

Chapter 5

AIRBORNE LIFEBOAT SUIT, WORKING PATTERN

(Stores Ref. 22C/1044)

LIST OF CONTENTS

Description	Para.	Description	Para.
Outer garment	3	Detachable inner lining	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Airborne lifeboat suit, working pattern	Fig.	Lining for airborne lifeboat suit, working pattern	Fig.
	1		2

Description

1. This suit is provided for personnel who are actively engaged with the sailing of the lifeboat after it has been boarded in an emergency. Other types of suits are provided for those not actually working and will be described in Chap. 6.

2. The suit (*fig. 1*) is supplied as a single item of equipment, but consists of the following garments.

- (1) An outer garment which, though waterproof, permits the passage of air through it.
- (2) A pair of gauntlet gloves of the same material as the outer garment.
- (3) An inner, detachable, quilted kapok lining.

The suit is made in one size only—Large. It is possible to adjust it to suit individual requirements, but in the unadjusted condition it will fit a well-developed man approximately 6 ft. tall, when wearing heavy clothing. Across the back of the suit, on the outside, the words WORKING SUIT are written in contrasting colours.

Outer garment

3. The outer garment and gloves are made of double thickness blue-grey "Shirley" fabric and between them cover the whole of the body except the face. A sliding fastener, 18 in. long, closes the centre front

opening of the garment and this is backed by a wide gusset of orange-coloured rubberised cotton fabric to ensure that the garment remains watertight. The top of the gusset is drawn close to the neck by a double cord which passes through eyelets round the top edge of the fabric. A hood, attached to the neck-line and with a quilted kapok interlining, is pulled close to the face by a drawcord which passes through a tunnel near its front edge. Secured to the back of the neck under the hood is a rubber helmet which fits closely to the head. A helmet strap passes under the chin and is secured by a press stud. Two fabric tabs, each fitted with an eyelet, are attached to the inside back of the neck, one on each side of the helmet attachment. Until required for use the helmet is rolled between these tabs and held in position by stitches of breaking thread passed through the eyelets.

4. A fabric belt passes round the waist and is fitted with sliding buckles by which it can be adjusted for length and fastened. Webbing straps with buckles attached are fitted round the wrist of each sleeve. Since a certain amount of leg adjustment is necessary as only one size is available, cords are attached just above each foot. These cords are passed through two rows of loops round the foot and ankle and are tied in front. There are two thigh pockets and one breast pocket, all of which are closed by flaps and press studs. Each pocket is provided with drainage holes, or eyelets.

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5. Just below the sliding fastener is a flap, attached at the top and fastening at the bottom with two press studs. Underneath this flap is a round rubber fly patch in the centre of which is a hole for urinating purposes; this hole is closed by a plug.

6. On the inside of the garment are ten buttons and two loops which engage with corresponding loops and buttons on the inner, detachable, lining to hold it in position. One button is at each side of the neck opening, three down each side of the front opening, and one inside each cuff. A loop attached to the inside of each ankle engages with a button at a corresponding point on the inner lining.

7. When the suit is worn the life jacket, or life-saving waistcoat, is put on over it so that the wearer will be supported in the correct attitude should he fall into the sea.

8. Waterproof gauntlet gloves are provided with the suit and woollen gloves (Stores Ref. 22B/130) are worn under them. To prevent the entry of water, the cuff of each gauntlet is kept close to the sleeve by a webbing strap which is pulled tight and fastened after the gloves have been put on.

Detachable inner lining

9. This lining (*fig. 2*) is made of brown cotton and rayon twill union, with an interlining of quilted kapok. It covers the body except the head, hands, and feet. A sliding fastener from the neckline down the centre of the front closes the garment when it is donned and a slit near the crotch provides for urination. Loops are stitched to the inner lining which engage with buttons on the outer garment and a button at each ankle is attached to loops in similar positions on the inside of each leg of the outer garment.



Fig. 1. Airborne lifeboat suit,
working pattern



Fig. 2. Lining for airborne lifeboat suit,
working pattern

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LIGHTNING MK. 1
COVER PITOT HEAD
EB2-88-511

A close-up photograph of a red aircraft fuselage. A grey fabric cover is draped over a section, with the text 'LIGHTNING MK. 1', 'COVER PITOT HEAD', and 'EB2-88-511' printed on it. To the right, a rectangular metal plate is mounted on the red surface. The background shows the curved structure of the aircraft with several rivets.