

Chapter 1

SURVIVAL KITS

(This chapter supersedes that issued with A.L. No. 22)

Tropical (Stores Ref. 22P/2)

Arctic (Stores Ref. 22P/3)

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Para.		Para.
Introduction	1	Attachment of kit to parachute back pad	8
Description	3	Instructions for use	9
Scales of equipment	6	Servicing	14
Attachment of kit to life jacket	7		

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Fig.		Fig.
Survival kit container	1	Two methods of removing survival kit from life jacket	5
Tropical kit container : disposal of equipment in internal pockets	2	Sun hat and mosquito veil	6
Arctic kit container : disposal of equipment in internal pockets	3	Sun hat and mosquito veil, as worn	7
Survival kit attached to life jacket, Mk. 1	4	Fabric water carrier	8

Introduction

1. Survival kits are provided primarily for use when an aircraft has to be abandoned on or over land, but in the event of a similar emergency over water, such as a ditching, the contents of the kit container can be used to supplement the survival equipment provided with the dinghy.

2. Kits are issued on an individual basis, that is to say, one for each member of the crew. They are normally attached to the life jacket or to the outside of the parachute back pad. Two types of kits are available, one for use in tropical countries and one for use in arctic regions.

Description

3. The survival kit container (*fig. 1*) is made from waterproof gaberdine and it has external and internal pockets in which the various items of equipment are stowed.

4. One side of the container is made from khaki fabric and a sliding fastener down the centre closes an opening giving access to the internal pockets. The other side is made from yellow fabric and has one or two pockets, depending on whether it is an arctic or tropical kit container.

5. Three webbing handles are provided which are used to remove the kit quickly from the life jacket or back pad in an emergency and a carrying strap enables the kit to be carried slung over the shoulder.

Scales of equipment

6. The scales of equipment provided with each type of pack are listed on the back of *fig. 2* and *3*; they are the present approved scales, but may be altered from time to time to introduce new items or for any other purpose considered necessary. Alterations to these scales should not be made without prior approval of Admiralty or Air Ministry, as appropriate.

Attachment of kit to life jacket

7. Survival kits may be fitted to any of the existing types of life jackets; the Mk. 1 life jacket has been used to show the kit attached (*fig. 4*) for convenience. To attach the kit to the life jacket, proceed as follows:—

- (1) Fold the carrying strap neatly across the khaki side of the container and tack it in position with single scarlet thread (*Stores Ref. 15A/181*).

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Fig. 1. Survival kit container

- (2) Place the narrow end of the container along the junction of the stole cover and the back of the waistcoat body, with the yellow side of the container outwards. Adjust the position of the container until the sloping edges near the top are in line with the armholes of the waistcoat body of the life jacket (*fig. 4*).
- (3) Tack the edges of the container to the back of the waistcoat body with single scarlet thread (*Stores Ref. 15A/181*), using from 4 to 6 stitches to the inch.
- (4) If the container covers any of the pockets on the life jacket, leave a gap in the stitching large enough to provide access to the pocket or pockets.

Attachment of kit to parachute back pad

8. Secure the kit container to the outside of the back pad, over the parachute harness, in a similar manner to that described in para. 7. The narrow end of the container should be in line with the top of the back pad and gaps in the stitching should be left where the container overlaps the parachute harness straps.

Instructions for use

9. When a survival kit is attached to a life jacket and members of the crew are together, e.g., when in a multi-seat dinghy, they can assist each other to remove each kit by pulling one of the side handles (*fig. 5*). When the wearer has to remove the kit himself he can use either of the methods shown in *fig. 5*.

10. When a survival kit is attached to a parachute back pad it cannot be removed very easily until the parachute assembly has been removed. If the descent has been made over land, the canopy of the parachute assembly should be gathered together and rolled, it will then be an easy matter to remove the harness and obtain the kit ready for use.

11. The top pocket on the yellow side of the container carries maps as well as flags, it also contains a diagram showing the distribution of the other items of equipment in the internal pockets. The water bottle in the tropical kit is stowed in the lower pocket on the yellow side and should be

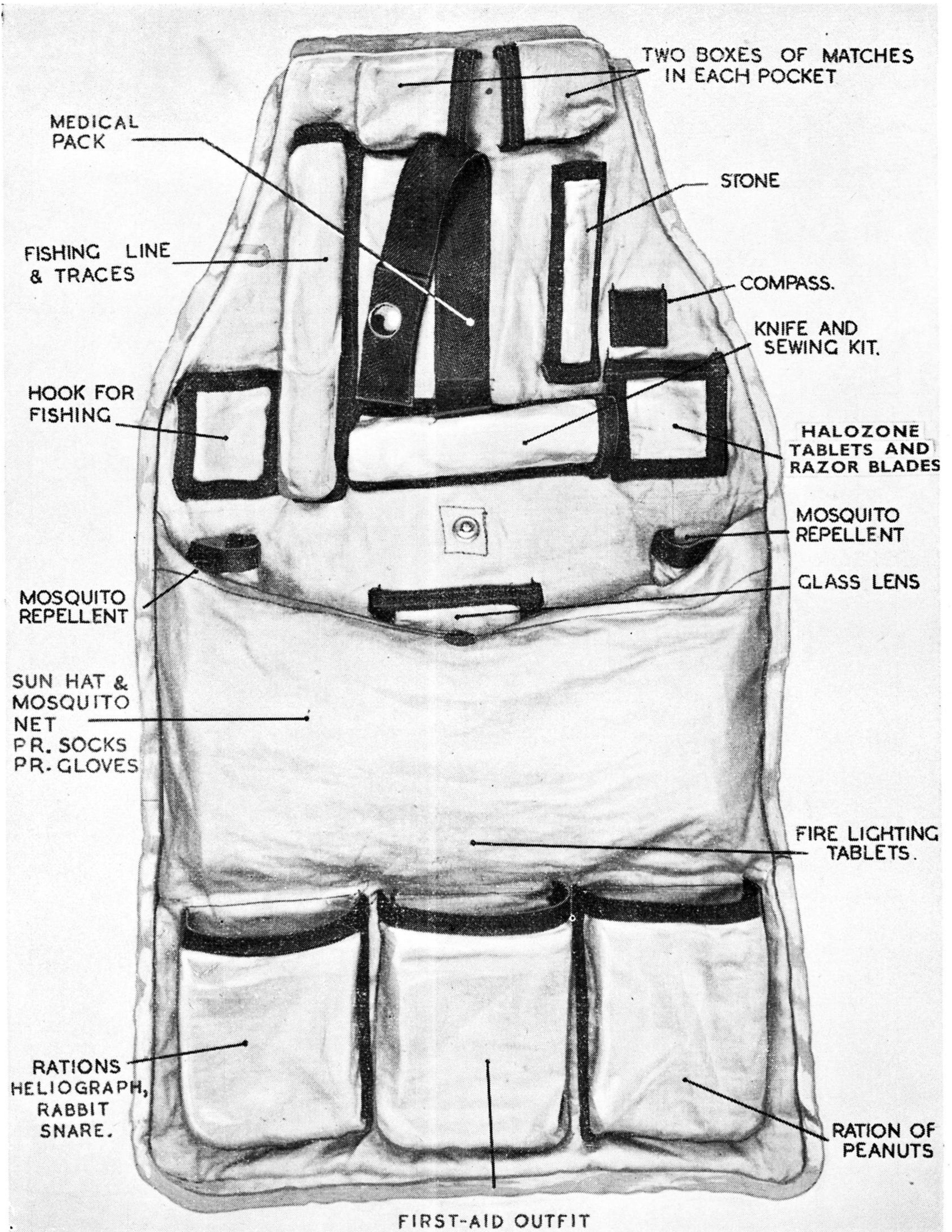


Fig. 2. Tropical kit container : disposal of equipment in internal pockets

SCALE OF EQUIPMENT

TROPICAL SURVIVAL KITS

<i>Stores Ref.</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
22P /4	Bottles, water, flexible, with screw top	1
22B /302	Blades, razor, single edge, Ever Ready type	4
22P /15	Compasses, M.I.9 pattern	1
6E /374	Compasses, marching, Mk. 1	1
22P /8	Fishing tackle, tropical type	1
	Flags, national	As required
22P /10	Gloves, soft leather, wrist protecting	1 pr.
22P /9	Hats, sun, combined with head mosquito net	1
22P /22	Hats, sun	1
22P /23	Veils, mosquito	1
27H /2107	Heliograph, 2 in. × 2 in.	1
Medical Stores Ref. 1A /4521	Insect repellent, D.M.P.	2 tubes
22P /14	Mosquito repellent, liquid	2 tins
A.P.3130 /9A- 02410	Kits, first-aid, aircrew	1
22P /11	Knives, single blade, with spike	1
14A /3437	Lens, burning, 2½ in.	1
12D /761	Matches, small, Bryant May type	4 boxes
27P /25	Rations, emergency flying, Mk. 4	1
22P /7	Snares, rabbit, light flexible wire	1
22B /154	Socks, blue-grey	1 pr.
1B /2949	Stones, sharpening, shaped, No. 5	1
33E /355	Tablets, fire-making, large, hexamine	10
27P /16	Tablets, halozone, water purifying	1 tin
A.P.3130 /9A- 02520	Kits, first-aid, tropical	1
22P /20	Tins, No. 5, containing :— Needles and waxed linen thread	1
1B /4465	Machetes— <i>To be carried, as convenient, by all personnel issued with tropical survival kit.</i>	1
22P /26	Carriers, water, fabric— <i>May be included in some kits.</i>	1

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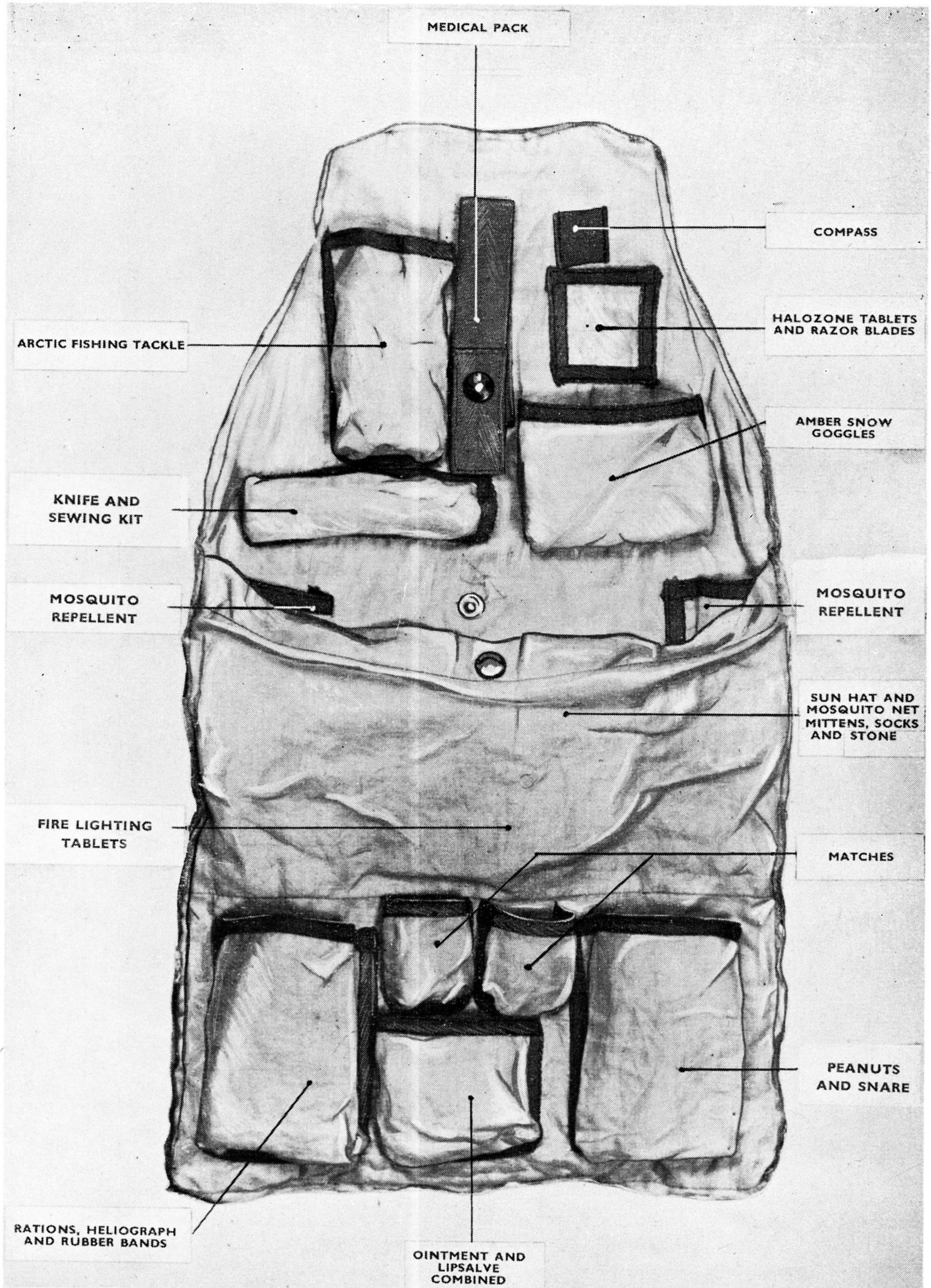


Fig. 3. Arctic kit container : disposal of equipment in internal pockets

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SCALE OF EQUIPMENT

ARCTIC SURVIVAL KITS

<i>Stores Ref.</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
22P /13	Bands, rubber, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide	6
22B /302	Blades, razor, single edge, Ever Ready type	4
22P /15	Compasses, M.I.9. pattern	1
6E /374 or	Compasses, marching, Mk. 1	1
22P /12	Fishing tackle, Arctic type	1
	Flags, national	As required
22G /901	Goggles, snow, amber	1 pr.
22P /9	Hats, sun, combined with head mosquito net	1
22P /22 or	Hats, sun	1
22P /23	Veils, mosquito	1
27H /2107	Heliograph, 2 in. \times 2 in.	1
Medical Stores Ref. 1A /4521	Insect repellent, D.M.P.	2 tubes
22P /14 or	Mosquito repellent, liquid	2 tins
A.P.3130 /9A- 02410	Kits, first-aid, aircrew	1
22P /11	Knives, single blade, with spike	1
12D /761	Matches, small, Bryant May type	4 boxes
22G /963	Mittens, long, wrist protecting	1 pr.
27P /25	Rations, emergency flying, Mk. 4	1
22P /7	Snares, rabbit, light flexible wire	1
22B /154	Socks, blue-grey	1 pr.
1B /2949	Stones, sharpening, shaped, No. 5	1
33E /355	Tablets, fire-making, large, hexamine	10
27P /16	Tablets, halozone, water purifying	1 tin
Medical Stores Ref. 1A /N.I.V. /774	Tins, No. 2, containing :— Ointment for chapped hands and lipsalve	1
22P /20	Tins, No. 5, containing :— Needles and waxen linen thread	1

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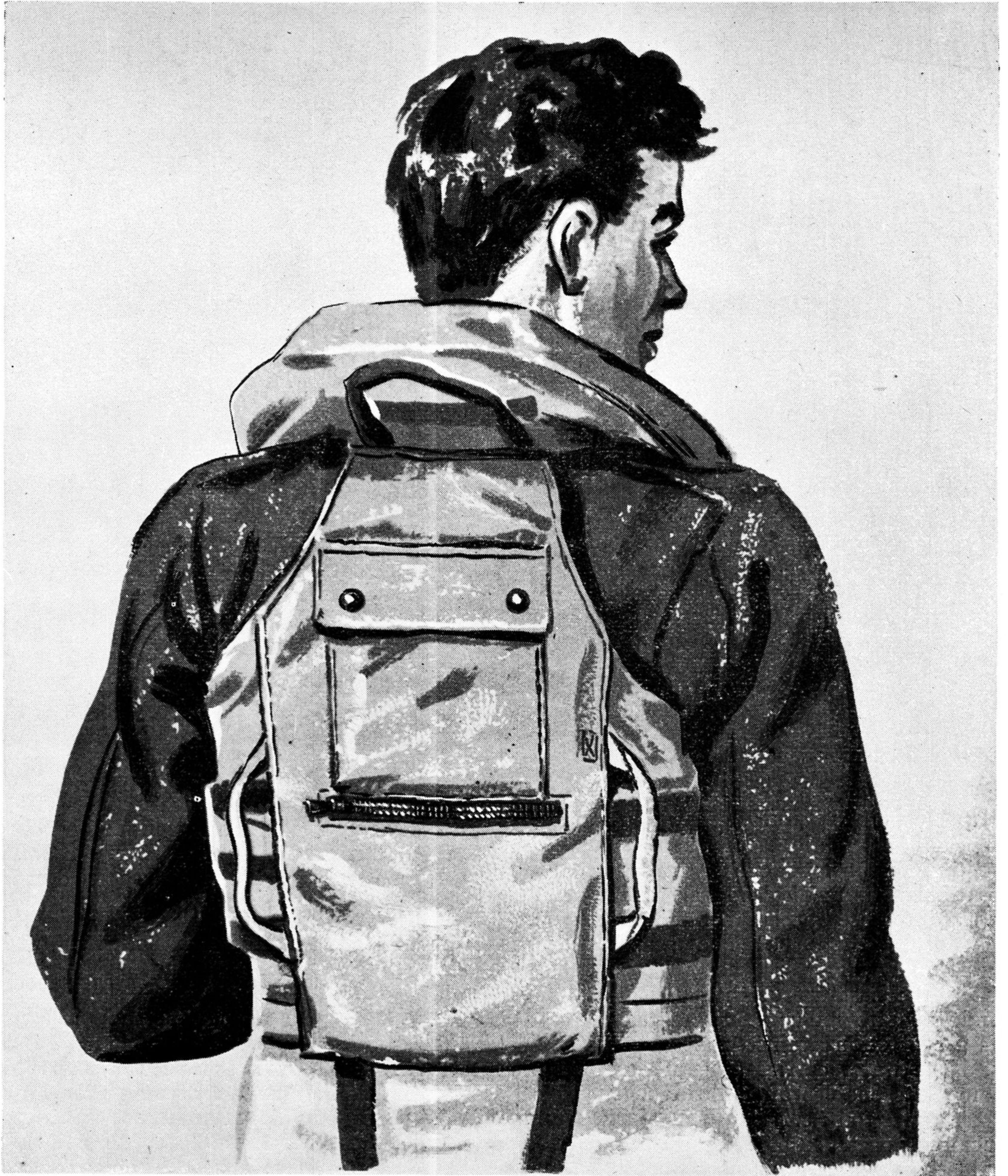


Fig. 4. Survival kit attached to life jacket ,Mk. I

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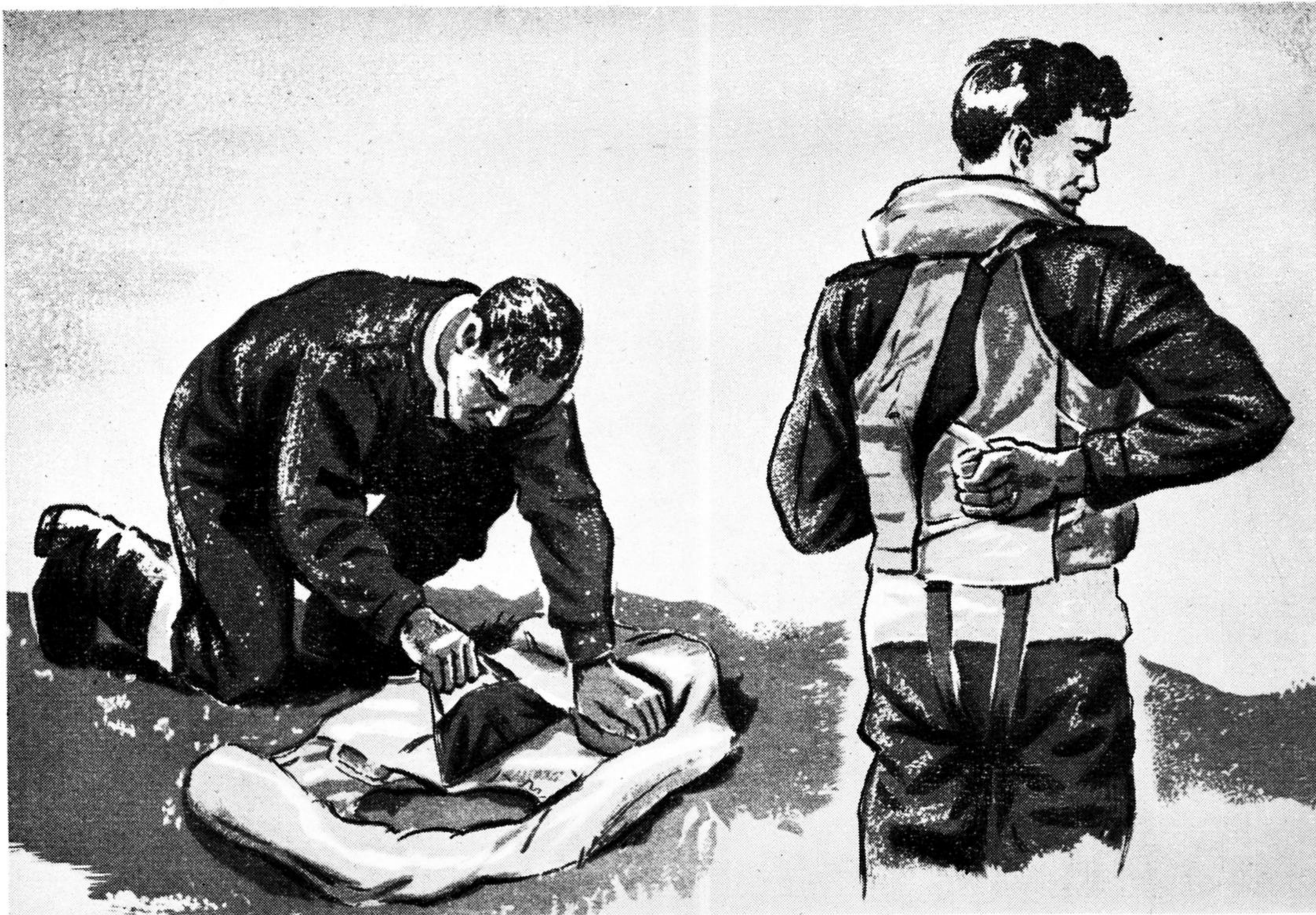


Fig. 5. Two methods of removing kit from life jacket

filled with fresh water; the bottle can be used as a cushion when filled with water.

12. Most of the equipment which requires special "instructions for use" is labelled with such instructions; this refers in particular to medical items. Other items do not require special mention, since it is considered that the good sense of the individual will be all that is necessary to make the best use of them. The sun hat and mosquito veil (*fig. 6 and 7*) may be used as a protection against most flying insects, and the water carrier (*fig. 8*) provided in some kits enables an additional supply of fresh water to be carried if this can be found locally or obtained by using water purifying tablets. The emphasis should be on economical use of the equipment provided; every endeavour should be made to "live off the land" and use the contents of the kit only as a last resource, in this way it will be possible to survive for quite a long time.

13. The survival kit can be carried slung over the shoulder, a method which will be found most convenient, since it leaves the hands free.

Servicing

14. Survival kits should be serviced at the same time as life jackets or parachute assemblies to which they are attached and in accordance with the instructions in Vol. 4. Minor repairs may be made to the container but repairs to any of the items carried in the container are not permitted.

15. After the contents of the kit container have been examined and renewed, as necessary, they should be repacked in accordance with current instructions: the distribution of the items shown in *fig. 2 and 3* should be followed in as far as this is possible, bearing in mind the fact that deviations from the scales laid down may necessitate re-arrangement. The water bottle should be inserted into the lower pocket on the outside of the tropical kit container before it is filled and the water should be changed at regular intervals, not less frequently than once per week.

16. To prevent items stowed in the internal pockets of the container from falling out, the mouth of each pocket should be stitched to the body of the container with two or three stitches of single scarlet thread (*Stores Ref. 15A/181*).

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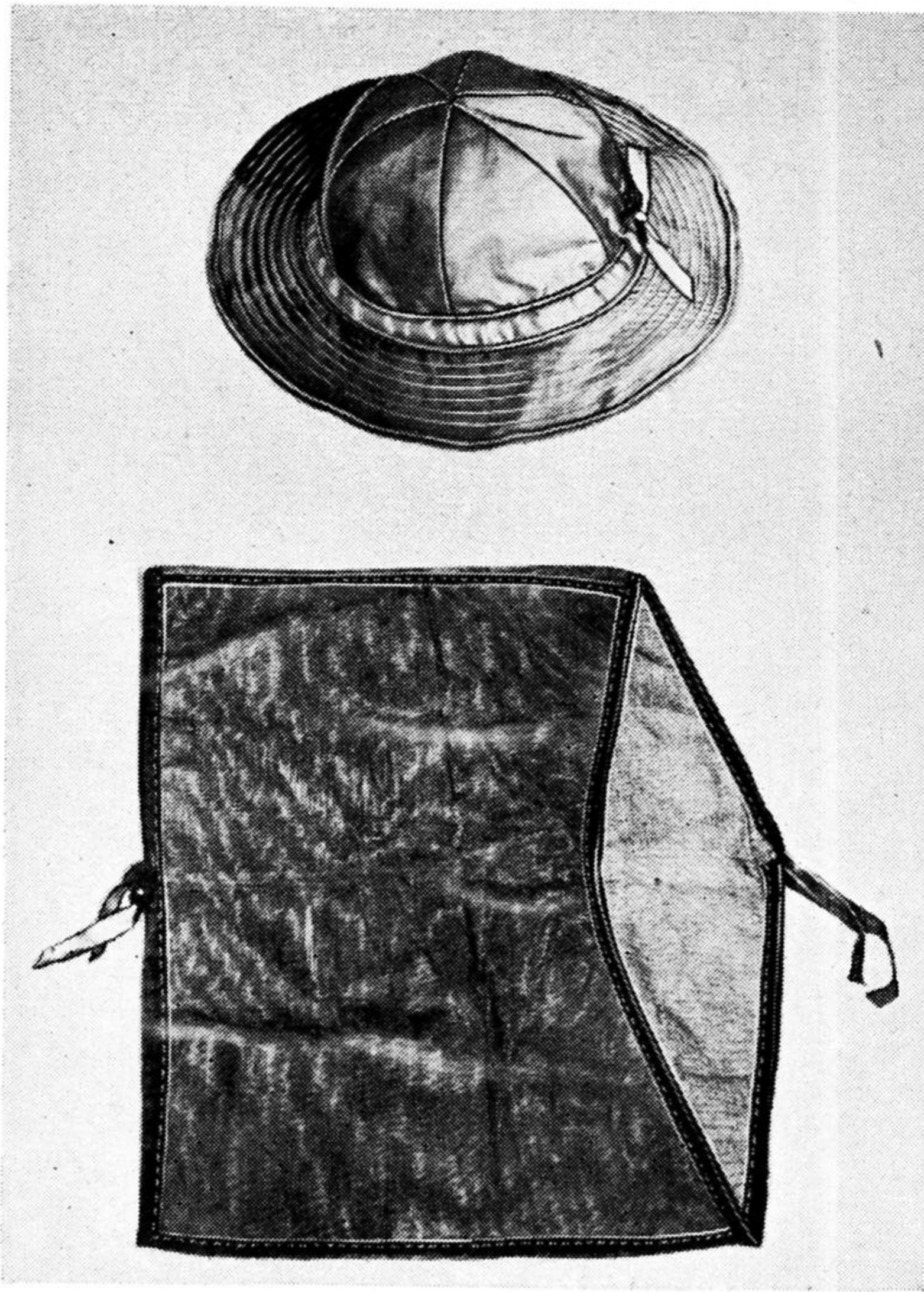


Fig. 6. Sun hat and mosquito veil

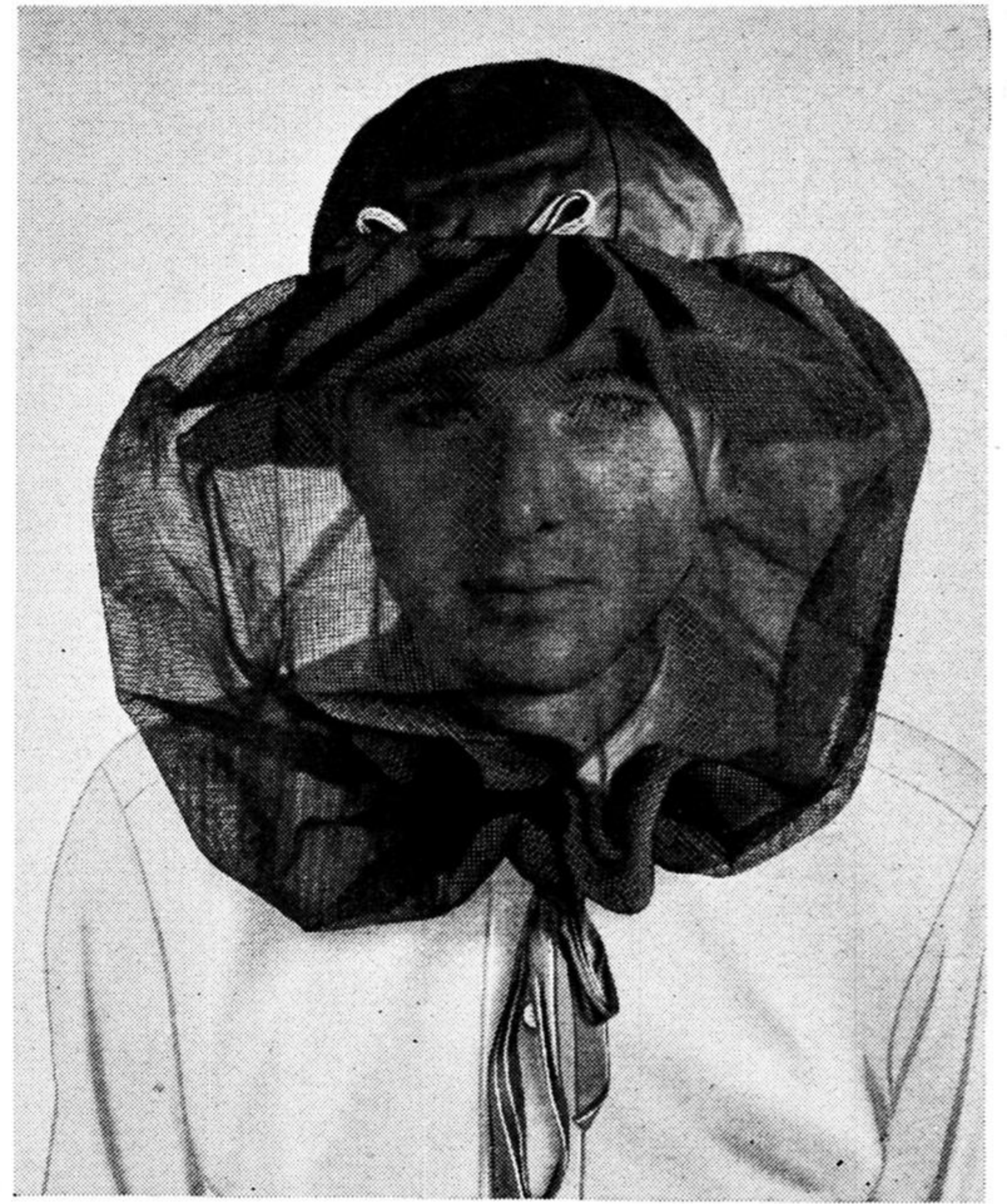


Fig. 7. Sun hat and mosquito veil, as worn

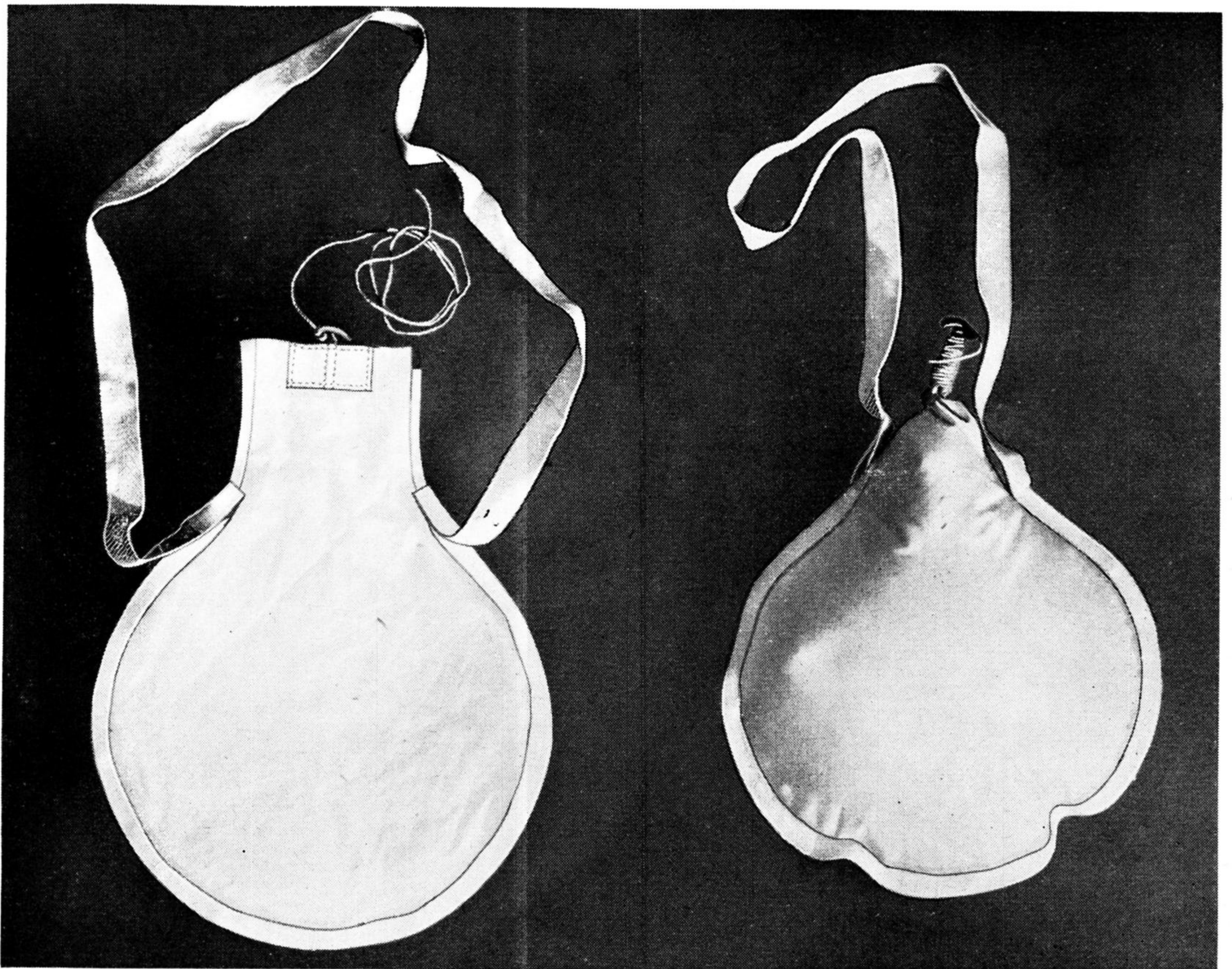


Fig. 8. Fabric water carrier

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