

## Chapter 2

## HASTINGS C.MK.1 AND C.MK.2

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**Introduction**

1. All the seats in the Hastings aircraft are static, i.e. non-ejection types and are fitted with safety harness. The aircrew equipment assembly is almost the same for all members of the crew, the only difference being in the type of safety harness and parachute assembly used (para. 3 refers).

2. In certain roles the full aircrew equipment assembly may not be used; reference is to be made to Command orders for this information. The following deals with the complete assembly as worn by a fully equipped aircrew member, or by a despatcher.

**COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

3. The assembly consists of the following items -

Seat (occupied as required)	Static or non-ejection type
Parachute assembly (aircrew)	Type C Mk.1 or Mk.4

Parachute assembly (despatcher)	Type B Mk.6
Safety harness (cockpit seats)	Type ZB
Safety harness (all other seats)	Type Z
Safety harness (despatcher only)	Despatcher/mechanic type
Flying clothing	To be issued later

**FITTING THE EQUIPMENT TO THE USER****Aircrew member's A.E.A.**

4. The equipment of the crew member is fitted in two stages. Fig. 1 shows the fitting of the parachute harness, Stage 1. The crew member is shown here in flying helmet Type G and protective helmet Mk.1A with visor; when using a boom type microphone (shown inset), goggles are used in place of the helmets and oxygen mask. Stage 2 of the fitting is shown in fig. 2 and consists in attaching the parachute pack to the parachute harness. To fit the parachute harness proceed as follows:-

Stage 1:--

- (1) Place the upper suspension straps of the parachute harness over the shoulders, the back pad should, of course, be in position.
- (2) Secure the lugs of the upper suspension straps in their respective positions in the quick-release fitting. The suspension straps should lie UNDER the life-jacket stole when worn.
- (3) Bring the leg loop up between the legs, pass the lower suspension or leg straps through the leg loop and secure the lugs to the quick-release fitting.
- (4) Insert the safety clip behind the knob of the quick-release fitting.
- (5) Adjust the harness straps to fit snugly around the body and legs.

Stage 2:--

- (6) Attach the D-rings at the rear of the parachute pack to the snap hooks on the front of the parachute harness, the pack is to be positioned with the rip-cord handle to the right.

**Despatcher's A.E.A.**

5. The despatcher's A.E.A. (*fig. 3 and 4*) is fitted in one stage only since the B Mk. 6 parachute assembly is worn at all times. To fit the despatcher's A.E.A. proceed as follows.--

- (1) Hang the parachute pack on the back with shoulder straps slung over the shoulders. The rip-cord handle should be on the left shoulder strap.
- (2) Bring the quick-release fitting into position and clip the shoulder strap lugs into it to hold the parachute pack in place. Hook on the waist strap.
- (3) Bring the two leg straps up between the legs and around the inside of the thighs and pass the straps through the loops on each side.
- (4) Insert the lugs on the leg straps into the quick-release fitting.
- (5) Insert the safety clip behind the disc knob of the quick-release fitting.

- (6) Strap on the despatcher's safety harness. The waist belt must pass around the OUTSIDE of the parachute pack with the anchorage strap hanging down at the back. The harness buckle should lie above the parachute harness quick-release fitting with the release tabs readily accessible to enable the harness to be discarded quickly if required.

**STRAPPING-IN PROCEDURE**

6. The following applies to seats fitted with Type ZB safety harnesses.--

- (1) Sit in the seat.
- (2) Connect the lap straps of the safety harness to the quick-release fitting. TIGHTEN THESE STRAPS.
- (3) Connect the shoulder straps of the safety harness to the quick-release fitting. Adjust and tighten these straps.
- (4) Make any additional adjustment to the harness which may be necessary and lock the forward release mechanism in the REAR position before take off.

7 The following applies to seats fitted with the type Z safety harness:--

- (1) Sit in the seat.
- (2) Connect the lap straps to the quick-release fitting.
- (3) Adjust and TIGHTEN the harness.

8. In certain roles the despatcher leaves his seat as required, fits the despatcher/mechanic harness and clips the strop hook on the anchorage strap to a convenient strong point near the appropriate duty station. The strop hook is locked with a safety pin. The despatcher may also wear a headset and boom microphone instead of helmets and oxygen mask.

**EMERGENCIES**

9 For drill and procedure to be taken in emergencies refer to Pilot's Notes A.P.2979A and B-P.N.

**NORMAL EXIT FROM SEAT**

10. Release the safety harness by operating the quick-release fitting and vacate the seat.

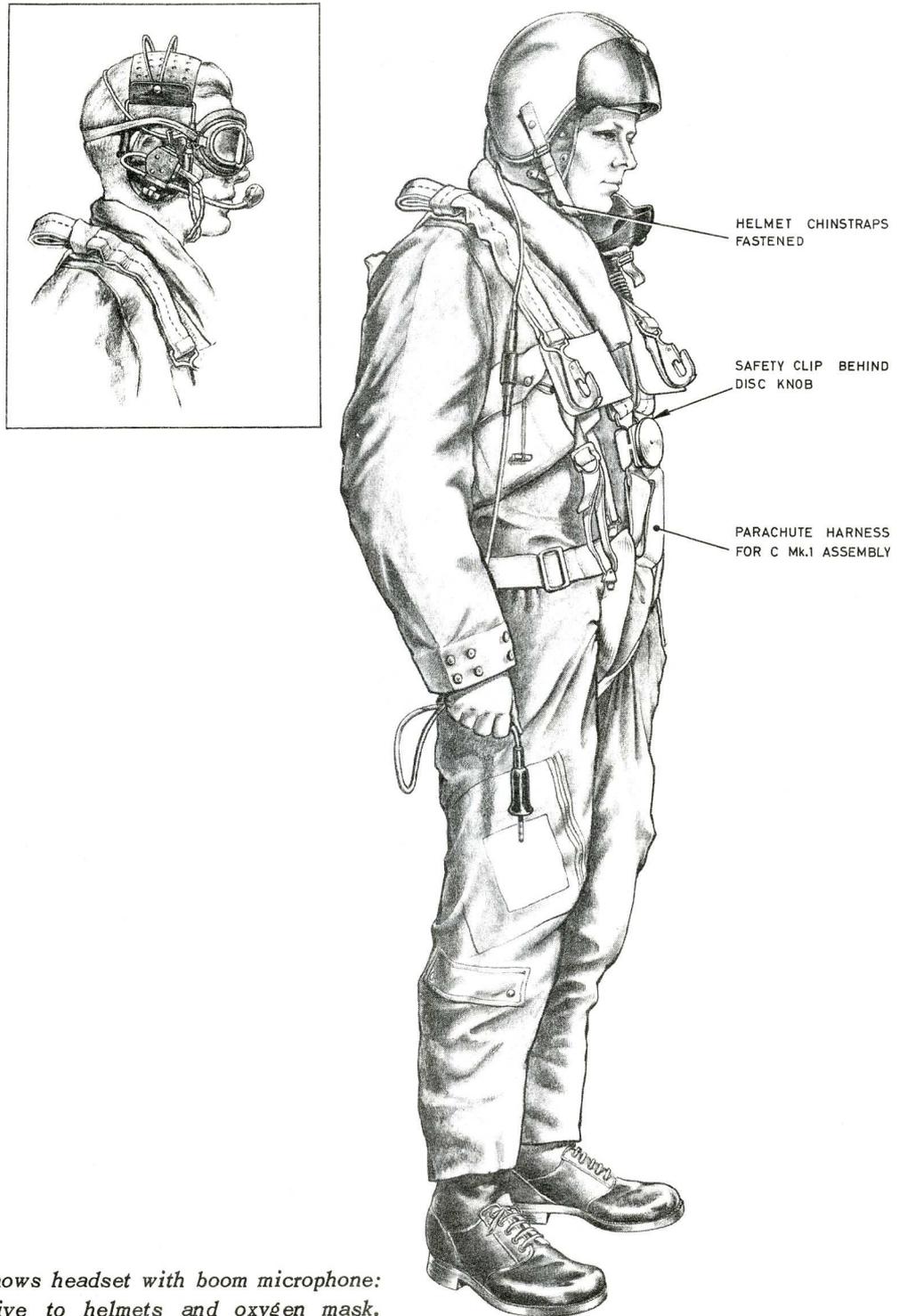


Fig. 1. Fitting the aircrew assembly: Stage 1: parachute harness assembled

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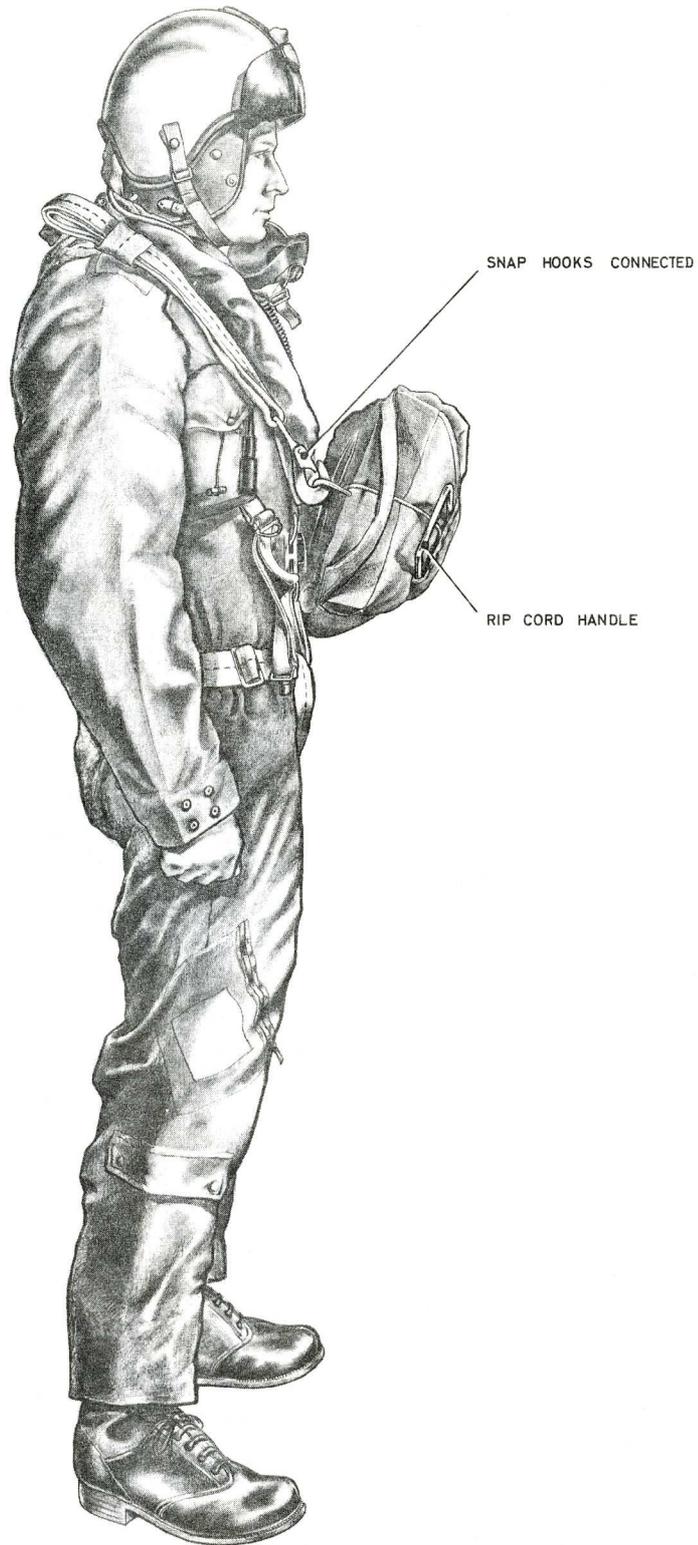


Fig. 2. Fitting the aircrew assembly: Stage 2: parachute pack attached

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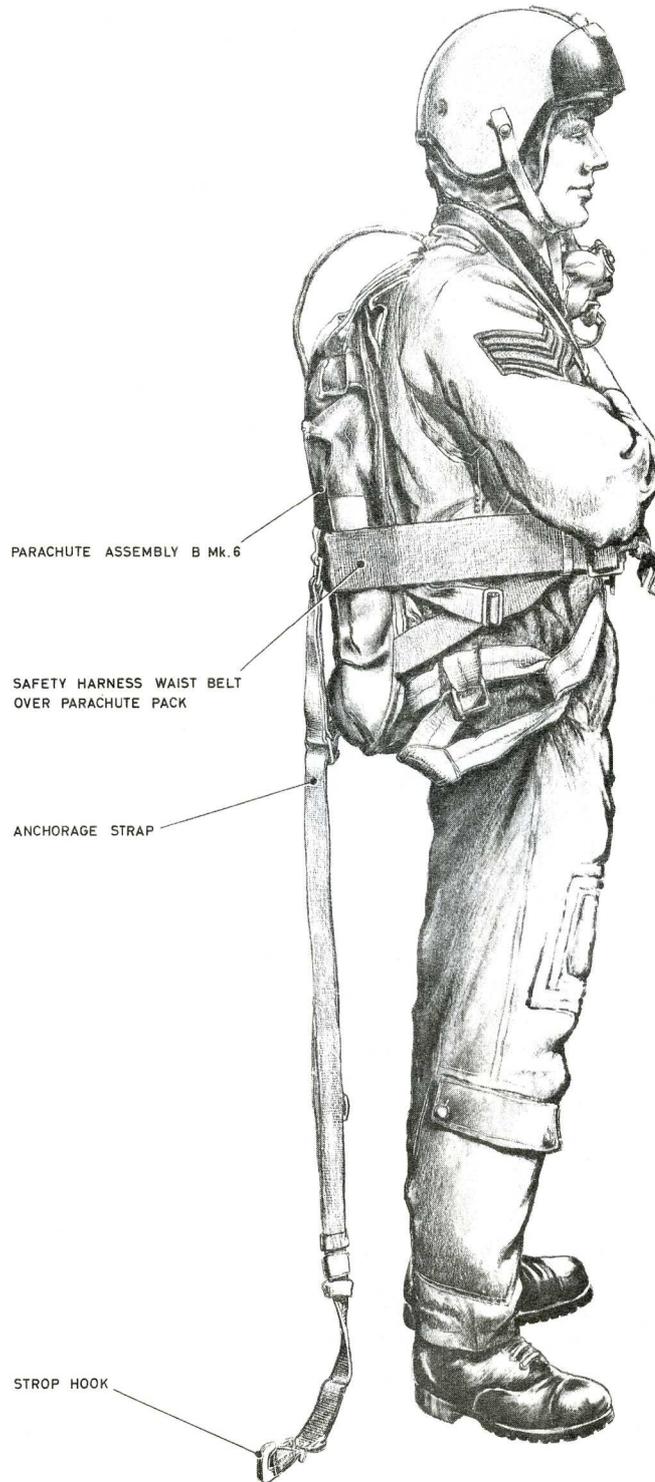


Fig. 3. Despatcher equipped (1)

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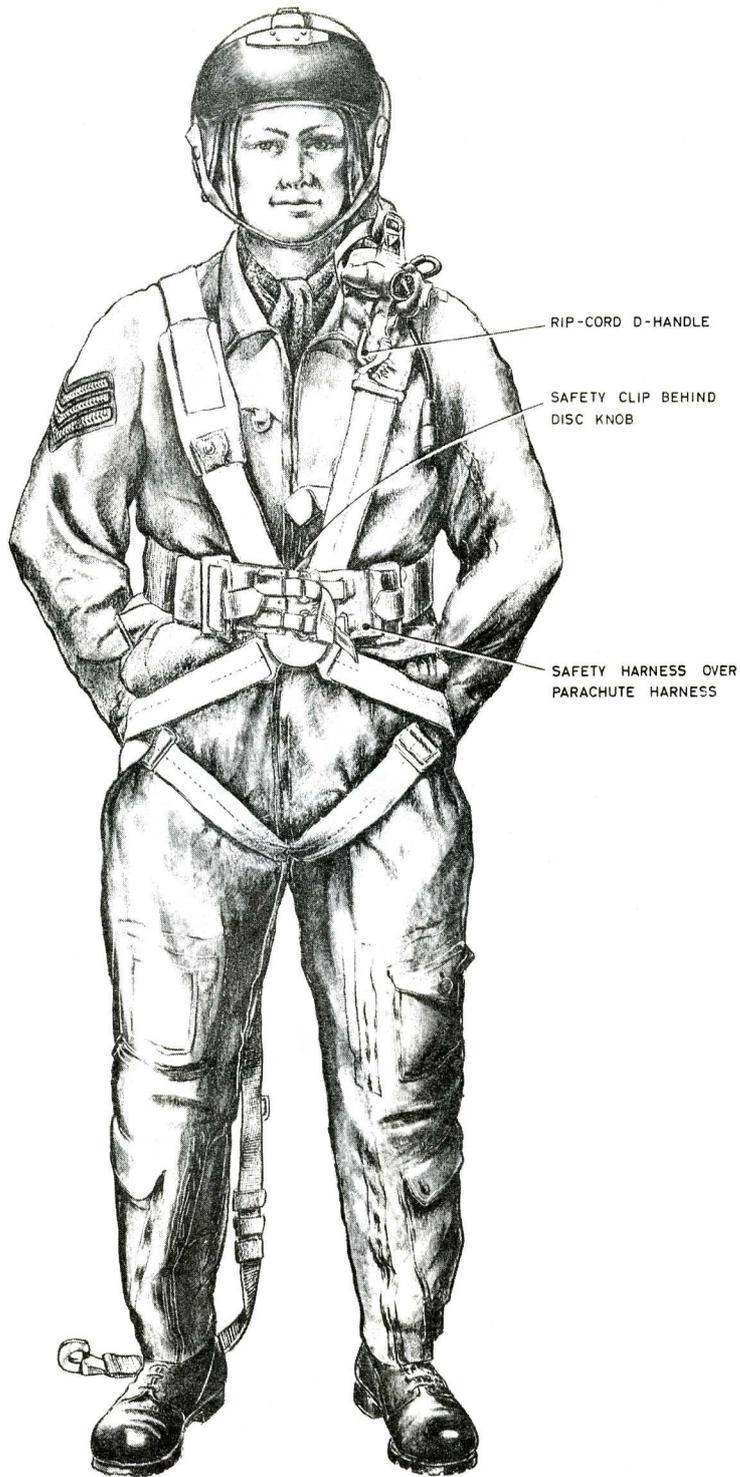


Fig. 4. Despatcher equipped (2)

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