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*Notified in
ACIs
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**ARMY
TRAINING MEMORANDUM
No. 45**

1943

[Commanding officers will ensure that every officer or officer cadet under their command receives a copy of this Army Training Memorandum.]

2). THE "BROOKSBANK" METHOD OF WEARING EQUIPMENT

Occasions often arise when, for a particular operation, it is necessary for the infantrymen to move "light." The "Brooksbank" method has been devised primarily to meet this requirement.

The main features of this method are :--

- (a) To reduce to a minimum the amount of equipment worn, thus making the soldier more mobile and giving him a more comfortable load to carry, by dispensing with the two basic pouches, the belt, the straps supporting, and the water bottle carrier.
- (b) To increase ammunition-carrying capacity, even though there is a reduction in equipment.
- (c) To enable the soldier to get at his ammunition more easily when in the firing position.

Detailed instructions for the wearing of this equipment, together with photographs showing the stowing of the man's haversack and the complete equipment being worn, are at Appendix C. If gas has not been and is not likely to be used, orders may be issued for the respirator to be omitted, together with the gas cape, unless this is required as a waterproof.

APPENDIX C

THE "BROOKSBANK" METHOD OF WEARING EQUIPMENT

The brace is attached to the top "D"s on the side of the small pack, and the whole is worn slung over the right shoulder and the weight of the pack adjusted to the comfort of the individual by the lengthening or shortening of the brace.

The two valise straps are attached to the "D"s on the bottom of the small pack so that the buckle of the left strap is approximately in the centre of the stomach.

The ammunition (grenades, 2-in mortar bombs, Bren gun magazines, Tommy gun magazines, or anti-tank rifle magazines can be carried) is placed in the small pack together with mess tins, waterbottle, leaving room for a groundsheet or towel, knife, fork and spoon, spare pair socks, and soap.

Method of wearing the fighting order (See Fig. 1)

(a) The gas cape folded flat, about 10 in by 12 in, is put on first in the normal manner.

(b) The small pack is slung over the right shoulder and the two valise straps fastened (firmly but *not* tightly) over the stomach with the bayonet and frog on the *right* hand side, slung on the valise strap.

(c) The respirator is put on in the *reverse* alert position, *i.e.*, the haversack goes on the back resting on the *gas cape* with the sling (shortened as far as possible) on the chest, with a piece of tape on each lower "D" on the haversack coming round to the front and with the left tape *underneath* the brace, through the sling, fastening on the right with a slip knot. (The right tape therefore will be only approximately 4 in to 6 in in length).



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

Action

If ammunition is required, the left thumb is put under the brace and with a smart jerk the small pack is brought round and down on the *left* hip, where easy access to the ammunition is achieved. The small pack is then replaced in the small of the back when not required. (See Figs. 2 and 3.)

On "Gas."—The slip knot on the right of the chest is pulled and the respirator swung round to the chest, where it automatically arrives in the alert position. The face-piece is then adjusted and the two tapes fastened round the back. (See Fig. 4.)

On "Spray."—As for gas, and then pull rip-cord of gas cape and adjust cape. Then fasten respirator round back.

Notes

This method of wearing equipment is essentially suited to the individual, and the individual can himself adjust it to his own comfort. For instance, if on a long route march the weight of the pack fully loaded eventually starts to tell, relief can be achieved by raising the brace off the shoulder with the thumb of the right hand, and it is possible to march very easily in this manner.

The actual weight of the pack is taken mostly in the small of the back and the right shoulder and slightly by the stomach; but on a route march, or when ammunition is not likely to be wanted immediately, the valise straps can be tightened so that more weight is taken round the waist.