

W. A. SIMPSON

Notified in A.C.Is., April 2nd, 1941

Crown Copyright Reserved

54
Cavalry
2806

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Service.

**Web Equipment
Cavalry Pattern 1940**

By Command of the Army Council,

I. J. G. S.

THE WAR OFFICE,
April 2nd, 1941.

WEB EQUIPMENT, CAVALRY PATTERN 1940

CHAPTER I—GENERAL

The Cavalry Pattern Web Equipment has been designed with the object of producing an outfit which can be readily adapted for officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men serving in horsed cavalry units. It is of simple construction and is based on the "back-adjustment" principle, i.e. it has no separate waist belt, but is adjustable by means of a back-strap connecting the articles of equipment to be worn in front. One length of adjustment strap only is necessary to give a range of adjustment to suit all size waists.

This method ensures that the articles worn in front are always in a fixed position and easily accessible. At the same time they can be interchanged without affecting the remainder of the equipment.

The completely assembled equipment forms a single unit, which can be put on or taken off in one operation. The load carried is evenly distributed, well balanced, and there are no straps across the chest or under the armpits to impede circulation.

The equipment is light in weight, easy to assemble and adjust and possesses the important feature that all articles are rigidly held in position. The disadvantages of a bandolier, haversack sling and waterbottle strap across the chest are overcome, as well as the undesirability of hitherto having to put on every article of equipment separately without means for keeping them from banging about even though they were tightly adjusted, causing undue restriction.

An important feature is that the equipment does not interfere with the carriage of the anti-gas respirator in the alert position. That article may always be carried and the equipment put on and taken off without interference. *See Plate 4.*

CHAPTER II.—DESCRIPTION OF THE EQUIPMENT

The equipment is made throughout of strong and durable webbing which is waterproofed and dyed in the yarn before weaving. The result of the waterproofing treatment is to render the fabric practically impervious to the weather, which might tend to make it hard or cause it to stretch and shrink.

The webbing is thoroughly shrunk before being cut and made up and, where practicable and necessary, selvedged webbings woven to the correct width are employed to give added strength. Likewise certain parts are integrally woven; for example, the braces are woven with expanded parts to give a good bearing surface on the shoulders, and the back-adjustment strap has loops woven inside

to receive brass hooks for adjustment. Cartridge carriers, pockets and pistol cases are also integrally woven as separate units, thereby eliminating unnecessary sewing which, consequently, adds to the strength and durability of the finished articles.

All the buckles are stamped from sheet brass and are of the tongueless or self-locking variety, which allow of adjustment to any desired position.

The following are the component parts:—

(a) Back Adjustment Strap	} Set for ranks armed with rifle. Plates 1 to 7.
(b) Cartridge Carrier, 45 rounds, Left ..	
(c) " " 45 rounds, Right ..	
(d) Braces (2)	
(e) Brass fitting for connecting Braces ..	
(f) Straps with keyway fitting (2) ..	
(g) Waterbottle Carrier	
(h) Haversack	

(a) Back Adjustment Strap	} Set for men armed with pistol. Plate 9.
(i) Pistol Case with Ammunition Pouch ..	
(c) Cartridge Carrier, 45 rounds, Right ..	
(d) Braces (2)	
(e) Brass fitting for connecting Braces ..	
(f) Straps with keyway fitting (2) ..	
(g) Waterbottle Carrier	
(h) Haversack	

(a) Back Adjustment Strap	} Set for ranks carrying binoculars and compass. Plate 10.
(b) Cartridge Carrier, 45 rounds, Left ..	
(j) Binocular Case with Compass Pocket ..	
(d) Braces (2)	
(e) Brass fitting for connecting Braces ..	
(f) Straps with keyway fitting (2) ..	
(g) Waterbottle Carrier	
(h) Haversack	

(a) Back Adjustment Strap	} Set for officers. Plates 11 and 12.
(i) Pistol Case with Ammunition Pocket ..	
(j) Binocular Case with Compass Pocket ..	
(d) Braces (2)	
(e) Brass fitting for connecting Braces ..	
(f) Straps with keyway fitting (2) ..	
(g) Waterbottle Carrier	
(h) Haversack	

- (a) *Back Adjustment Strap*.—This is made in one size to give a range of adjustment from 32 inches to 48 inches. The width is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It is fitted with an eyeletted tip each end, and two buckles centrally for attachment of the braces (d). Two keyways are also fitted which hang below the lower edge to engage studs in the base of the waterbottle carrier (g) and haversack (h).
- (b) *Cartridge Carrier, Left, 45 rounds.*
- (c) *Cartridge Carrier, Right, 45 rounds.*

Each consists of two lower pockets and one upper pocket. The pockets each have one partition woven inside, so that when two clips are removed to fill the rifle magazine, the remaining clip is held in position. Each pocket is provided with a narrow strap, made to fold under the flap, to prevent loss of ammunition when the flaps of the pockets are left unfastened. The carriers are provided with a clasp buckle (hook and loop pattern) on the front ends, and double hooks are fitted to the rear ends for attachment to the back adjustment strap. Web loops are provided on the back for the free ends of the back adjustment strap. Flaps, with beaded edges, are secured by means of snap fasteners, the lower stud-ports being used when the pockets contain only one clip or are empty. The buckle fitted to the top of each carrier for connection to the braces has a stud to which the strap with keyway fitting (f) is attached. The buckles also have an additional bar at the top which serves for attachment of the hook of the shoulder straps of a pack if such is required at any time to adapt the equipment for dismounted use. An inwardly directed horizontal strap is fitted to the back of each top pocket for connecting to the waterbottle carrier (g) and haversack (h).

- (d) *Braces*.—These are interchangeable for left or right shoulder, but not fore and aft. They are integrally woven with wide portions for the shoulders and are one standard length overall (53 ins.). Two web loops are sewn to each brace to receive the straps with keyway fitting (f).
- (e) *Brass fitting for connecting Braces*.—This enables the braces to cross at the back at the correct angle and rigidly keeps them in position to assist in the proper support of the waterbottle in carrier (g) and haversack (h).
- (f) *Straps with keyway fitting*.—These are interchangeable and each consists of a strip of 1-inch webbing, fitted with a keyway fitting at one end and an eyeletted tip the other end.

- (g) *Waterbottle Carrier*.—This is made in the form of a bag with a reinforcing band at the top to enable easy insertion of the bottle. A "V"-shaped strap with snap fastener secures the bottle. Two buckles are fitted to the back for attachment to the horizontal strap of the left cartridge carrier (b) and to one of the straps with keyway fitting (f). A stud is rivetted in the band of web at the bottom to engage the keyway fitting on the left hand of the back adjustment strap (a).
- (h) *Haversack*.—This consists of a rectangular bag approximately 11 inches by 9½ inches by 4 inches and has a flap secured by two small straps and buckles. The interior is longitudinally divided by means of a partition, which is in turn connected to the front of the bag by a small partition, to form two compartments of equal size. One of these compartments contains the rectangular mess tin, and the other is used for small articles of kit. On the back of the haversack two buckles are fitted for securing to the horizontal strap of the right cartridge carrier (c) and one of the straps with keyway fitting. Side weather flaps are provided which are partially sewn to the back of the haversack to ensure that they keep in position. A stud is rivetted in the base of the haversack for connection to the keyway fitting on the right hand of the back adjustment strap (a).
- (i) *Pistol Case with Ammunition Pouch*.—This consists of two woven articles. The case is made to accommodate the 0.38 in. revolver; it is lined with a smooth webbing and the flap is secured by a snap fastener. The pouch, sewn to the top of the pistol case, is to contain 0.38 in. pistol ammunition. It is provided with a "box-like" lid secured by a snap fastener.
- A length of 2½ in. webbing to form a "belt" portion is sewn to the back of the pistol case and has the loop part of a clasp buckle fitted to the fore end and a hook at the rear end with a narrow web loop for the spare end of the back adjustment strap. On the back of the pouch a chape with stud buckle and a horizontal strap are fitted, similar to the fittings on the back of the cartridge carriers.
- (j) *Binocular Case with Compass Pocket*.—The case is stiffened with fibre and is provided with a "box-like" lid closed by a snap fastener. The compass pocket sewn to the top of the case is similar in all respects to the ammunition

pouch, except that it is lined with felt to protect the compass. The fittings on the back of the combined case and pocket are similar to those on the pistol case and ammunition pouch, and the hook part of a clasp buckle is fitted to the fore end of the "belt" portion.

CHAPTER III.—TO ASSEMBLE THE EQUIPMENT

Set for ranks armed with rifle. Plates 1 to 7.

- (1) Lay the back adjustment strap (*a*) flat with the woven loops uppermost and the keyways at the bottom. Place the cartridge carriers, left and right (*b*) and (*c*), under the ends of the strap (*a*). Determine waist measurement (which can be ascertained by using one of the braces) and by moving the carriers with the adjustment strap exactly central, the hooks on the rear ends of the carriers will come in line with the correct woven loops. Insert the hooks into these loops. See Plate 13. Care must be taken that the same number of woven loops are beyond each hook to ensure the buckles on the back adjustment strap being central when worn. Pass the free ends of the strap (*a*) through the loops on the back of the cartridge carriers (*b*) and (*c*). Try on the assembled cartridge belt to ensure that it is adjusted to the correct size to be comfortably tight.
- (2) Lay the cartridge belt flat inside downwards. Pass the rear ends of the braces (*d*) (the rear ends have the web loops on the wide part nearest to the narrow parts) through the brass fitting for connecting braces (*e*), so that the fitting comes close to the tapered portions. See Plate 8. Then attach the crossed rear ends to the buckles on the back of the adjustment strap (*a*), so that they extend (on an average) about 6 ins. below the lower edge of the strap. Pass the free ends through the slot in the keyways so that they will lie *underneath* the keyways.

Attach the front ends of the braces (*e*) to the buckles on top of the cartridge carriers (*b*) and (*c*) taking care not to twist the braces in so doing, so that the free ends extend below the same distance as the free ends at the rear. Try the equipment on and make any necessary adjustment of the braces *at all four* points of attachment, to ensure that the free ends are all of equal length, thereby keeping the wide portions of the braces centrally

on the shoulders. Finally, pass the free front ends of the braces down behind the top pockets, between the back of the pocket and the web chape carrying the buckle, and pull down firmly. See Plate 2.

- (3) Pass the straps with keyway fitting (*f*) through the loops on the braces (*d*) and connect the keyways to the studs on the buckles of the cartridge carriers (*b*) and (*c*). Pull these perfectly flat on the braces.
- (4) With waterbottle in carrier (*g*), attach the stud in the bottom of the carrier to the left hand keyway on the back adjustment strap (*a*). Connect the free end of the strap with keyway fitting which lies on the right brace to the buckle at the top right hand corner of the waterbottle carrier, adjusting the strap just sufficiently to support the bottle with its base in line with the lower edge of the back adjustment strap (*a*). Pass the free end of the strap with keyway fitting (*f*) back on itself through the top opening of the buckle so that it "locks" the strap to prevent any possibility of slackening. Now attach the horizontal strap on the left cartridge carrier to the buckle at the left hand top corner of the waterbottle carrier—just sufficiently tight to be flat when the equipment is laid out on the ground. Any necessary adjustment of this strap to ensure the bottle being held close to the body when the equipment is worn should be afterwards made and the free end of the strap passed back through the buckle to "lock." See Plate 15.
- (5) The haversack (*h*) is attached to the right side of the equipment in an identical manner to the waterbottle carrier—but care must be taken to have the respective strap with keyway fitting *over* the other strap with keyway fitting, because the haversack is larger than the waterbottle and the point of attachment must be correspondingly higher. The free ends of both the horizontal strap and the strap with keyway fitting must, after ascertaining that the weight of the haversack is adequately supported, be passed back through the buckles to "lock" the straps.

It will be readily understood that the keyways on the back adjustment strap (*a*) serve to hold the waterbottle (in carrier) and the haversack firmly in position.

The equipment is now fully assembled and if correctly adjusted should balance perfectly, even with the belt unfastened. To prevent an untidy appearance, the spare ends of the braces should be tucked up under the "belt" after the equipment is put on.

All the other combinations of the equipment are assembled in exactly the same manner, except as follows:—

Set for officers.—The combined pistol case and ammunition pouch (i) and the combined binocular case and compass pocket (j) to be worn on the left and right side respectively in place of the two cartridge carriers. See Plates 11 and 12.

Set for men armed with pistol.—Combined pistol case and ammunition pouch (i) to be worn on the left side instead of a cartridge carrier. See Plate 9.

Set for men carrying binoculars and compass.—Combined binocular case and compass pocket (j) to be worn on right side instead of a cartridge carrier. See Plate 10.

If the foregoing instructions are followed carefully—step by step—there should be no difficulty in assembling the equipment to achieve the maximum degree of comfort.

The haversack should be carefully packed with the soft articles at the bottom to rest against the wearer's back. The mess tin should be placed in the right hand (front) compartment. The haversack and waterbottle carrier are interchangeable, i.e. the haversack may be worn on the left side (back) and the waterbottle on the right side, which reversed positions may be preferred in the case of officers.

Every article is accessible as shown by the illustrations.

To extract ammunition from the pockets, it is merely necessary to insert the forefinger under the lid strap, grip and withdraw the clip. See Plate 16.

To get at the contents of the haversack or the waterbottle, the respective keyway in front is detached from the stud to allow the weight of the article to fall back. The hands are then passed behind to release the stud from the keyway securing the article to the back adjustment strap. The article is then allowed to drop down so that the keyway on the end of the strap comes in contact with the loop sewn to the brace, on top of the shoulder. The article is brought forward underneath the arm to get at the contents. See Plate 7.

To replace the haversack or waterbottle on the back, grasp the keyway fitting at the shoulder, pull the article up and then secure the keyway fitting to the stud on the buckle in front. Next, slip the keyway fitting on the back adjustment strap over the stud in the base of the article by lifting the article and feeling the location of the stud and keyway.

The braces may be utilized as slings for carrying haversack or waterbottle separately. See Plate 17.

CHAPTER IV.—CARE AND PRESERVATION OF THE EQUIPMENT

When the equipment has once been properly fitted it will be kept assembled as far as possible. It will be found convenient, if, when a correct fit has been obtained, a light mark is made to show where each adjustment should always come. This saves trouble in case the equipment has to be taken apart and re-assembled.

Should the equipment become in a dirty or greasy condition, it may be washed, using warm water, soap and a sponge. Then rinse with clean water, and when thoroughly dry apply the cleaner in the manner laid down in the instructions accompanying it. No cleaner may be applied to the equipment unless previously approved by the War Office. A scrubbing brush will not be used on the equipment on any account. Dust and mud (when dry) will be removed with an ordinary clothes brush. The metal work will not be polished, but allowed to get dull, so as to avoid catching the rays of the sun.

WEB EQUIPMENT, CAVALRY PATTERN 1940

APPENDIX.

TABLE OF WEIGHTS.

	For ranks armed with rifle.	For men armed with pistol.	For men carrying binoculars and compass.	For officers.
	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.
(A) Articles of Equipment.				
Back Adjustment Strap	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 6
Cartridge Carrier, Left	0 11	—	0 11	—
Right	0 11	0 11	—	—
Pistol Case with Ammunition Pouch	—	0 13½	—	0 13½
Binocular Case with Compass Pocket	—	—	1 8	1 8
Braces (2)	0 6½	0 6½	0 6½	0 6½
Brass fitting for connecting Braces	0 0¼	0 0¼	0 0¼	0 0¼
Straps with keyway fitting (2) ..	0 3¼	0 3¼	0 3¼	0 3¼
Waterbottle Carrier	0 5	0 5	0 5	0 5
Haversack	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
Total	3 11½	3 14	4 8½	4 11
	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.
(B) Articles carried in :—				
<i>Cartridge Carriers :—</i>				
S.A.A. (90 rds.)	5 10	—	—	—
S.A.A. (45 rds.)	—	2 13	2 13	—
<i>Pistol Case and Ammunition Pouch :—</i>				
0.38 in. Revolver	—	1 11½	—	1 11½
Revolver Ammunition (12 rds.)	—	0 7	—	0 7
<i>Binocular Case and Compass Pocket :—</i>				
No. 2 Prismatic Binoculars ..	—	—	3 0	3 0
Compass	—	—	0 6	0 6
<i>Waterbottle Carrier :—</i>				
Waterbottle	0 15½	0 15½	0 15½	0 15½
Water (in bottle)	1 14	1 14	1 14	1 14
Cd. fwd.	8 7½	7 13	9 0¼	8 6

		For ranks armed with rifle.	For men armed with pistol.	For men carrying binoculars and compass.	For officers.
		lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.
<i>Haversack</i> :—	Bt. fwd.	8 7½	7 13	9 0½	8 6
Holdall .. .. .	.. .. .	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2
Containing :—	oz.				
Table Knife	2½				
.. Fork	1½				
Spoon	1½				
Razor	2				
Shaving Brush	2				
Tooth Brush	0½				
Hair Brush	4				
.. Comb	0½				
Laces, 1 pair	0½	0 15	0 15	0 15	0 15
Housewife	2½				
Soap	3				
Hand Towel	7				
Socks, 1 pair	5				
Mess Tin (Pat. '37)	30½				
Emergency Ration	12	3 2	3 2	3 2	3 2
Total .. .. .	.. .. .	12 10½	12 0	13 3½	12 9

(C) Clothing, etc., Worn.

Ankle Boots	4 9
Spurs, pair (complete with straps)	0 8
Jacket, Service Dress	2 5
Pantaloon	2 2
Cap, Service Dress	0 9
Puttees,	0 12
Shirt	1 0
Socks	0 4½
Pullover Jersey	0 14
Drawers, cotton	0 14½
Braces	0 3½
Paybook	0 2
Identity Disc	0 0½
Total	14 4

SUMMARY.

	For ranks armed with rifle.	For men armed with pistol.	For men carrying binoculars and compass.	For officers.
	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.
(A) Articles of equipment	3 11½	3 14	4 8½	4 11
(B) Articles carried in equip- ment	12 10½	12 0	13 3½	12 9
* (C) Clothing, etc., worn	14 4	14 4	14 4	14 4
Total	30 10	30 2	32 0	31 8

	lb. oz.
{ If steel helmet is worn	add 2 3
{ If tropical helmet is worn .. .. .	.. 0 9
* { If anti-gas respirator and haversack carried .. .. .	.. 5 0
{ If anti-gas cape is carried .. .. .	.. 2 7

KARKKEE WEB

PLATES

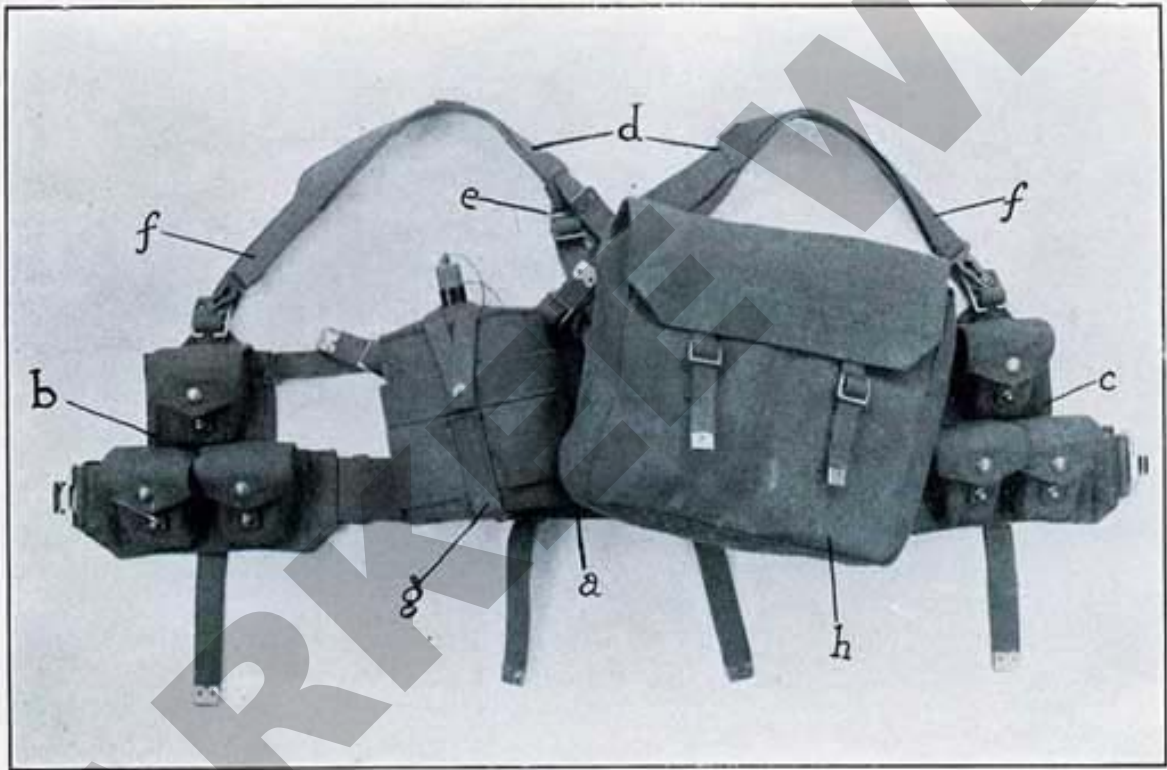


Fig. 1 (Outside).
SET FOR RANKS ARMED WITH RIFLE.

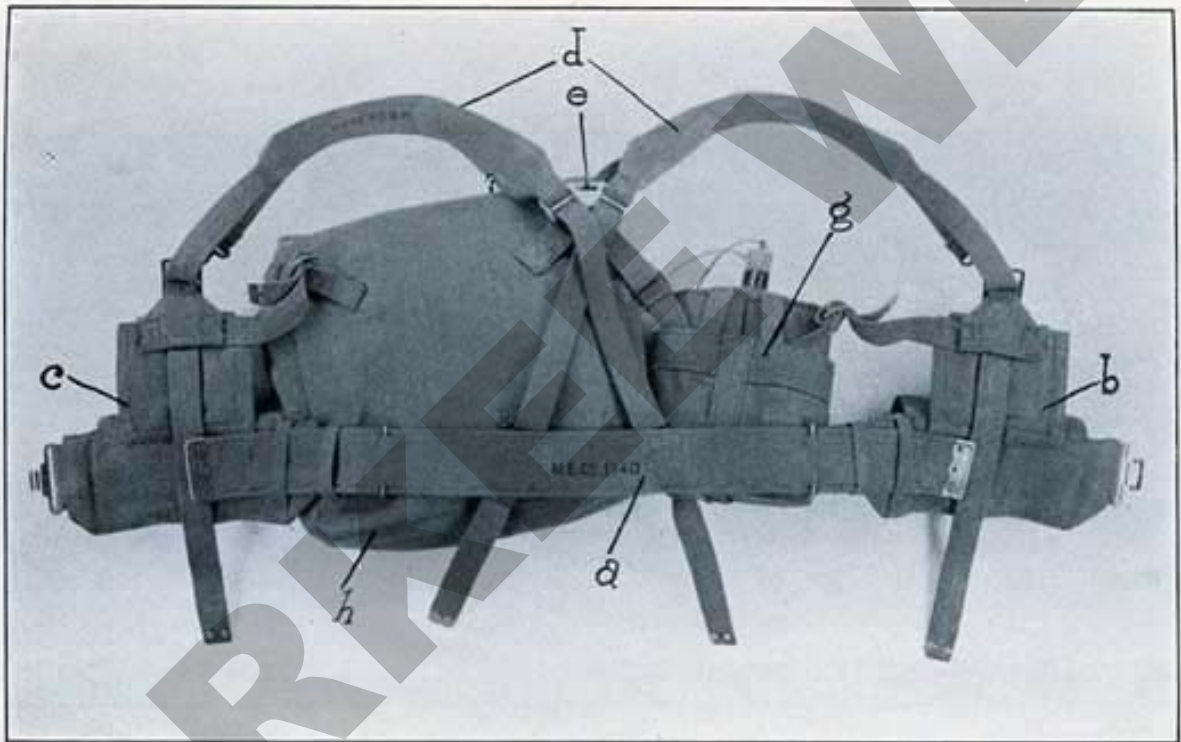


Fig. 2 (Inside).



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.
Showing waterbottle released.



Fig. 8.
Showing position of brass fitting for connecting braces.



Fig. 9.

SET FOR MEN ARMED WITH PISTOL.



Fig. 10.

SET FOR MEN CARRYING BINOCULARS AND COMPASS.

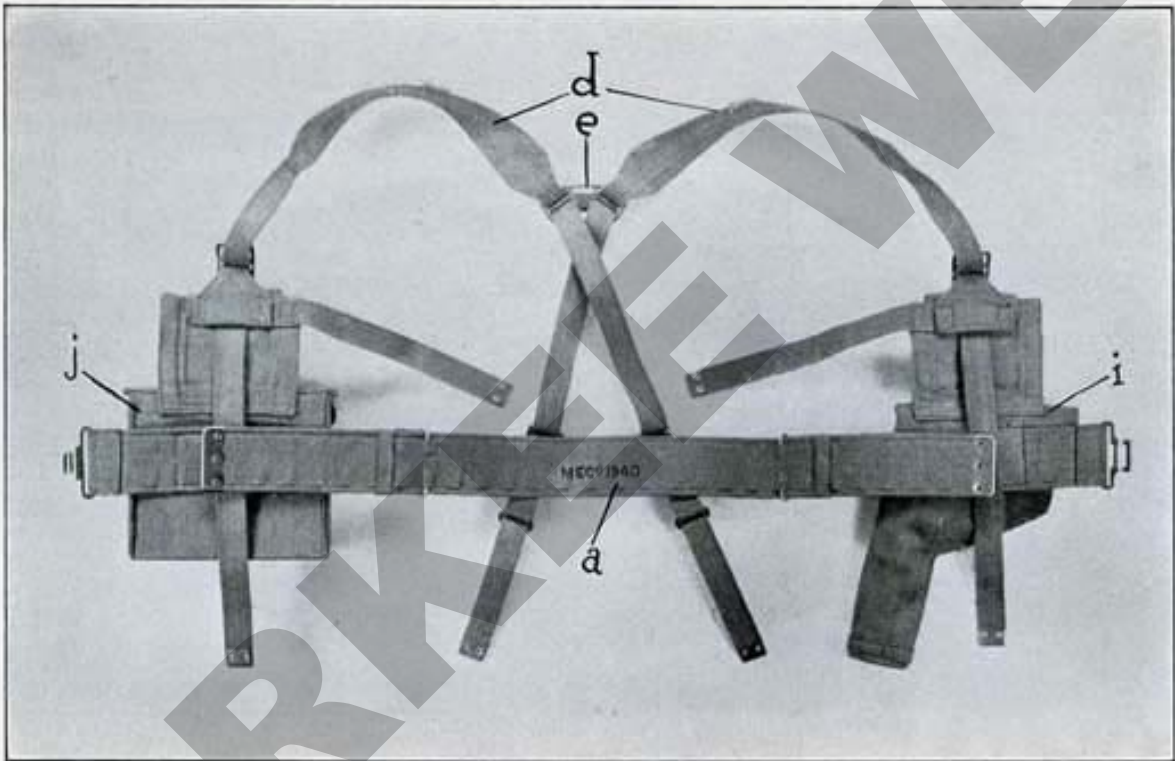


Fig. 11.

SET FOR OFFICERS.

(Haversack, waterbottle and straps with keyway fitting removed.)



Fig. 12.

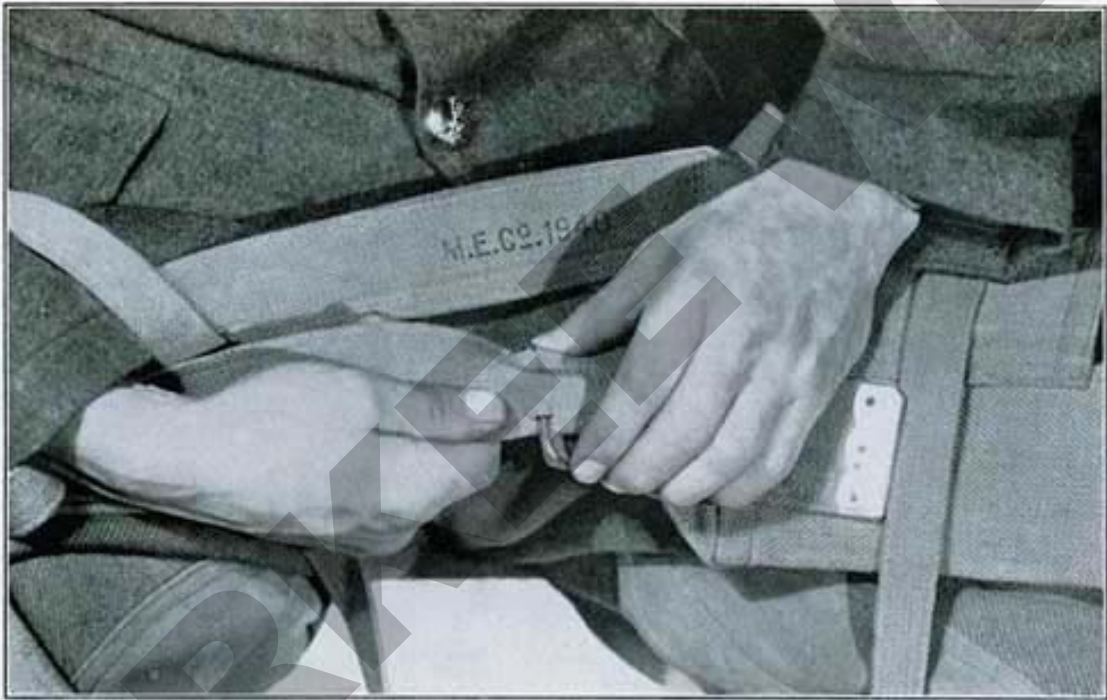


Fig. 13.

Method of inserting hooks into loops woven inside back adjustment strap.



Fig. 14.
How to fasten hook-and-loop buckle.

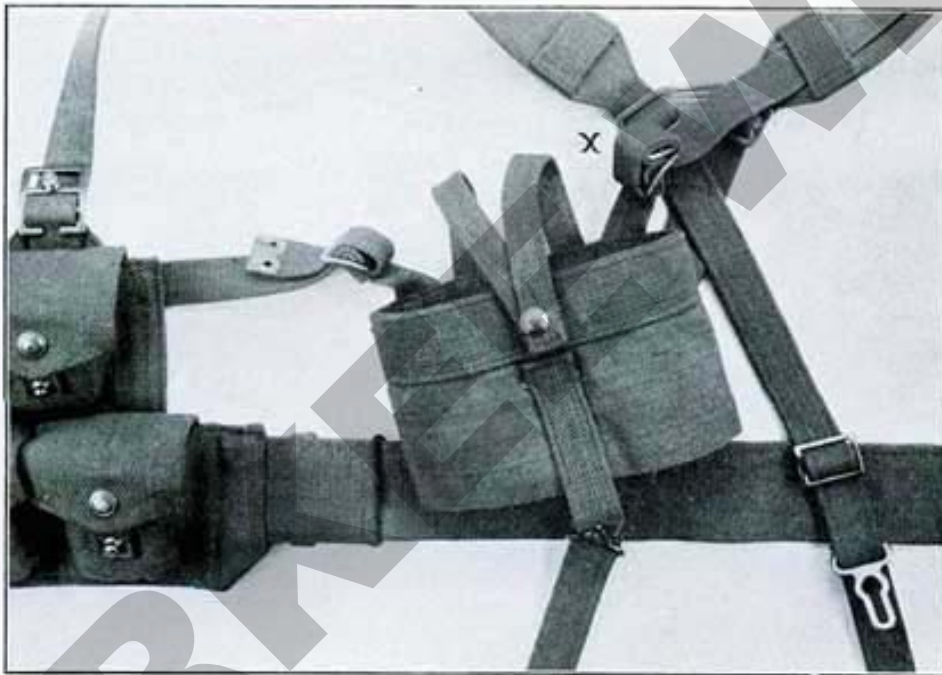


Fig. 15.

Method of "locking" straps in buckles. Long spare ends may be coiled in buckle as shown at "X."



Fig. 16.

How to extract clips easily from pockets.



Fig. 17.

The haversack (or waterbottle) may be carried separately by utilizing the braces as slings.