Chapter 11

PASSENGER LIFE JACKET

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Introduction

1. The passenger life jacket is provided for the use of adults and children at stations in aircraft in which the use of aircrew life jackets is undesirable. It is normally stowed in a pack (*fig.* 1) kept in a stowage which is easy of access to the potential wearer. Packs are of two sizes, a standard size for use in aircraft in which stowage facilities are of average size and a small size for use in aircraft in which stowage facilities are restricted. They are known as Packs Types A and B respectively.

DESCRIPTION

2. The life jacket (*fig.* 2 *and* 3) is made from rubber fabric dyed traffic yellow. ◀The floatation chamber covers the whole of the wearer's chest and extends behind the neck to form a headrest which keeps the head clear of the water.▶ A keyhole-shaped aperture enables the neck of the life jacket to be passed over the head, and tapes emerging from the bottom enable the lower edge to be secured to the wearer's body at waist level.

3. Inflation is from a 34 gr. CO_2 cylinder, located inside the flotation chamber, fitted with a ◀V-type▶ operating head which protrudes from the right side at the bottom of the life jacket (*fig.* 2). Topping up is accomplished through an oral inflation tube located on the left-hand side of the jacket at chest level (*fig.* 2). The tube may be used for inflating the life jacket by mouth if the inflation mechanism fails.

4. On the right-hand side just below the shoulder is the pocket for the whistle and lanyard and the mounting for a lamp (*fig.* 2). A cable running from the lamp leads to a battery housed in a pocket on the right rear or body side of the jacket (*fig.* 3). The battery provides the power to light the lamp as soon as it comes into contact with water. The tab attached to the stud which plugs the inlet to the battery must be pulled to remove the plug as soon as possible after entering the water. The capacity of the battery is 20 hr.

5. Below the base of the oral inflation tube is a small pocket in which the life-line and toggle are housed. Instructions for donning and operating the life jacket are

stencilled in three languages on the front so that the wearer can read them as he looks down.

Donning

6. The life jacket is removed from its pack by unfastening the press studs holding the flap and then lifting it out. The head is placed through the aperture in the jacket with the lamp, whistle and oral inflation tube facing away from the wearer (*fig.* 4). The tapes are crossed behind the body (*fig.* 5), brought round to the front and tied underneath the bottom of the jacket (*fig.* 6 *and* 7). Inflation takes place as soon as the operating head is pulled downwards. Fig. 7 shows a wearer prepared to pull the head and inflate the jacket. This should not be done until the wearer is clear of the aircraft.

Fitting to a child

7. To fit the life jacket to a child, place the aperture over the child's head, inflate the jacket by pulling the operating head and then tie the jacket to the child's body by crossing the tapes at the back, bringing them to the front and crossing them over the life jacket at or above waist level and tying the ends together at the back of the child's waist. This operation must be completed inside the aircraft. Before any attempt is made to inflate a life jacket at any time it should be examined to ensure that the deflation key is not fitted to the oral inflation tube.

Stowing in the pack

8. The life jacket should be laid flat and the deflation key inserted into the oral inflation tube until it slips into position with a clipping action. The neck should be folded in towards the centre as far as possible and the bottom edge turned up to overlap the top edge. The width of the folded jacket should be adjusted to the width of the pack being used. This will be more difficult if the Type B pack is being used. The jacket should then be rolled up round the CO_2 cylinder. The oral inflation tube must not be kinked. After the jacket is rolled up it should be secured by wrapping the tapes round it and tucking the ends under one of the turns. The deflation key is to be removed from the oral inflation tube before the life jacket is placed in its pack, otherwise there is a serious risk that the gas will be lost if the need arises to inflate the jacket.

Servicing

9. The life jacket is to be serviced in accordance with the instructions given in Vol. 4 at the periods stated therein. To change the CO_2 cylinder, unscrew the hexagonal nut and slide the cylinder out complete with the operating head. Fit the new cylinder to the operating head, slide it into the aperture and re-fasten the nut.

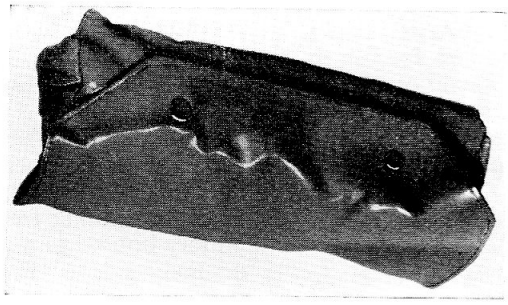

Fig. 1. Life jacket in its pack

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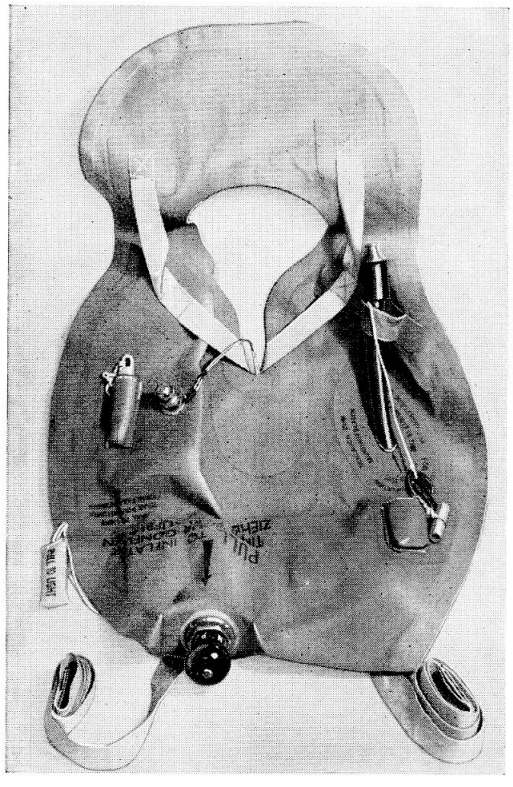

Fig. 2. Life jacket—front view

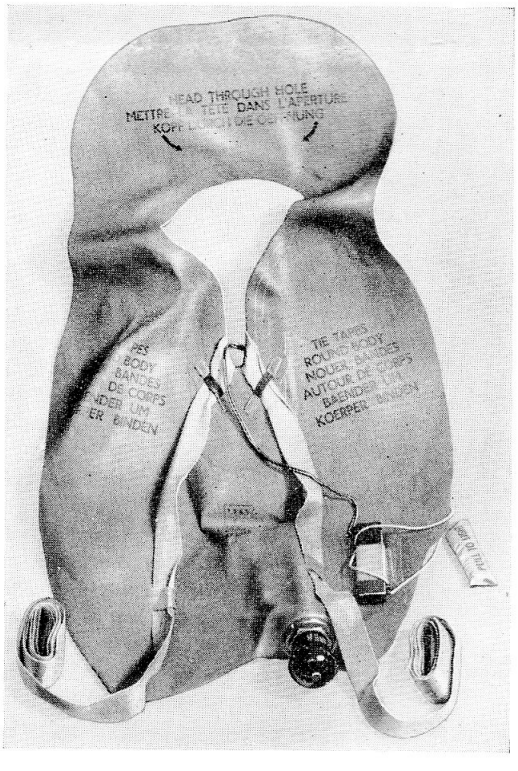

Fig. 3. Life jacket—rear view

Fig. 4. Donning—passing the head through the aperture

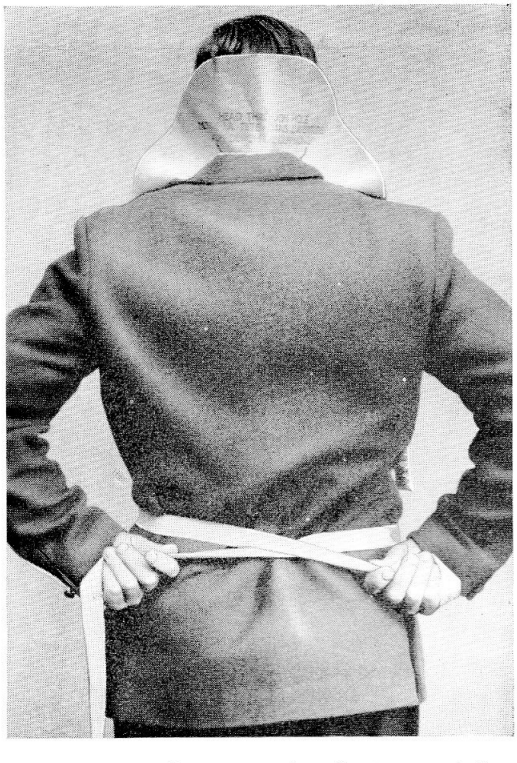

Fig. 5. Donning—crossing the tapes at the back

Fig. 6. Donning—bringing the tapes to the front

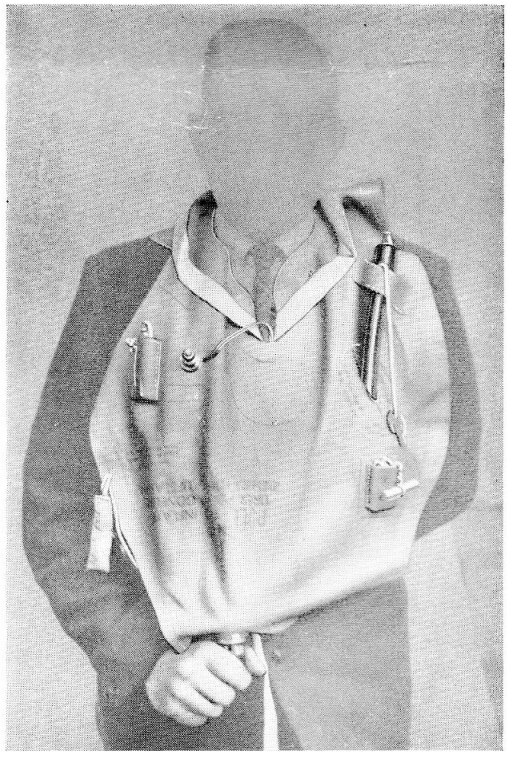

Fig. 7. Donning—tapes tied under the front of the jacket—wearer prepared to pull operating head