is a long "D." The centre of this "D" is a long hinged pin. To secure the attachment to the belt—

- (a) bend the belt outwards into a loop, about 4 inches from the centre buckle ;
- (b) pass this loop through the buckle of the brace attachment, raising the centre pin clear while doing so ;
- (c) lower the pin so that it rests inside the belt ;
- (d) tauten the belt.

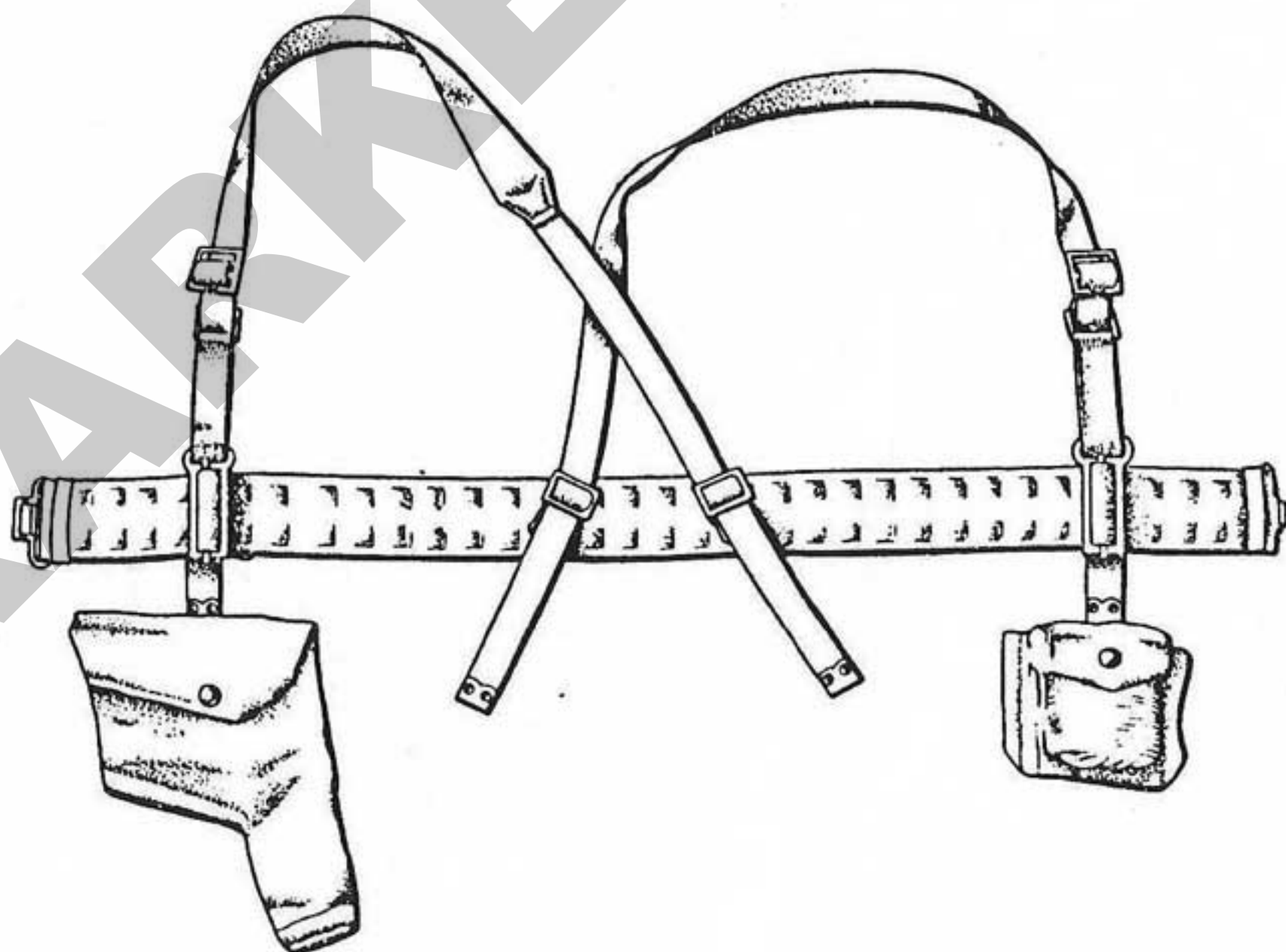


Fig. 19. Pistol equipment belt and braces, with brace attachment secured ; also showing holster and ammunition pouch

PISTOL HOLSTER AND AMMUNITION POUCH

23. These are fitted on to the left and right hand sides of the belt respectively, in the same way as the basic pouches. (See Fig. 20.)

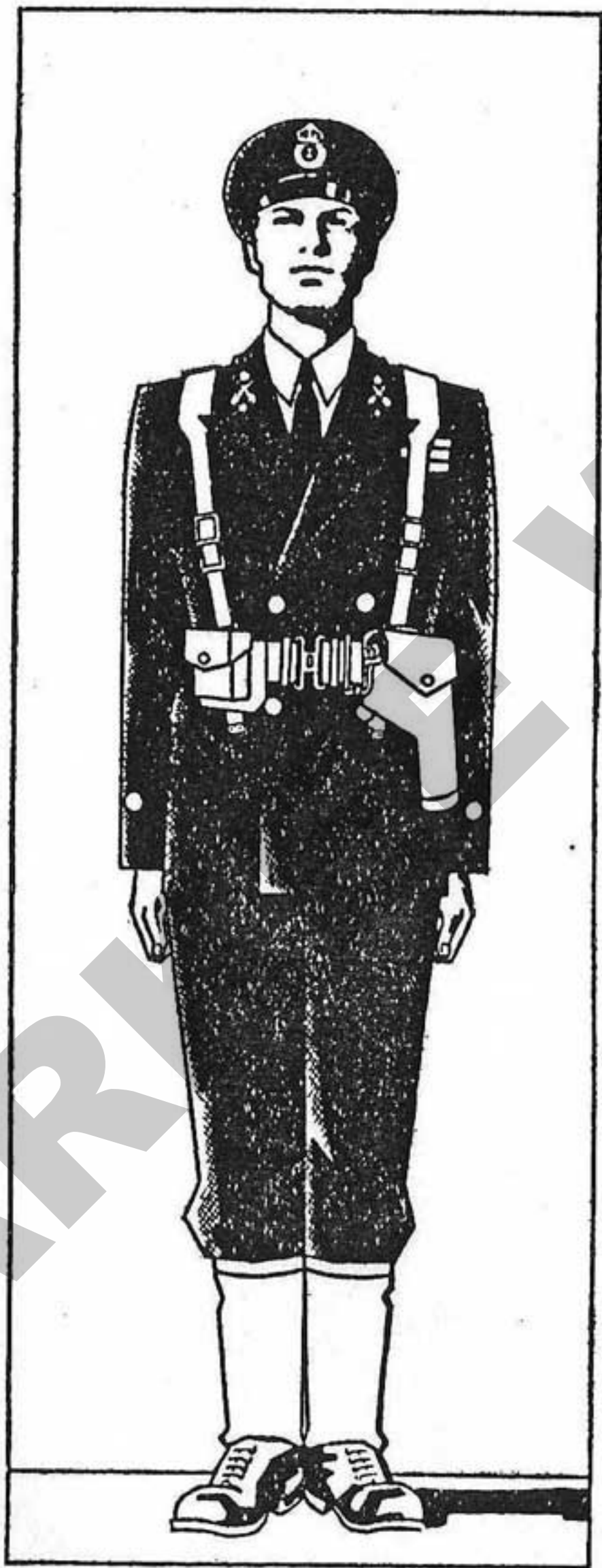


Fig. 20. Pistol equipment musketry order

BATTLE AND MARCHING ORDERS

24. These are made up on similar lines to rifle equipment. Fig. 21 shows a complete marching order ready for assembly, and Figs. 22 and 23 show the front and rear view of an assembled marching order.

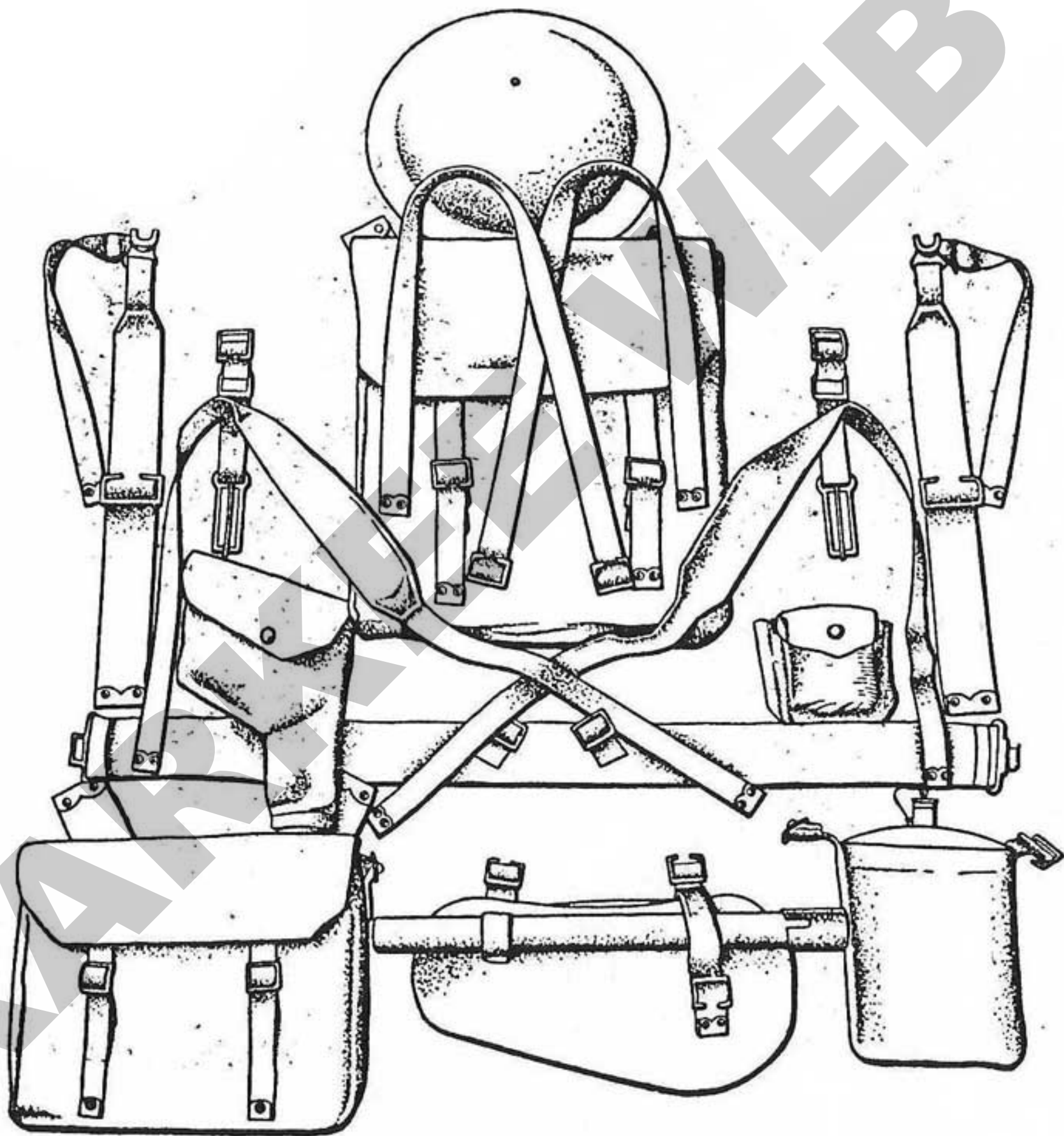


Fig. 21. Pistol equipment ready for assembly, showing each item

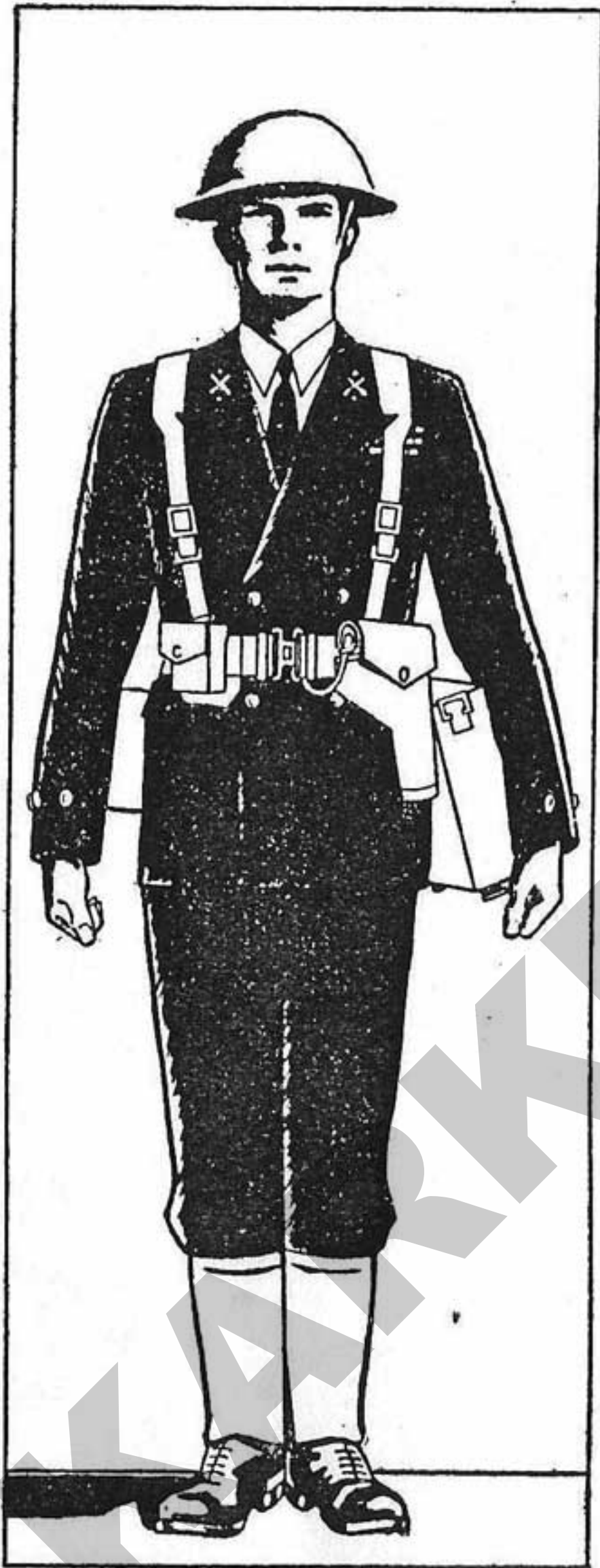


Fig. 22. Pistol equipment marching order—front view

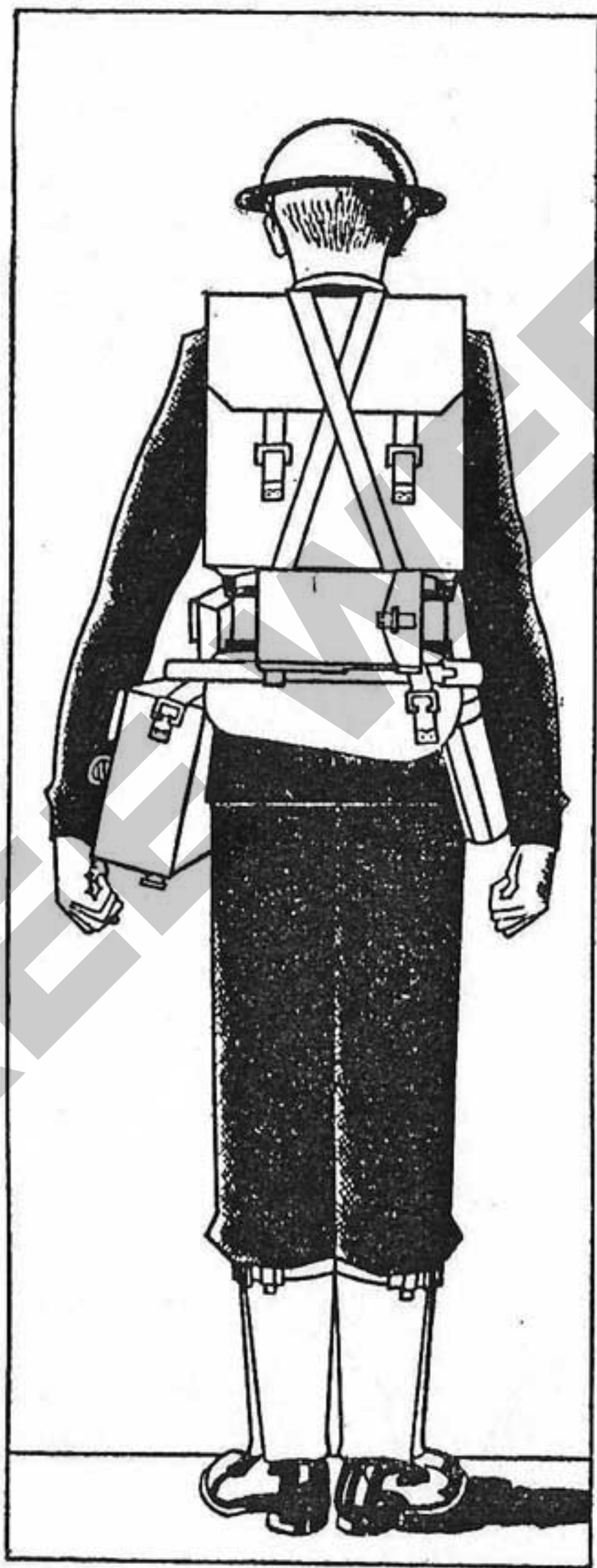


Fig. 23. Pistol equipment marching order—rear view

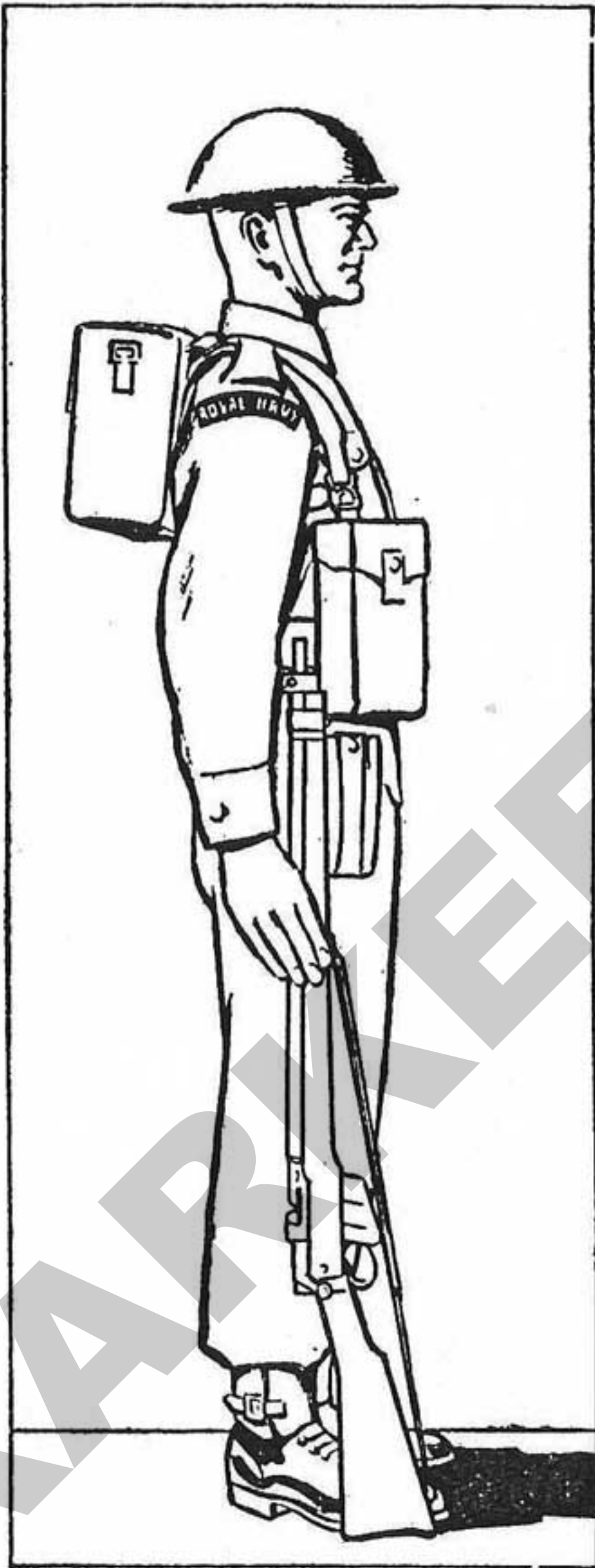


Fig. 24. Khaki battle dress

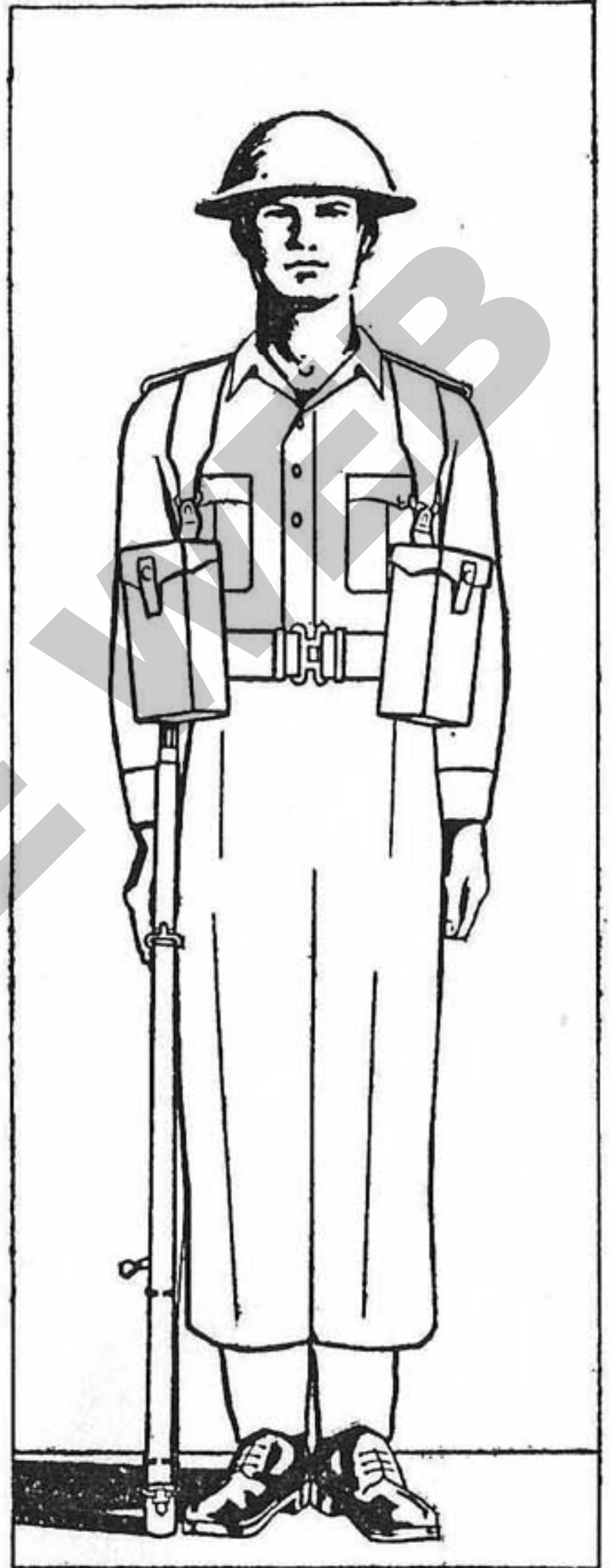


Fig. 25. Khaki tropical shirt and khaki drill trousers

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