

Chapter 1

(This chapter supersedes that issued with A.L. 7)

UNDERWEAR

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Introduction

1. The considerations underlying the design of the underwear described in this chapter were the maintenance of a static layer of air round the body to act as a thermal insulating blanket, freedom of movement, bodily comfort, reduction of bulk and weight, and durability. The full range of underwear has not yet been developed, and new items will be added in due course.

STRING VEST, 1951 PATTERN (Brynje)

2. The string vest (*fig. 1*) was originally designed for the use of the Commandos during the war. It is made of thick cotton cord knitted in a wide mesh. The shoulder pieces are of soft cotton fabric.

3. The wide mesh maintains a layer of air in contact with the body, while allowing that air to move in any direction. If the outer garments are windproof, the vest will keep the wearer warm, but if the outer garments are freely ventilated, it will have a cooling effect. The string vest may therefore be used in either hot or cold climates.

4. The vest is available in three sizes—small, medium, and large—under Stores Ref. 22C/1162, 1163, and 1164.

INNER TROUSERS, PYJAMA TYPE

5. These are loosely-fitting cotton trousers (*fig. 1*) with buttoned straps for waist adjustment. One or two pairs may be

worn according to the weather conditions. The trousers are available in Sizes 1 to 8 under Stores Ref. 22C/1188 to 1195.

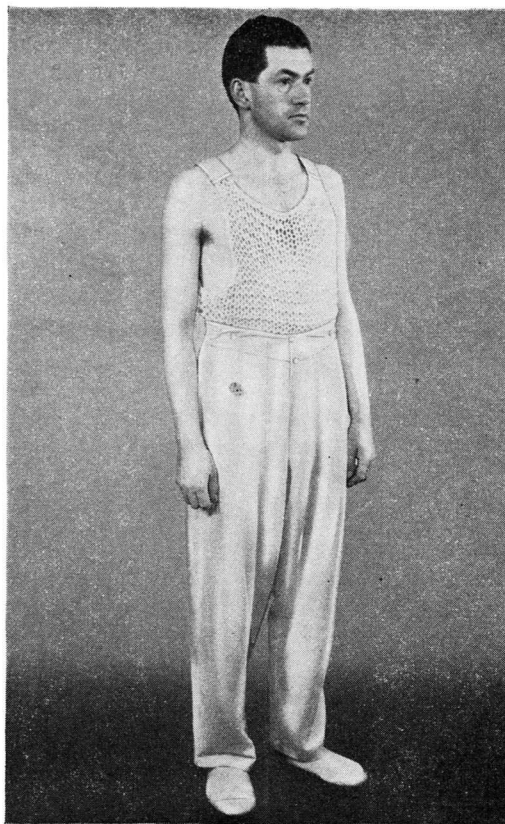


Fig. 1. String vest and inner trousers

(A.L. 56, Oct. 55)

RESTRICTED



Fig. 2. Aircrew shirt

AIRCREW SHIRTS

6. There are two types of shirts, one with two breast pockets (*fig. 2*) and one with a single breast pocket. Both types are made from a wool and cotton mixture, have open fronts, attached collars, pivot sleeves and button cuffs. A tie should not be worn during flight because it would restrict ventilation at the neck. The shirts are available in neck sizes from 13½ in. to 18 in., rising in half sizes, under the following Stores References:—

22C/1165 to 1174 With two breast pockets

22C/1657 to 1666 With one breast pocket

PULLOVER JERSEY, 1951 PATTERN

7. This is a long-sleeved, slit-necked, ribbed woollen jersey (*fig. 3*) which provides effective thermal insulation and does not restrict ventilation or freedom of movement. The jersey is available in sizes 1 to 4 under Stores Ref. 22C/1175 to 1178.

NECKSQUARE

8. The scarf is made of soft cotton and resembles a large disacloth. It is comfortable to wear and assists in the control of body ventilation. For ground survival, it can be used at night to cover the face and protect it from the cold. The scarf is available under Stores Ref. 22C/1179.

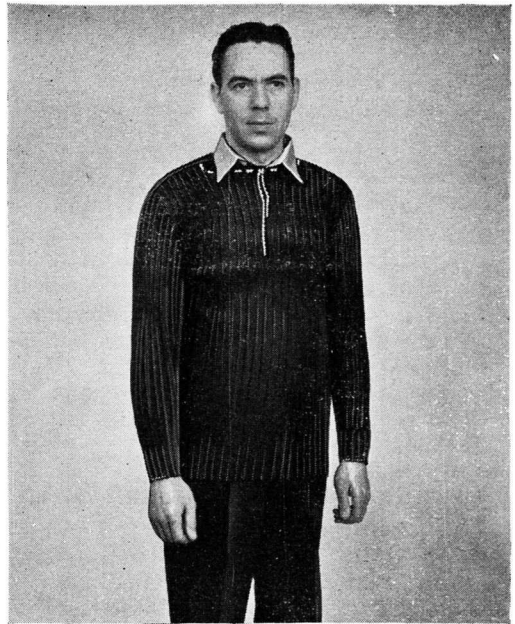


Fig. 3. Pullover jersey