

Chapter 6

AIRBORNE LIFEBOAT SUIT, NON-WORKING PATTERN

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Description

1. This suit (*fig. 1*) is worn by members of the lifeboat crew who are not called upon to wear the working suit. The complete suit consists of two garments, an outer waterproof one-piece garment and an inner down-filled garment. The inner garment is stowed in a cylindrical waterproof pack similar to, but not to be confused with, the pack for the waterproof sleeping suit described in Chap. 7.

Outer garment (Stores Ref. 22C/1004)

2. The outer garment, or suit, on the left in *fig. 1*, is made of blue-grey waterproof gabardine. It is in one piece and covers the body completely with the exception of the face and hands. A sliding fastener extends down the centre of the front from the neck-line to the crotch and is backed by a wide gusset of rubberised or proofed fabric to ensure that the garment remains watertight. The soles of the feet are made of thick rubber and the cuffs are made of sheet rubber and fit close to the wrists. Provision is made for urination, the opening being covered by a waterproof gabardine flap on the left side of the body. A hood, secured with a running cord tied under the chin, protects the head and is attached to the neck-line.

3. There are two thigh pockets each provided with drainage eyelets and on the inside of each leg is a rip strip for emptying the garment should it become waterlogged.

4. Just under the knee, at the back of the leg, a webbing strap is attached at its

centre, leaving the ends free to tie round the leg for the purpose of adjustment. A webbing strap ties round the waist and another, attached to the back of the neck, ties round the neck.

5. A fabric stole container passes round the back of the neck and over the chest. The stole of the life jacket, or life-saving waistcoat, is inserted in the container through an opening at the back of the neck portion and the opening is closed by a sliding fastener. The inflation tube passes through an opening on the left lobe of the container and is then stowed in an inverted pocket above. Further details of the stole and the method of inflation are in Chap. 4. When the stole is inflated it will keep the wearer floating in the correct attitude if he should fall into the water. Just under the opening at the neck portion of the stole container are two drainage eyelets.

Inner garment (Stores Ref. 22C/912)

6. An inner down-filled and quilted garment, or suit, on the right in *fig. 1*, is worn under the outer garment for warmth. It is in one piece with a hood attached and, with the exception of the face and hands, covers the body completely. The hood fastens under the chin with two press studs and a sliding fastener extends from under the press studs to just above the crotch to close the garment once it has been donned. A slot near the crotch is provided for urination purposes.

7. The inner garment is folded and rolled in a piece of white cotton approximately 9 ft. long and 1 ft. wide, tapered at one end. This rolled garment is then stowed in a cylindrical pack of sheet rubber 8 in. in diameter and 10 in. deep. The pack has a carrying handle and the stores reference is

marked on a yellow label attached to the handle.

8. The garment is not to be removed from the pack for servicing. If the pack itself is serviceable the garment it contains can also be considered serviceable.



Fig. 1. Airborne lifeboat suit, non-working pattern

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