

***INSTRUCTIONS for ASSEMBLING***

***WEB EQUIPMENT***

***PATTERN 1958.***

**54/INF/8752/INF 2.**

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**THE INFANTRY DIRECTORATE**

**THE WAR OFFICE**

# WEB EQUIPMENT

PATTERN 1958.

## INTRODUCTION

Development work on personal load carrying equipment has been taking place over a number of years, as the result of a need to transfer to the waist part of the weight of the load that previously had been borne on the shoulders, and the outcome is the 1958 pattern equipment, which is constructed from lightweight materials.

With this equipment a considerable part of the load is normally borne by the waist, but the import of the old adage "a change is as good as a rest" can be brought into effect by the simple expedient of unfastening the buckle of the belt, thus transferring the load entirely to the shoulders. The equipment can be assembled in 'fighting order' or in 'marching order' and by means of easily adjustable straps the load can be shifted whilst the wearer is on the move. The front of the body is kept free from encumbrances which might restrict certain movements.

The items of this equipment, which are not interchangeable with similar items of earlier types of webbing equipment, have been designed to accommodate the latest types of arms and accessories issued to the Services, including the lightweight pick and shovel.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE EQUIPMENT

The main items of equipment are made of rotproofed and water-repellent lightweight webbing, dyed to British Standard Camouflage Colour No.15.

The metal fittings are principally of light alloy with a dull protective finish which should not be removed. Quick-release fittings have been used wherever possible to give quick and easy access to the contents of pouches etc.

The following are the component parts, which can be assembled in a variety of combinations to meet differing load carrying requirements:

- A. Belt, Waist.
- B. Carrier, Cape.
- C. Pack.
- D. Pouch, Ammunition, Left.
- E. Pouch, Ammunition, Right.
- F. Pouches, Rear (pair forming one item).
- G. Straps, Utility (two)
- H. Yoke.

Details of the component parts are as follows:-

### A. Belt, Waist

This is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide and is supplied in two sizes:

Normal - Adjustable up to 40 inches in length

Large - Adjustable between 37 inches and 46 inches in length.



Each end of the belt is fitted with a metal hook, which engages in a series of eyelets for adjustment of length. The belt is fastened by a clasp buckle (hook and loop pattern) with slides to hold the two parts of the clasp in position. The two small 'D' rings fixed to the bottom edge of the belt are for attachment of the cape carrier.

B. Carrier, Cape.

This holds the cape, or the poncho, in the form of a roll 18 inches long, and is sufficiently large to take the jersey, wool, heavy, also.

The lightweight pick-head is carried in a pocket on the outside of the cape carrier.

Spring hooks on top of the carrier connect to the belt. Two adjustable straps and spring hooks are provided at the sides for connection to the two ammunition pouches.

C. Pack.

This is approximately 17 inches wide and 14 inches deep, with 5 inch gussets. The pack opens at the top and is closed by a flap secured by two straps and buckles. Weather flaps are provided which fold down under the main flap. There is a pocket on each side of the pack which is closed by a 'box' lid and secured by a strap and buckle.

Attached to the main flap of the pack is a wide strap with spigot and metal link, and right and left straps with quick-release links and tongue for retention of the pick handle, or the shovel, in normal 'marching order' carrying position. Above these is a horizontal webbing loop to hold the pick, or the shovel, in an alternative position.

On the top rear edge of the pack there are two adjustable straps each terminating in a flat hook, for connection to the yoke of the equipment.

At the bottom of each side of the pack there is a quickly adjustable strap carrying a spring hook for connection to the rear of each ammunition pouch (or revolver holster) in the 'fighting order' of the equipment.

On the rear panel of the pack is a white patch for personal identification markings.

On the top of the main flap two straps, with buckles, are fitted to hold the greatcoat, or the parka.

Two straps, fixed to the top front edge of the pack, cross diagonally over the front of the pack and are secured on the underside of the pack by two buckles. These cross straps are to hold the steel helmet.

D. Pouch, Ammunition, Left.

This is approximately 10 inches deep and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, with  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inch gussets. It is closed with a 'box' lid having a quick-release fastening. The top back of the pouch has metal fittings for connection of the pouch to the belt and the yoke. On one side of the pouch there are two webbing loops to hold the bayonet scabbard, and on the same side near the bottom there is a metal loop for connection to the cape carrier. Inside the pouch there is an adjustable strap and buckle to support short magazines on a level with the top of the pouch.

E. Pouch, Ammunition, Right.

This pouch is similar to the pouch, ammunition, left, excepting



that it has an external pocket on one side instead of the bayonet scabbard loops. This pocket is for a grenade launcher or a 1 inch signal discharger and is closed by a hooded flap with a turn button closure.

F. Pouches, Rear.

This item consists of two pouches 8 inches wide and 8 inches deep, with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch gussets. The pouches are joined together at the back by a wide strap and are closed by hooded flaps and quick-release straps. Each of the pouches has two 1 inch wide straps and key-way fittings with staples and long tongues for attaching the pouches to the waist belt.

G. Straps, Utility.

There are two of these straps for unspecified general use, housed one inside each pouch of the pouches, rear, in a loop compartment in the lid.

H. Yoke.

This item consists basically of a wide 'V'-shaped assembly of webbing, padded with sponge rubber. To the free end of each arm of the 'V' is attached a 1 inch front strap with length adjuster; these straps connect ultimately to the metal links on the top rear of each ammunition pouch. To the edge of the apex of the 'V' are attached two adjustable-length, 1 inch rear straps, terminating in fittings with 'C' hooks which ultimately connect to the rear of the waist belt. To the outer side of the padded apex of the 'V' is attached a wide strap, with spigot and metal link and left and right straps, with quick-release links and tongue, for attachment of the pick handle, or the shovel handle.

ASSEMBLY OF THE EQUIPMENT

In these assembly instructions the bracketed numbers in the text (e.g. (7)) refer to identification numbers on the assembly instruction Plates VII, VIII and IX which should be referred to during assembly.

ASSEMBLY OF THE FIGHTING ORDER

Belt

1. Adjust the waist belt to fit the waist by means of the end hooks (1), locating them in convenient eyelets (2), ensuring that the double ends of the belt are of equal length, or as nearly so as possible consistent with a good fit.
2. Push the belt slides (3) close up to each half of the clasp buckle (4).
3. Check the fit of the belt by wearing it.
4. While wearing the belt with the clasped buckle (4) located centrally in front of the wearer's body, mark on the outside of the belt the two places where the belt crosses the side seams, or pocket openings, of the trousers.
5. Remove the belt and place it on a level surface with the outer side upwards and the two 'D' rings (5) towards you.

Ammunition Pouches

6. The ammunition pouch (6) with the webbing loops for the bayonet scabbard should be worn on the left side of the body and the



ammunition pouch (7) with the grenade launcher pocket, on the right side.

7. Fit the ammunition pouches (6) and (7) on to the outside of the belt centrally over the trouser seam marks, by means of the 'C' hooks (8) the ends of which are inserted into the appropriate loops on the inside of the belt.

8. Check the positioning of the ammunition pouches on the belt and that the two 'D' rings (5) are on the lower edge of the belt when it is worn.

9. Remove the belt etc. and replace it on a level surface with the outer side upwards and the two 'D' rings (5) towards you.

#### Yoke.

10. The outer side of the yoke is the side with the buckles, straps, etc. (9), (10) and (11) sewn to it.

11. The rear straps (15) of the yoke are the two straps terminating in pairs of 'C' hooks (12).

12. Connect the two pairs of 'C' hooks (12) on the rear straps (15) of the yoke to the belt, between and close to, the 'D' rings (5), with the yoke extending from the opposite edge of the belt to that on which the 'D' rings are fixed. The ends of each pair of 'C' hooks (12) should be fitted into the woven loops on the inside of the belt.

13. Thread the right-hand front strap (13) of the yoke through the metal link (14) on top of the right-hand ammunition pouch (7) from inside the belt to the outside.

14. Thread the front strap end (13) through the two-piece buckle (10) on the end of the yoke (Plate VII).

15. Repeat the process with the left-hand front strap (13) and the left-hand ammunition pouch (6).

16. Release the right and left-hand front straps (13) of the yoke by the release tabs (11) until the doubled ends of these straps (13) touch the two-piece buckles (10).

17. Wear the equipment with the belt clasp buckle (4) fastened.

18. It is important that all initial height adjustment of the yoke is effected by means of the rear straps (15).

19. The yoke should be sufficiently high on the back of the wearer to prevent the two-piece buckles (10) and the adjacent 'D' rings (9) on the front of the yoke obstructing a rifle butt in the firing position. On the other hand the yoke should not be so high on the back that the inner edges of the 'V' chafe the neck or collar.

20. It should be noted that the front straps (13) of the yoke and the release tabs (11) are intended for occasional adjustment of pressure on the shoulders during normal wear of the equipment.

21. The front straps (13) are adjusted to the required length after adjustment of the rear straps (15) of the yoke by pulling the ends of the front straps (13) downwards to increase tension, or lifting the tabs (11) on the two-piece buckles (10) to decrease tension.

#### Rear Pouches

22. Place the rear pouches (16) on a level surface with the four



key-way straps (17) unfastened and uppermost.

23. Take off the webbing equipment and lay the centre portion of the belt with the inside uppermost, across the two rear pouches (16).

24. The four straps with the key-way fittings (17) should be passed over the waist belt with the two inner key-way straps (17) between the two sets of rear harness 'C' hooks (12).

25. Locate the four key-way fittings on the four metal links (18) and secure them in position by means of the two stiffened quick-release straps (19).

#### Fit check

26. Wear the equipment before fitting additional items and check the following points:

- (a) That the rear straps (13) of the yoke converge at the top
- (b) That the lower ends of the front straps (15) are correctly positioned on the belt, in line with the pocket openings, or the side seams, of the trousers, and not towards the front.

#### Cape Carrier

27. Take off the webbing equipment.

28. Attach the two springs hooks (21) of the cape carrier (20) to the two 'D' rings (5) on the rear of the waist belt with the pick-head pocket (22) facing upwards and outwards.

29. The two spring-hook straps (23) on the ends of the cape carrier (20) should be fully extended and the spring hooks (24) attached to the metal links (25) on the bottom rear of the two ammunition pouches (6) and (7).

30. When the equipment is worn the spring-hook straps (23) should be tightened by pulling the free ends of the straps forward. This prevents the bottoms of the ammunition pouches (6) and (7) chafing against the body.

#### Final Fit Check, Fighting Order

31. The final check for the fighting is to wear the equipment with the belt clasp buckle unfastened. If the equipment hangs with all the components fitting closely to the body, without a gap between the belt and the wearers back, the fit is correct.

#### ASSEMBLY OF ANCILLARIES TO THE FIGHTING ORDER

##### Cape or Poncho

32. Form the cape, or the poncho, into a roll which is the same length as the cape carrier (20).

33. Place the roll in the carrier (20) and fasten the two quick-release strap fittings (26).

##### Lightweight Pick

34. Separate the pick handle from the pick head by tapping the grip end of the handle on the ground.

35. Release the quick-release strap (27), the quick-release strap ring (28) and the buckle strap (29) on the pick-head pocket (22), which is on the cape carrier (20).



36. Insert the pick head in the pocket (22) with the convex surface outwards.
37. Fasten the buckle strap (29).
38. Lay the metal end of the pick handle flat on the back of the yoke in the position marked (30) (Plate VIII).
39. Bring the wide strap (32) with spigot (31) and metal link (35) down over the pick handle and engage the spigot (31) in the hole in the metal end of the pick handle.
40. Fold the left and right straps over the pick handle and place their quick-release links (33) and (34) over the metal link (35) projecting from the wide strap (32).
41. Engage the stiffened quick-release tongue (36).
42. Press the pick handle between the rear pouches (16). The pick handle should now be touching the exposed metal of the pick head in the pocket (22).
43. Place the quick-release strap (27) on the pick-head pocket (22) over the pick handle and engage the ring (28) with the metal link (37) nearest the opening, securing it with the stiffened quick-release tongue.

#### Lightweight Shovel

44. The shovel fits into the same position as the pick handle when carried as an alternative to the pick. The fitting instructions for the pick handle apply to the shovel except that the quick-release strap (27) on the pick-head pocket (22) should engage with the metal link (38) furthest from the opening.
45. The shovel may be worn with the blade facing inwards or outwards according to Unit preference.

#### LOADING OF THE POUCHES

##### Ammunition Pouches

46. Inside each ammunition pouch is a strap and buckle (39) which, when suitably adjusted, allows the ammunition to lie level with the top of the pouch. This facilitates withdrawal of the ammunition.

##### Rear Pouches

47. When a backload (i.e. pack) is worn in addition to the fighting order a mess tin should be packed inside the rear pouch (16) top, giving a rigid rest to the backload.
48. One utility strap (40) is housed in a pocket (41) inside each of the two compartments of the rear pouches (16). These are for unspecified general use, such as strapping surplus clothing items (e.g. smock or jacket) around the pick handle, or the shovel handle.

#### ASSEMBLY OF THE SKELETON ORDER

49. The belt, ammunition pouches (6) and (7), and yoke, are assembled as for the 'fighting order' (Paras. 1 to 21).
50. If required the cape carrier (20) may also be attached (paras. 27 to 30).



## ASSEMBLY OF THE MARCHING ORDER

### Removal and reattachment of the pick, or the shovel

51. When 'marching order' is required, the pack should be carefully filled with its contents to ensure that a square package, without hard projections, is formed.

52. The lightweight pick handle, or the lightweight shovel, must first be removed from the 'fighting order' equipment. This is done by pulling the quick-release strap (27) on the pick-head pocket (22), and the stiffened quick-release tongue (36) on the yoke.

53. The pick handle, or the shovel, is then fastened to the main flap of the pack by the assembly (42) which is similar to that (30) to (36) on the yoke.

54. An alternative position for the lightweight pick, or the lightweight shovel, is provided for on the 'marching order' pack. This consists of a horizontal webbing loop (43) above the assembly (42). The pick handle, or the shovel handle, is passed down through this loop (43) until the pick head, or the shovel blade, is retained by the loop (43).

### Steel Helmet

55. The steel helmet may be carried by placing it over the head end of the pick handle, or the handle of the shovel. The two cross straps (44) and (45) should be brought down over the helmet and secured to their adjusting buckles (46) on the bottom of the pack, one strap being passed through the loop in the other.

### Parka, or Greatcoat

56. The parka, or the greatcoat, is carried rolled on top of the pack, secured by the two fixed straps (47).

### Attachment of pack

57. The pack is attached to the yoke by placing one carrying strap (48) over each shoulder and hooking them into the 'D' rings (9) on the front of the yoke.

58. These two straps (48) should be adjusted by means of the adjusting buckles (49) to give the correct pack height.

59. On each side of the pack, under the side pockets, there is an adjustable strap (50) with spring hook (51), which should be lengthened to its fullest extent; the hooks (51) should then be connected to the corresponding metal link (14) on the top rear of each ammunition pouch.

60. Wear the equipment and adjust these straps (50) to a comfortable fit.

61. The lower end of the pick handle, or the shovel handle, should be secured to the pick-head pocket (22) by placing the quick-release strap (27) over the handle and engaging the ring (28) with the metal link (38) for the shovel, or the metal link (37) for the pick handle, and fastening it with the stiffened quick-release tongue.



CARE AND PRESERVATION OF THE EQUIPMENT

The equipment should not be scrubbed, bleached or Blanched. If it becomes dirty it should be dried and the dirt brushed off. In instances where this proves ineffective, the equipment may be wetted and lightly wiped with a cloth to which a small amount of soap has been applied. After wiping, the soap must be removed by rinsing.

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The Infantry Directorate,  
The War Office.



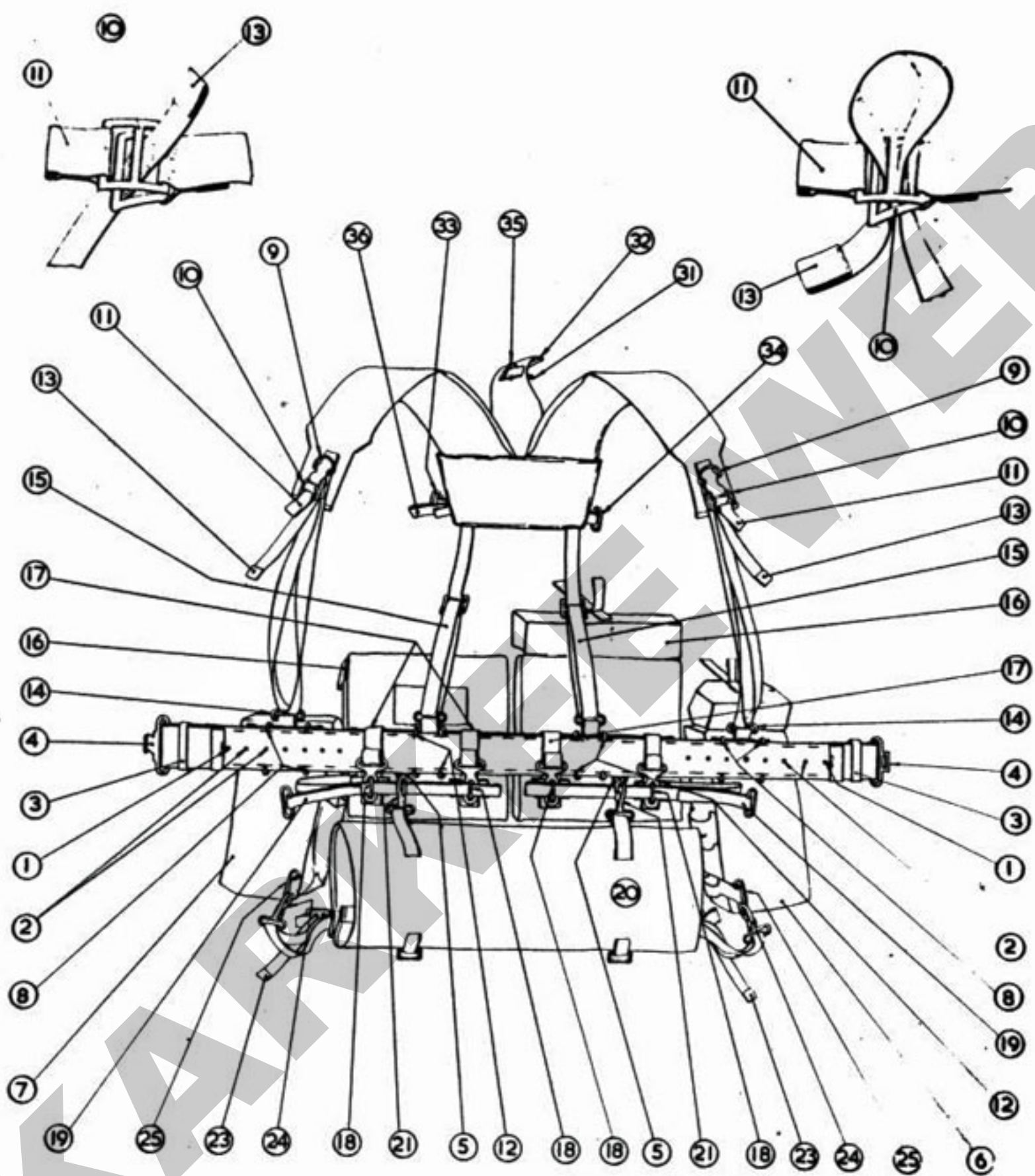


PLATE VII



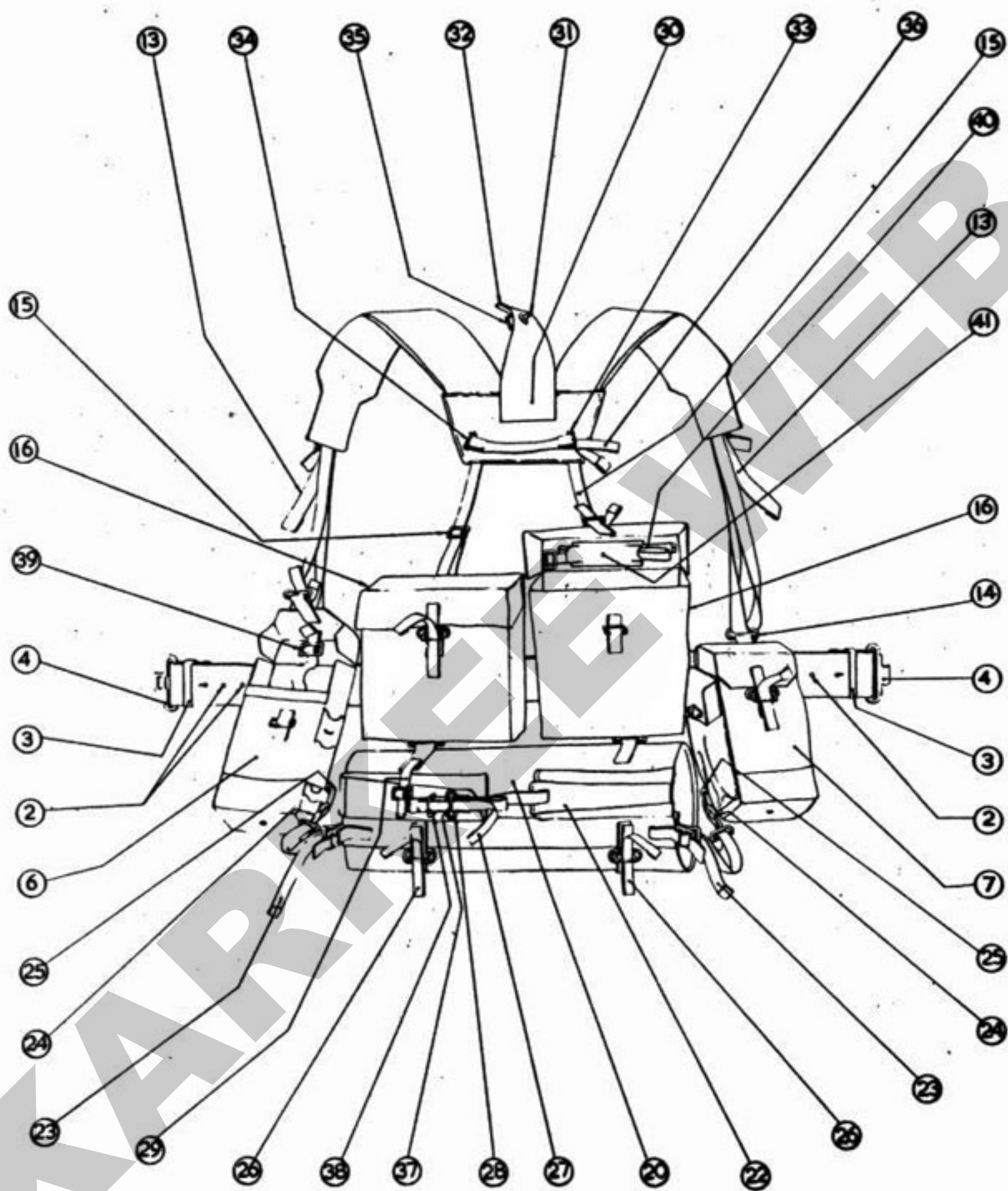


PLATE VIII



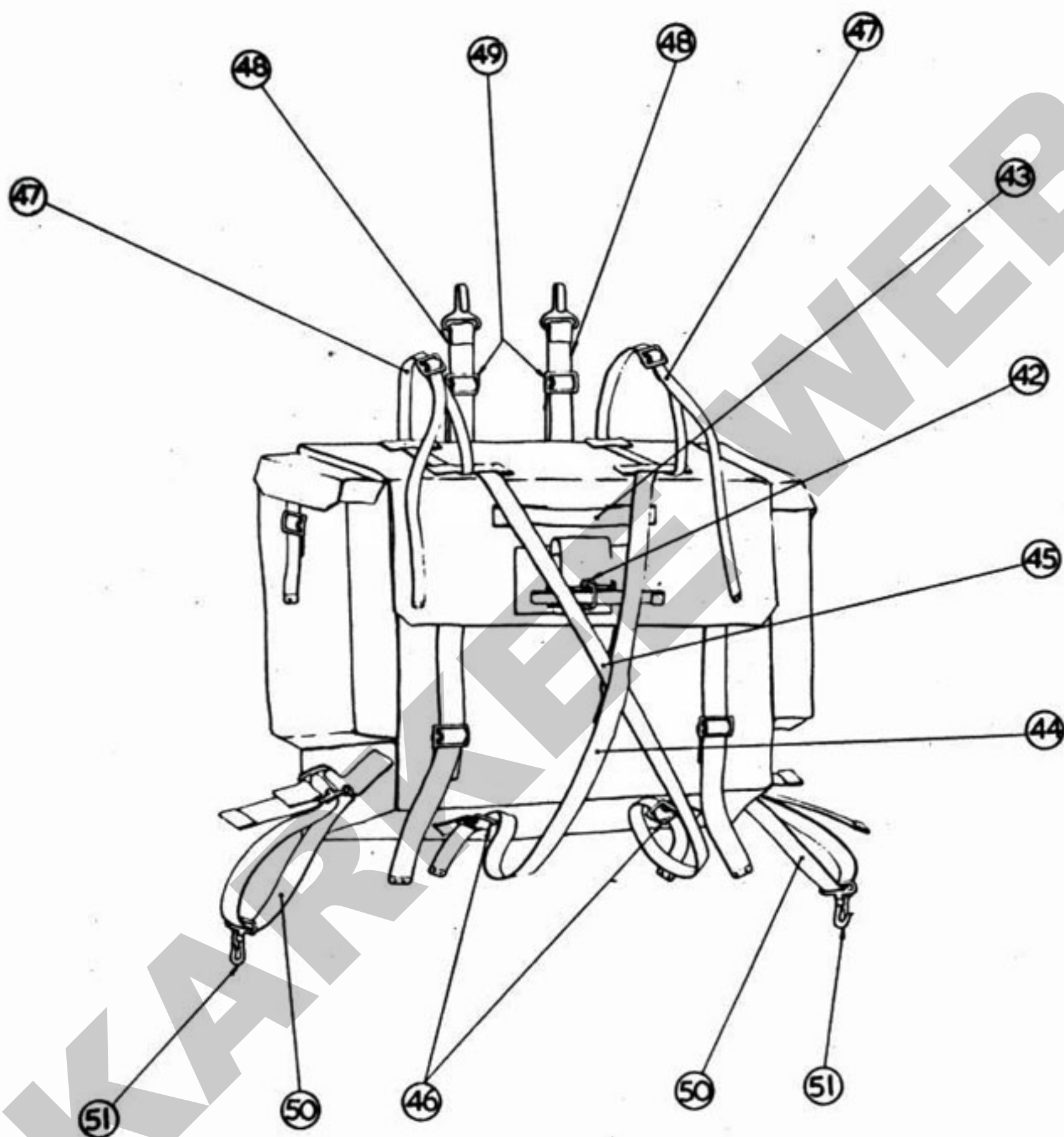


PLATE IX