

## Chapter 8

### LIFE JACKETS Mk. 4

(Stores Ref. 22C/1479)

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#### Introduction

1. The aircrew life jacket Mk. 4 is basically the same in design as the Mk. 3, but includes provision for the stowage of Search and Rescue and Homing apparatus (S.A.R.A.H.) and a new type McMurdo sea-activated cell and lamp. All the distinguishing features of the Mk. 4 life jacket are confined to the waistcoat in the form of pockets, so disposed that these items may be accommodated in addition to those normally stowed about life jackets. A stronger life line of 250 lb. nylon cord is also incorporated.

#### Description

2. The Mk. 4 life jacket includes the following components:—

Stores Ref.	Nomenclature
22C/1480	Waistcoat
22C/1182	Stole
6D/1624	Operating head, Type M
6D/1623	CO <sub>2</sub> cylinder, 34 gr.
22C/1185	Fluorescine sea marker
22C/	Life line 250 lb. and toggle
22C/1186	Whistle
27H/2733	Ground/air emergency code
27H/2107	Heliograph 2 in. × 2 in.

3. Descriptions of the stole, operating head, CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder and fluorescine sea marker are in Chap. 3 and 11, S.A.R.A.H. is described in A.P.2554C, the general principles of salt water cells in A.P.4343 and the particular details of the new type McMurdo sea activated cell will be included in A.P.4343A when they are available.

#### Construction

4. The general construction of the life jacket is as described in Chap. 3 for the Mk. 3 jacket but there are additional pockets and stowages (*fig. 1*) for the accommodation of the battery, transmitter and speech unit of the S.A.R.A.H. apparatus and the McMurdo sea-activated cell and lamp. The inclusion of these necessitates some changes in the location of the stowages for the other items.

#### Stowages

5. A large pocket on the right-hand side of the jacket at waist level is for the stowage of the battery of the S.A.R.A.H. apparatus. Above it are two flaps with eyeletted edges, which form the stowage for the transmitter and on the front of the battery stowage is a smaller pocket in which are placed the life line, heliograph and ground/air emergency code. These three stowages are covered

(A.L. 58, Oct. 55)

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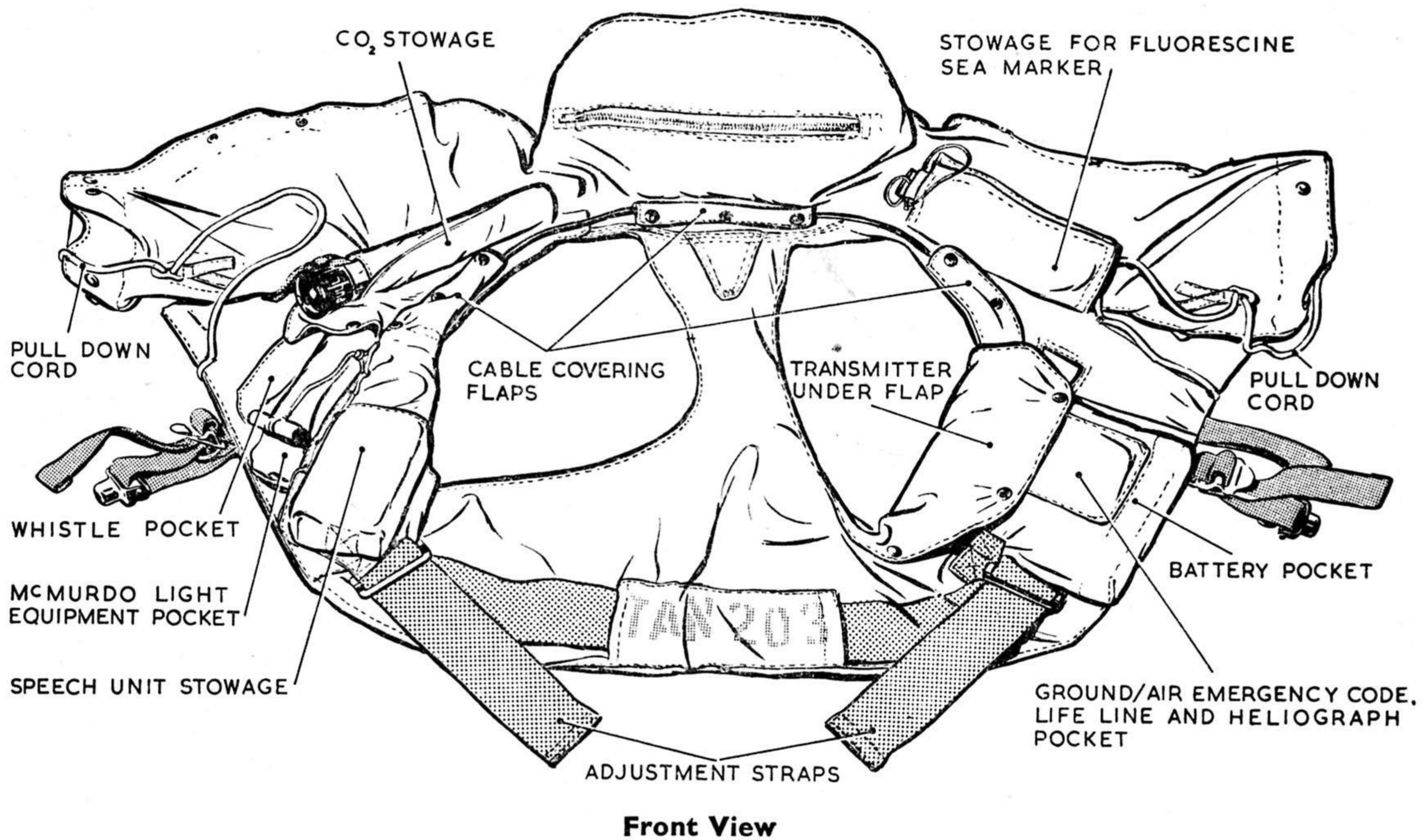
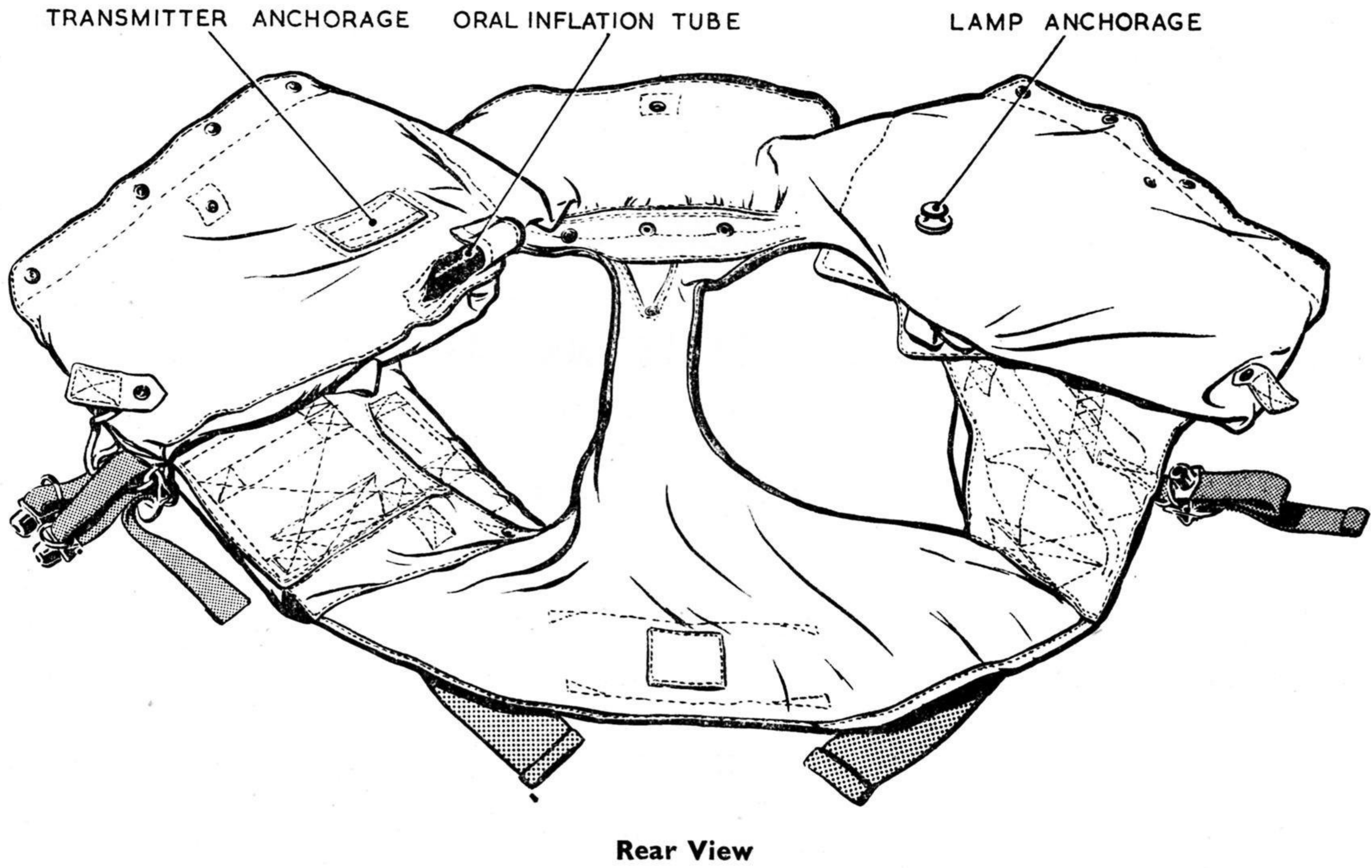
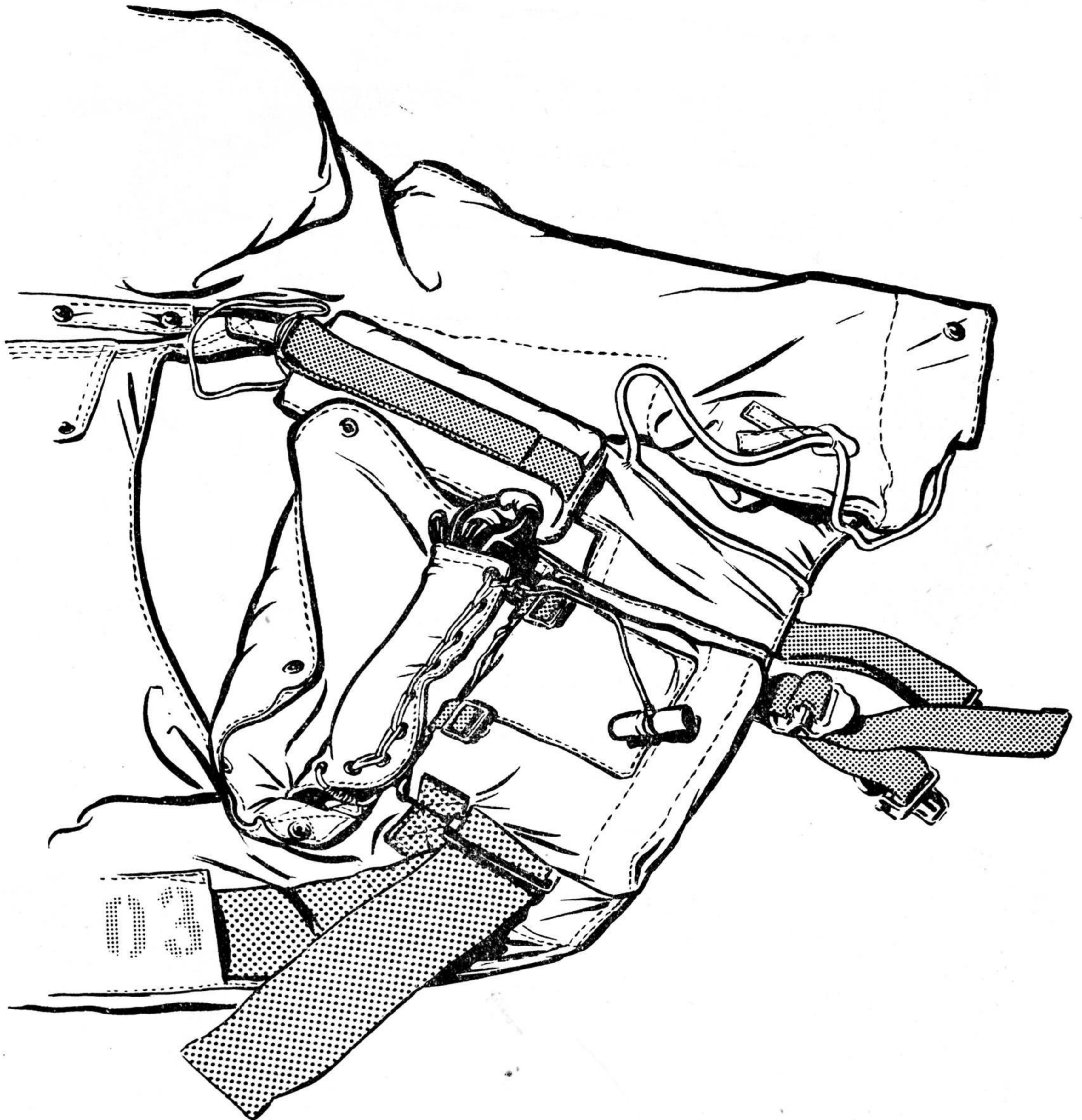


Fig. 1. Life Jacket Mk. 4

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**Fig. 2. Transmitter stowed**

by a single flap fitted with press studs along its loose edge so that it can be fastened down after the contents of the pockets are stowed.

6. The speech unit of the S.A.R.A.H. apparatus is stowed in a pocket situated on the left-hand fore part of the jacket. The edges of the pocket are eyeletted so that they can be laced together after the speech unit is inserted. Adjacent to this pocket is a divided pocket which accommodates the McMurdo apparatus in the larger compartment and the whistle in the smaller.

7. Provision is made for the stowage of the cable leading from the battery of the S.A.R.A.H. apparatus to the speech unit in a tunnel formed by flaps sewn to the front edges of the arm holes and the rear edge of the neck opening below the stole cover. These are fitted with press studs by which they are fastened down after the cable has been stowed.

**Other features**

8. On the right-hand stole cover a piece of webbing, stiffened and formed into a tunnel (*fig. 1*) is provided as an anchorage for

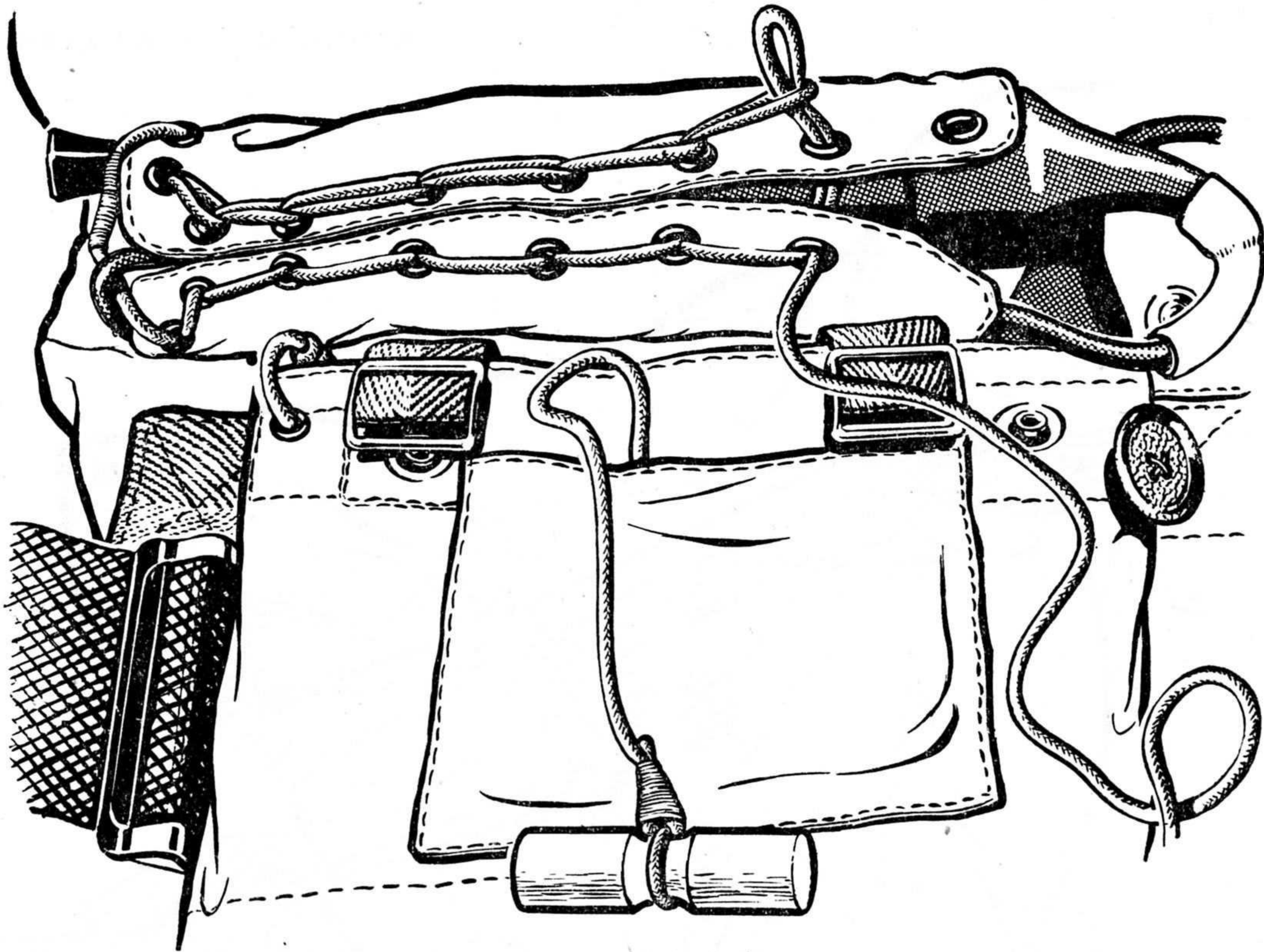


Fig. 3. Chain lacing

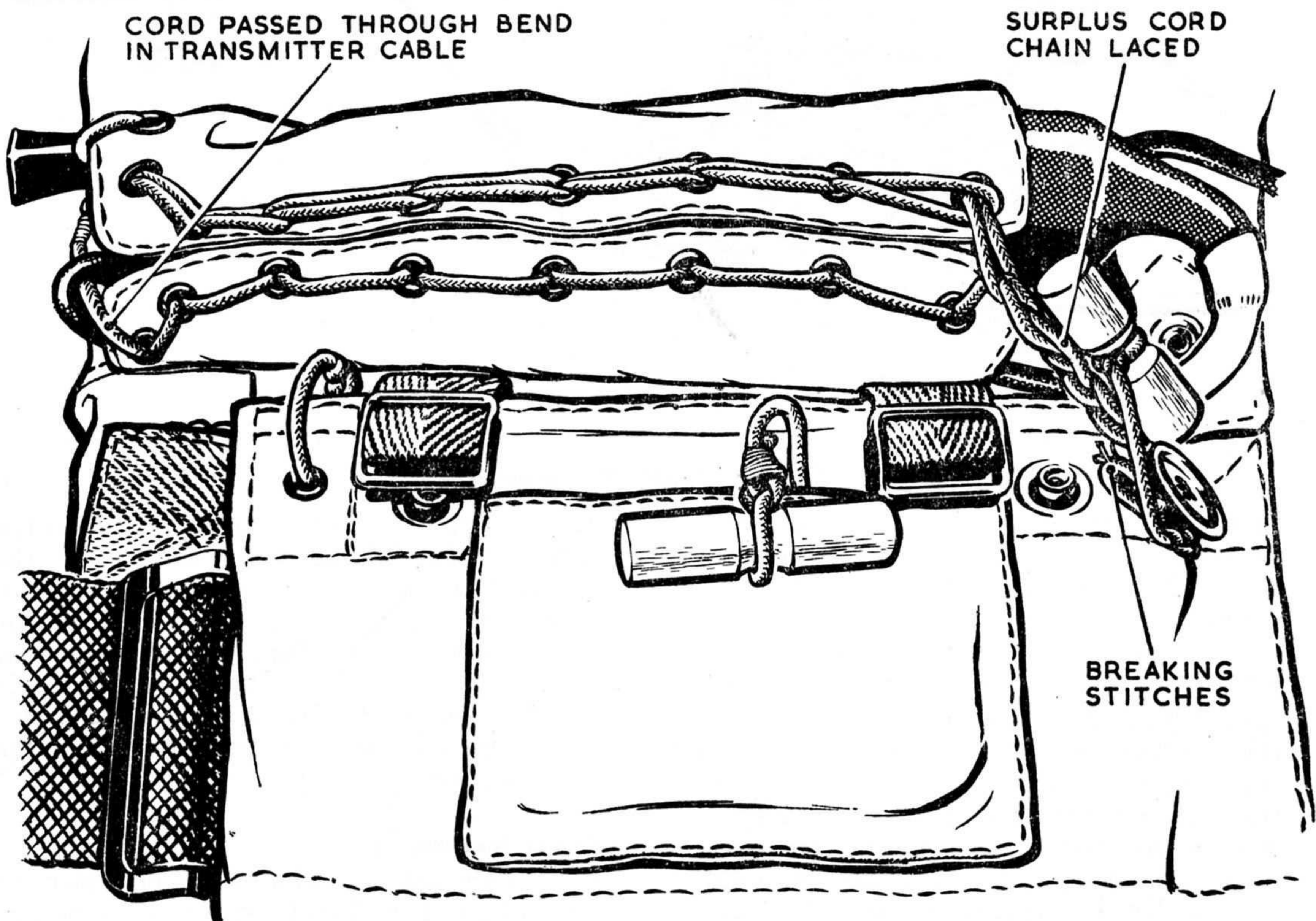


Fig. 4. Chain lacing on Transmitter stowage

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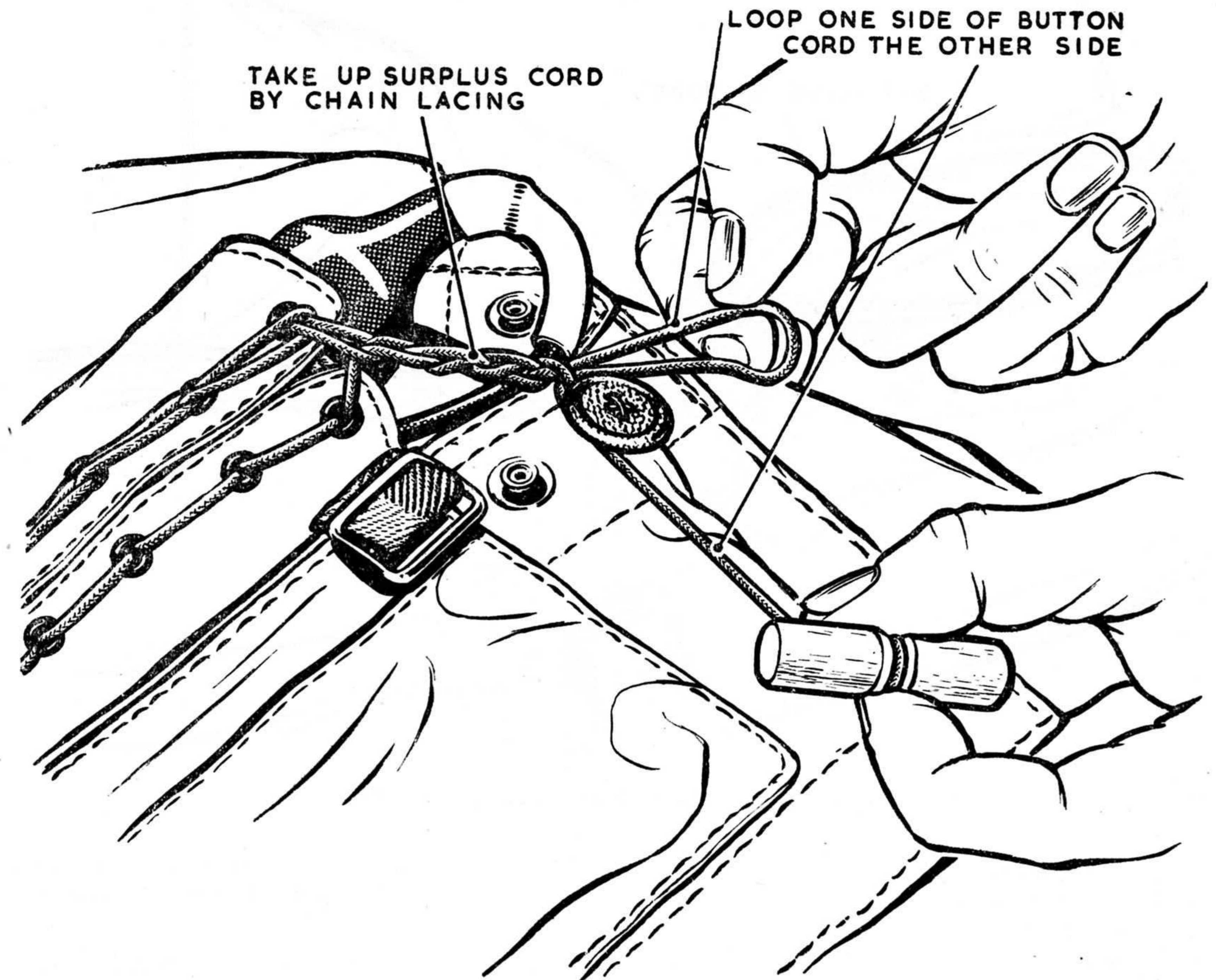


Fig. 5. Method of passing lacing cord round button

the transmitter of the S.A.R.A.H. apparatus which is clipped to it by the clip on the outer case when the wearer has inflated the stole after abandoning his aircraft or dinghy. On the left-hand stole cover is a rubber button (*fig. 1*) to which the lamp of the McMurdo equipment is attached in similar circumstances.

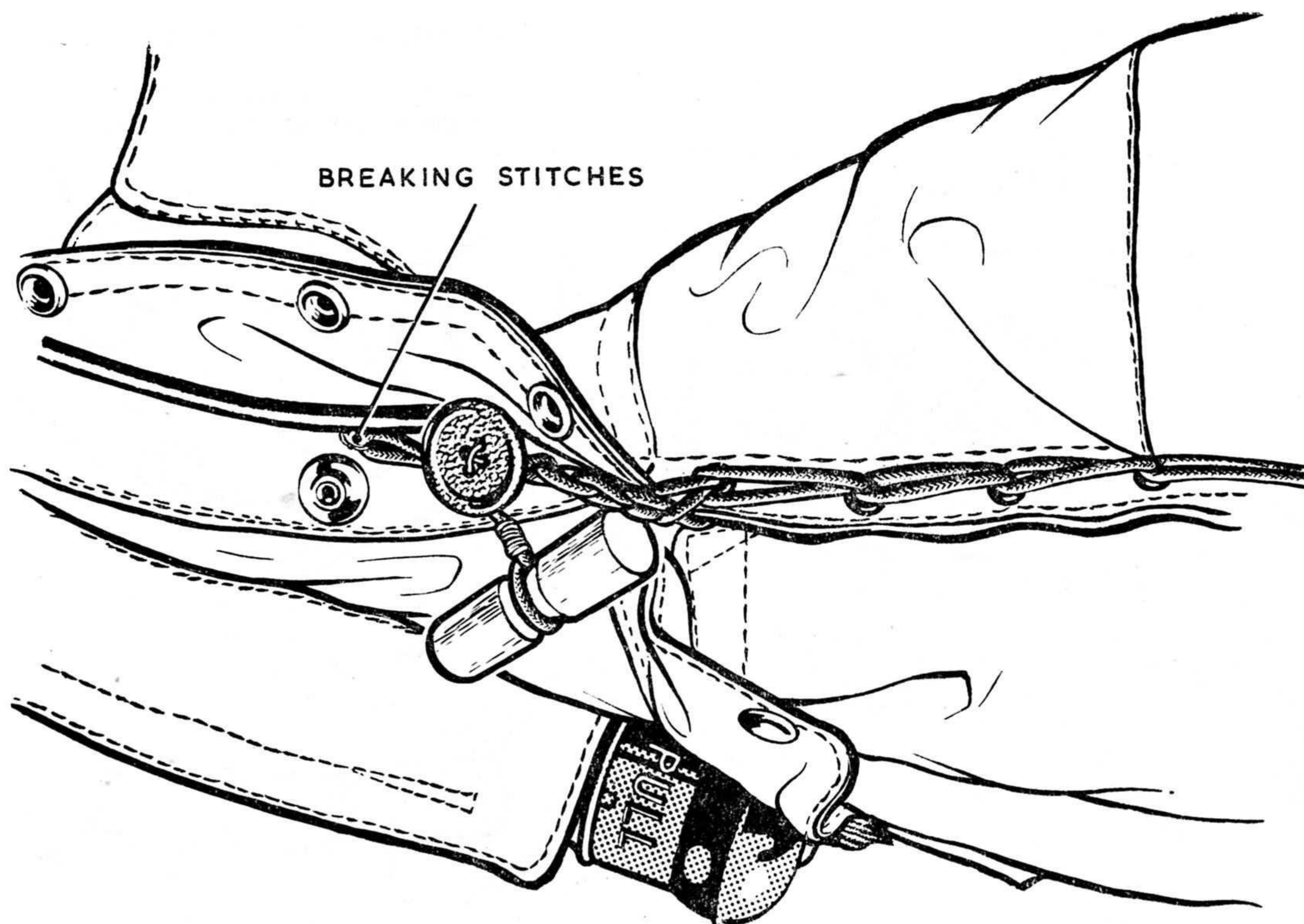
#### Assembling

9. The general method of assembling the components of the life jacket is as given in Chap. 3 but the following additions and changes are applicable:—

(1) *Stowing the battery.* The battery is stowed in the large pocket on the right-hand side of the jacket, with the cables running vertically upwards from the socket which must be towards the front of the jacket. A length of cord is fastened at one end to the eyeletted lug at the top of the rear end of the battery by three half-hitches; the end of the cord is whipped to the main

length and holding stitches of No. 40 linen thread (*Stores Ref. 32B/654*) or similar thread are passed through each half-hitch to prevent it from slipping. The other end of the cord is secured in the same manner to the eyelet at the rear end of the top edge of the pocket. The cord is then hanked and stowed neatly beside the battery. Two webbing straps sewn under the covering flap are then passed through the quick release buckles and pulled tight.

(2) *Stowing the transmitter.* The transmitter is stowed between the eyeletted flaps situated above the battery pocket under the cover flap (*fig. 2*). It must be placed as far to the rear of the stowage as the clip on the case will permit with the cable entry outside the socket of the battery. The cable is coiled in a single turn round the transmitter, care being taken to avoid twisting it. After the transmitter is stowed the flaps are laced together by chain lacing (*fig. 3*), the cord passing through the bend



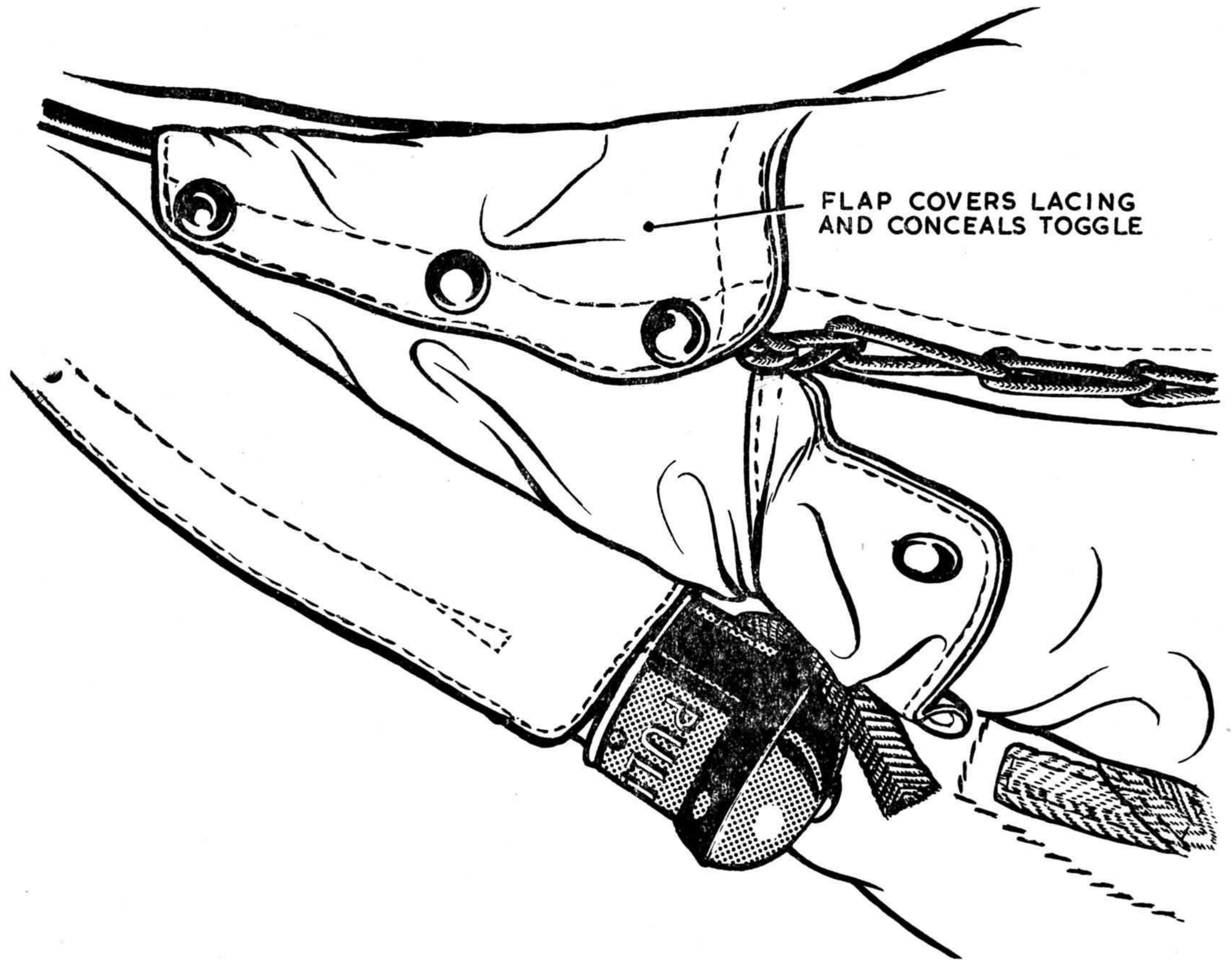
**Fig. 6. Lacing of speech unit stowage complete**

in the cable to prevent it from slipping out of the stowage. *No other method of lacing must be used.* To prevent inadvertent withdrawal of the lacing cord it is passed round a button in the manner shown in fig. 4 and 5. *The cord must be passed round the button in the correct manner, as other methods are liable to prevent it from being pulled free when required, with the result that it will not be possible to extract the transmitter from its stowage.* The last loop of the chain lacing is secured to the lower flap with three stitches of scarlet locking thread (*Stores Ref. 15A/181*) to prevent the cord from becoming unlaced.

(3) *Stowing the speech unit and cable.* The cable leading to the speech unit is laid in the tunnels formed by the flaps at the front of the arm holes and the back of the neck, care being taken that it is not twisted, then the flaps are fastened over it by the press studs (*fig. 6 and 7*). The speech unit is stowed in its pocket with the microphone inwards so that it will lie next to the wearer's body; the spare cable is laid beside it. The eyeletted edges of the stowage are then laced together by the method shown in fig. 3, 4 and 5. *The correct method of lacing must be followed.* The last

loop should also be stitched down in the same manner as that of the transmitter stowage lacing.

(4) *Other items.* The McMurdo sea-activated cell and lamp are stowed in the larger compartment of the divided pocket on the left forepart of the jacket and the whistle and lanyard in the smaller stowage. The remaining items, life line, ground/air emergency code and heliograph are placed in the small pocket on the outside of the pocket containing the battery of the S.A.R.A.H. apparatus. The end of the life line is passed through the eyelet in the centre of the top edge of the battery pocket, tied with three half-hitches, whipped to the main length of cord and secured by stitches passed through each half-hitch using No. 40 linen thread (*Stores Ref. 32B/654*) or a similar material. The other end of the cord is stitched to the outside of the pocket with three stitches of Scarlet Locking Thread (*Stores Ref. 15A/181*) as close to the toggle as possible. When positioning this and other toggles care should be taken that they will be covered by the flaps of the respective pockets. After the life line has been secured the main length is hanked and stowed neatly beside the other items in the



**Fig. 7. Cable flap fastened over end of lacing on speech unit stowage**

pocket and finally the flap of the battery pocket is fastened in position with the press studs.

**Servicing**

**10.** Servicing of the life jacket is to be in accordance with the instructions given in Chap. 3 but the S.A.R.A.H. apparatus is to

be removed weekly and returned to the Signals Servicing Section.

**11.** Instructions for the action to be taken with the McMurdo sea-activated cell will be issued as an amendment to this chapter when they become available.



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