

No. 608,481.

Patented Aug. 2, 1898.

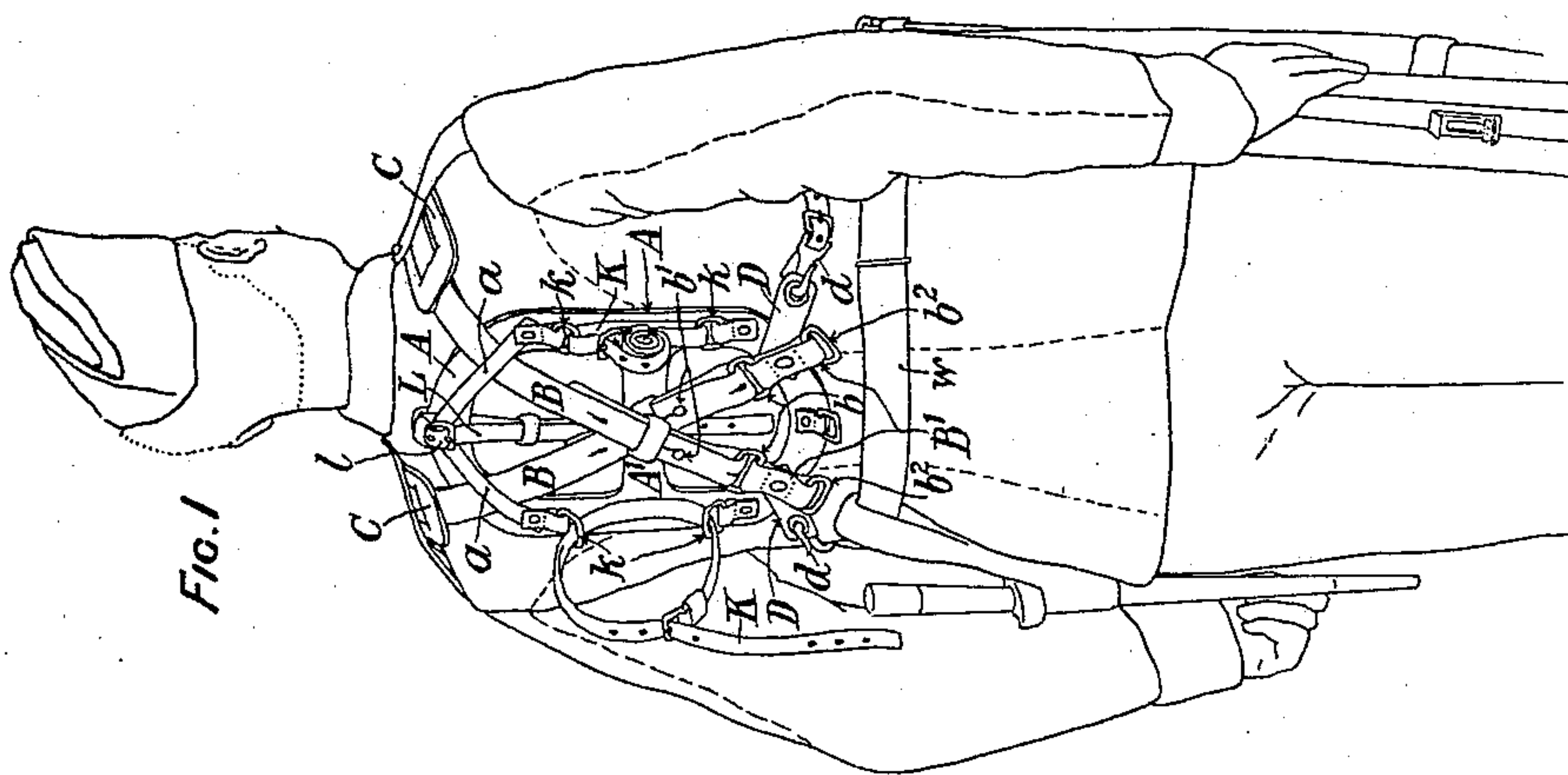
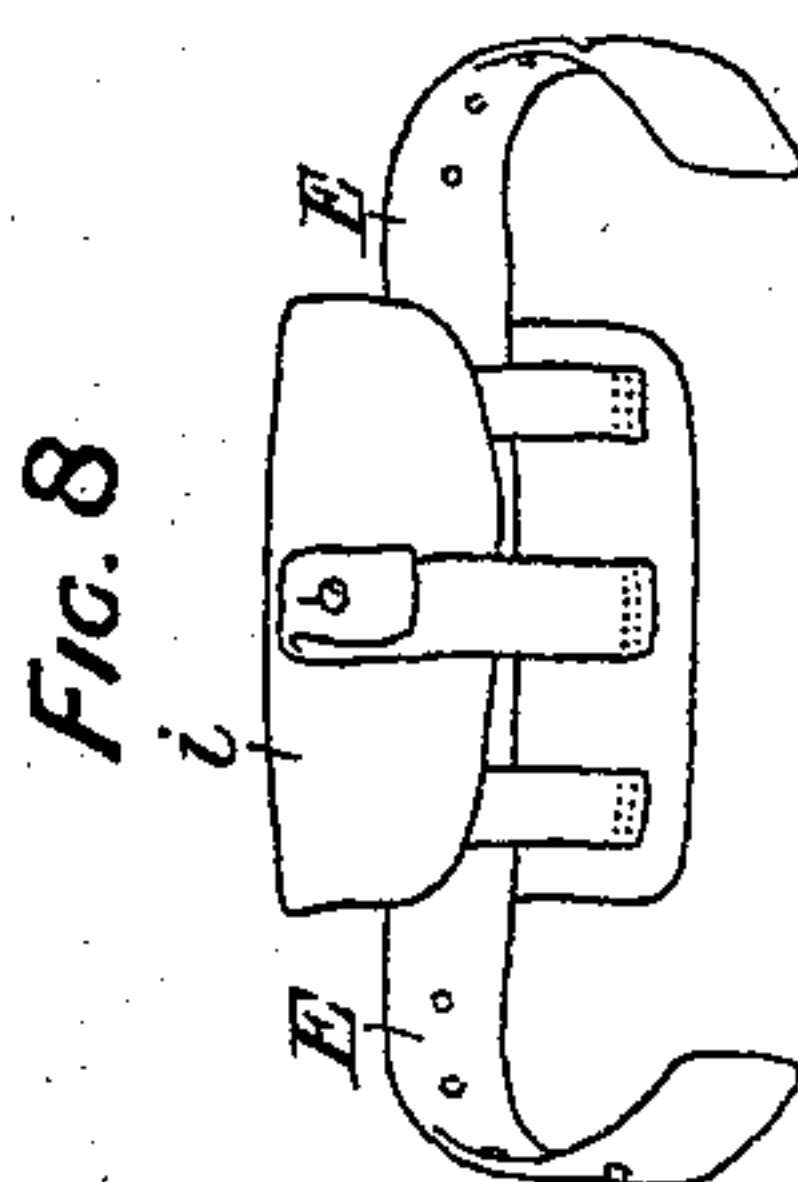
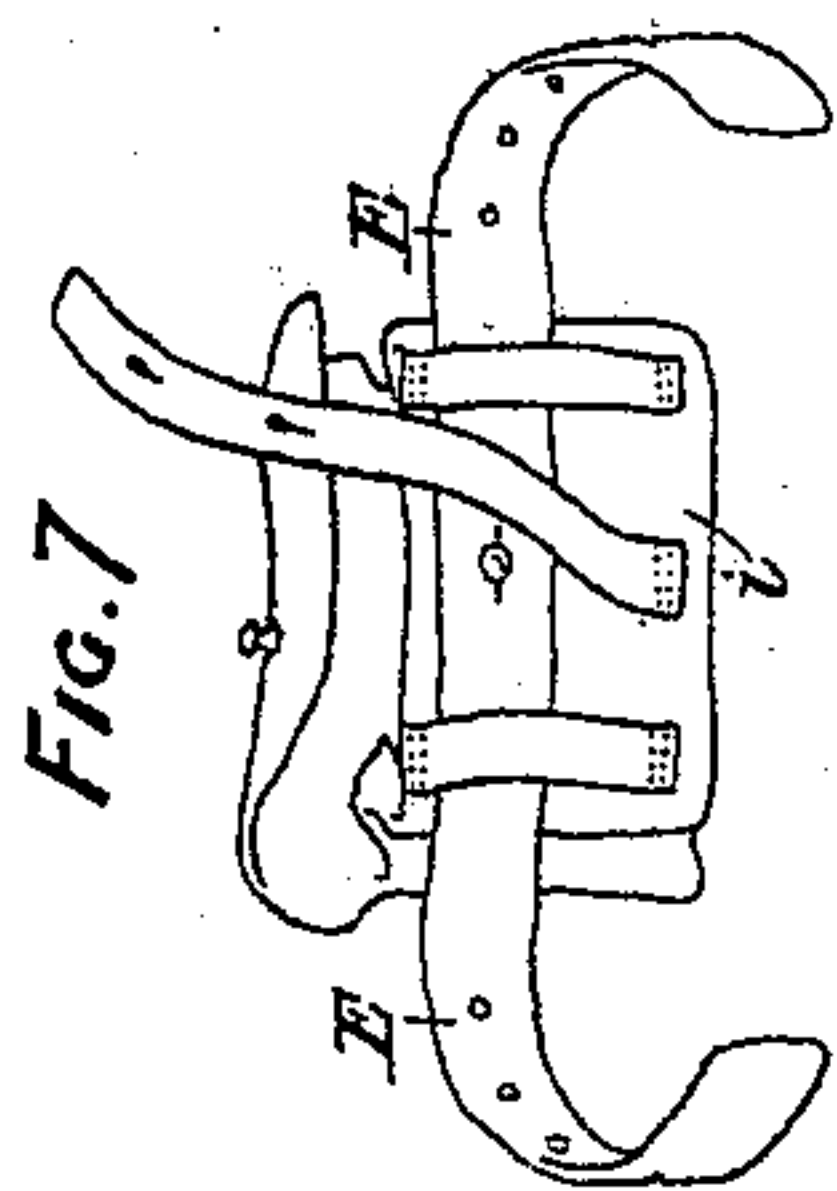
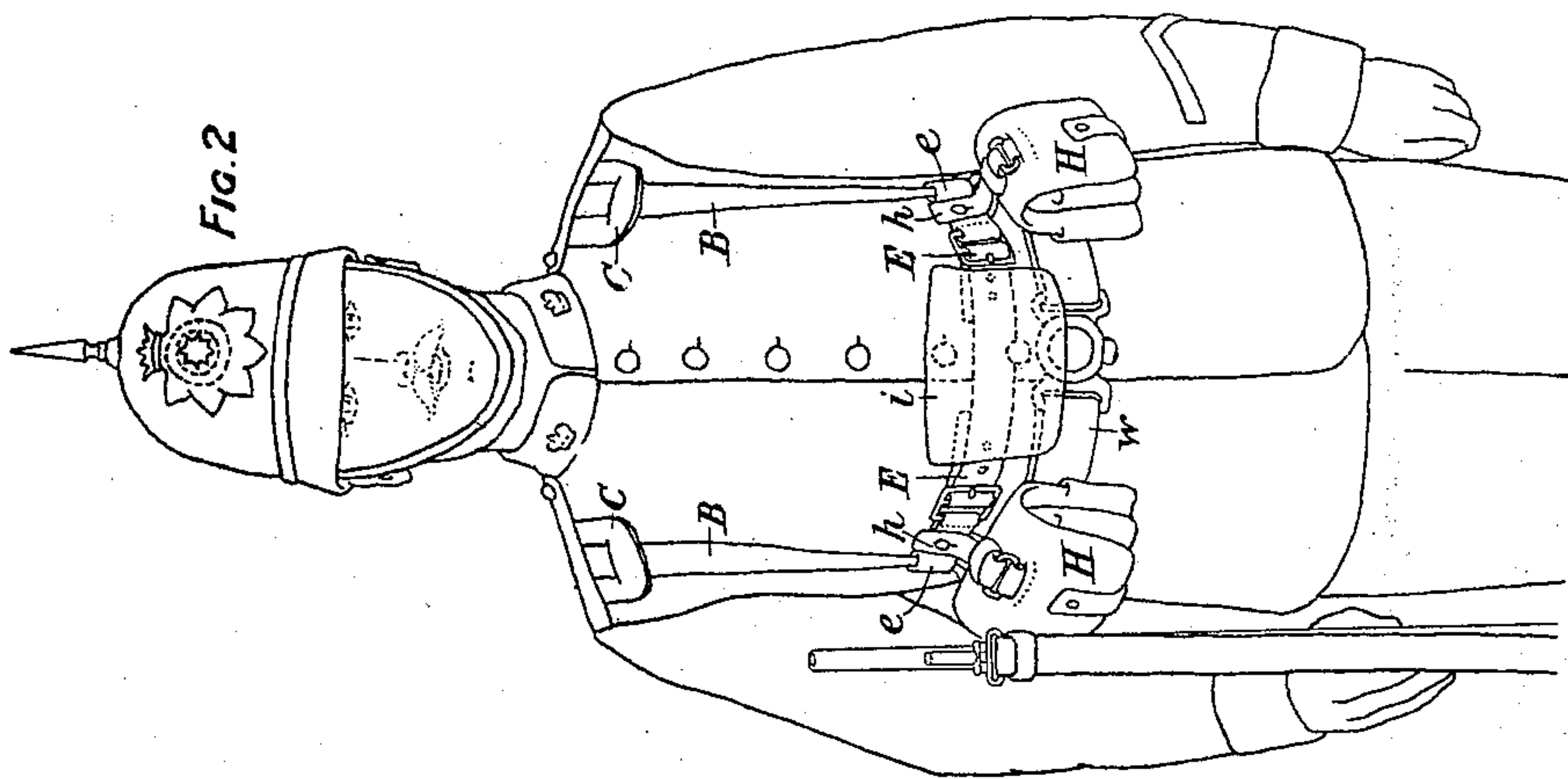
H. J. ROSE & W. GILBERT-COOPER.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

(Application filed Dec. 21, 1897.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



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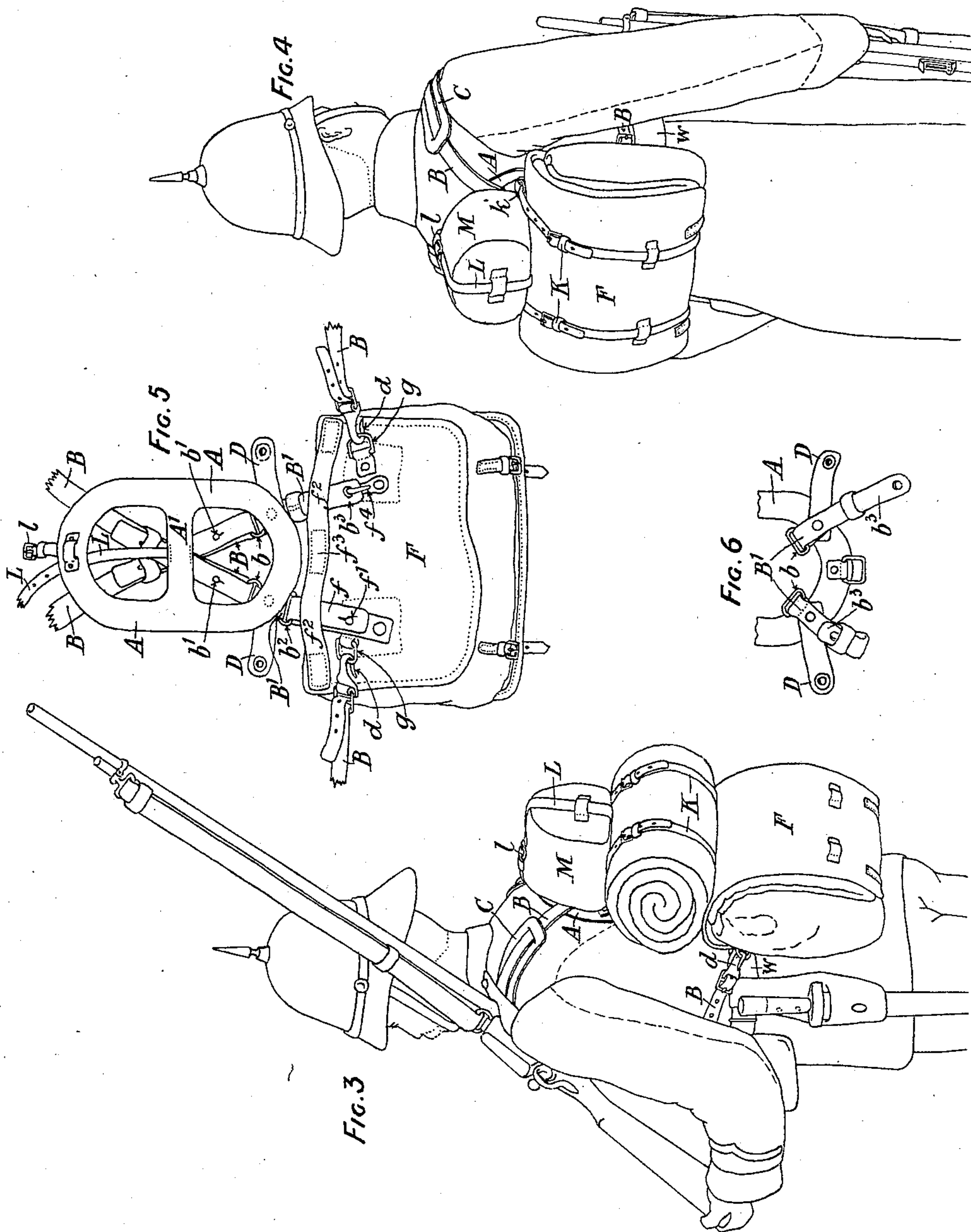
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY JOSEPH ROSE, OF HYTHE, AND WILLIAM GILBERT-COOPER, OF
DOVER, ENGLAND.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 608,481, dated August 2, 1898.

Application filed December 21, 1897. Serial No. 662,878. (No model.) Patented in England April 30, 1896, No. 9,140.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HENRY JOSEPH ROSE, deputy surgeon-general, of 8 Beaconsfield Terrace, Hythe, and WILLIAM GILBERT-COOPER, formerly lieutenant and now captain, Second Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, of the Shaft Barracks, Dover, county of Kent, England, have invented new and useful Improvements in Equipments for Military and other Purposes, (for which we have obtained Letters Patent in Great Britain, dated April 30, 1896, No. 9,140,) of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

Our invention relates to an improved equipment for military and other purposes—such, for instance, as sporting, cycling, touring, and the like; and it has for its object to provide improved means of carrying a knapsack or valise, greatcoat, canteen, pouch, and other articles, so as to combine the maximum of convenience with the minimum of discomfort to the wearer.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, wherein—

Figures 1 to 4 show in perspective our improved equipment in use, Fig. 1 being a rear view of the wearer carrying the equipment, without canteen, greatcoat, or valise, Fig. 2 a front view with ammunition-pouches in position, Fig. 3 a rear view with canteen, greatcoat, and valise all suspended from the equipment, and Fig. 4 a rear view with greatcoat worn, the canteen and valise being slung. Fig. 5 is an inside or front view of the back frame with the valise slung by two forms of attachment. Fig. 6 is an outside or rear view of the lower part of the back frame, showing details. Figs. 7 and 8 show the mode of attachment of an additional pouch.

The equipment comprises an open frame A, of oblong form, longer in height than width, straight side members, approximately U-shaped top and bottom members, and a middle cross-bar A', as shown. This frame is made, preferably, of sheet metal covered with leather and is adapted to carry the knapsack or valise, greatcoat and canteen, each independently of the other two, by means of the attachments hereinafter described.

The braces B are detachably connected to

the frame by their ends being passed through loops *b*, then folded back and adjustably, but permanently, secured by buttons *b'*, (or it may be by buckles,) the loops *b* being carried by brace extensions B', pivoted to the lower member of the frame A, so as to accommodate themselves to the angle assumed by the braces, and they extend below the frame for a purpose hereinafter explained. The braces B cross the frame A diagonally and are held in position by passing through loops *a*, attached to the upper member thereof. At the point where the braces pass over the shoulders they are provided with adjustable shoulder-pads C, formed of thick pieces of leather with cross-slits near the ends through which the braces are passed, as shown; the braces thence passing down in front of the shoulders and beneath the arms to the back, where their ends are detachably and adjustably connected by hooks *d* on buckles, as shown, (or it may be by buckles alone,) either to tabs D, Figs. 1, 5, and 6, attached one at each side to the lower part of the back frame A or to the valise or knapsack when the one or the other is carried. The braces B are kept in position in front of the shoulders and at the sides of the chest by a stay-strap E, Fig. 2, which passes transversely across the front of the body below the chest and is connected to the braces B by the latter passing through tight-running loops *e*, to which the stay-strap E is adjustably buckled, as shown, the effect of this strap being to keep the braces entirely free from the armpits and maintain the whole equipment in position on the body without the assistance of the usual waist-belt *w*, which may be worn or not, as required. This stay-strap also serves as a means of controlling the distribution of the weight carried, for by tightening the stay-strap the weight of the equipment is brought more directly onto the back than the shoulders, and vice versa by loosening it. To the stay-strap E are attached tabs *h*, which are detachably connected and serve as additional supports for ammunition-pouches H when such are carried on the waist-belt *w*, and the stay-strap also serves to carry, if required, an additional pouch *i*, attached as indicated in Figs. 7 and 8, which are rear or inside views of the stay-strap E

and pouch *i*, the latter shown open in Fig. 7 and closed in Fig. 8. In place of a pouch *i* a pistol-holster or other requisite may be carried on the stay-strap E.

5 The valise F (or the knapsack) when carried is supported by tabs *f*, (shown at the left-hand side of Fig. 5 as viewed,) riveted to the valise and passed through loops *b*², Figs. 1 and 5, on the lower ends of the brace extensions B' on the frame, then doubled back and secured to studs *f*' on themselves, these tabs *f* passing through loops *f*² on the back of the valise, so as to hold the latter snugly against the body. The loops *f*² are preferably formed, 10 as shown in Fig. 5, by a strap *f*³, attached at the middle and ends to the upper edge of the valise. The valise or knapsack might be otherwise secured—for instance, by hooks *f*⁴ *f*⁴ or studs, as shown at the right-hand side of Fig. 5 as viewed, on its side next the body to the eyeleted ends *b*³ of prolongations of the brace extensions B', which would, like the tabs *f*, already described, be passed through loops *f*² on the valise and when not in use 25 would be doubled back under tabs, as shown in Fig. 6. In either case the valise or knapsack when thus supported by the back frame A and braces B is steadied laterally by the attachment of the hooks *d* of the braces to D-loops *g* on the valise or knapsack.

The back frame A is also provided with D-loops *k* near the top and bottom of each side member of the frame for the sling-straps K, used for carrying the greatcoat, as shown in 35 Fig. 3, or the valise, as in Fig. 4. By the attachment of the straps to D-loops situated as described the greatcoat is supported when encircled by said straps above the valise or knapsack, but independently thereof. When 40 neither the greatcoat nor the valise is carried, these straps may be drawn tight through the D-loops *k* and the loose ends folded or coiled, as shown at the right-hand side of Fig. 1, or in other convenient manner. The 45 D-loops *k* are pivoted on the frame, so as to be reversible in order to enable the direction of the straps to be accommodated to suit the amplitude of the article which they encircle.

To the middle cross-bar A' of the frame A 50 is made fast a strap L for the purpose of supporting the canteen M, Figs. 3 and 4, in position, the end of this strap being made fast to a buckle *l*, attached to the top of the frame A and when not in use coiled or folded in any 55 convenient manner. The middle cross-bar A' also forms a convenient point of attachment for a strap or straps, whereby to suspend a rifle, gun, or other article, if required.

When used for other than military purposes, it will be obvious that the back frame 60 A, braces B, and stay-strap E may be similarly used for carrying such only of the articles described as may be suited for the particular purpose or any other articles which 65 it may be desired to carry.

It will be obvious that the stay-strap may be used for connecting at the front braces

arranged and fastened at both ends at the back, as described, whether the back frame be used or not.

We claim—

1. In an equipment for military and other purposes, the combination with a back frame adapted to carry the knapsack, valise or other article, and braces fastened to the back frame, 75 passing over the shoulders down in front of the body and thence to the back where they are made fast, of a stay-strap adjustably connecting the braces across the front of the body below the chest, the said stay-strap serving 80 to keep the braces clear of the armpits, assisting in supporting and distributing the weight carried, and maintaining the whole equipment in position without the assistance of the usual waist-belt, as specified. 85

2. In the herein-described improved equipment, the combination with the braces attached at their rear ends to a back frame and adapted to be detachably connected by their other ends either to said frame or to a knap- 90 sack or valise suspended therefrom, of a stay-strap arranged to pass transversely across the front of the body below the chest and loops to which the stay-strap is adjustably secured, the said braces passing through the said loops, 95 said stay-strap connecting the braces at the front so as to keep them clear of the armpits and adapted not only to maintain the braces and the equipment generally in position without the aid of the ordinary waist-belt, but also 100 to support pouches or other requisites, substantially as specified.

3. In the herein-described equipment, the combination with the back frame, braces attached thereto and a stay-strap adjustably 105 connecting the braces at the front and arranged to extend transversely across the body below the chest, of a knapsack or valise suspended from the lower part of the back frame and steadied laterally by the front members 110 of the braces, substantially as specified.

4. In the herein-described equipment, the combination with the back frame having top and bottom members, straight side members and a middle cross-bar, of the braces crossing 115 said back frame diagonally, the brace extensions pivoted to the lower member of the frame, and to which the said braces are secured, reversible loops pivoted on the back frame near the top and bottom of each side 120 member of the frame, sling-straps attached to said loops, and a strap attached to the middle cross-bar of the frame and detachably connected with the top member of the frame, substantially as specified. 125

5. In the herein-described equipment the combination with the back frame having straight side members, top and bottom members, and a middle cross-bar connecting the side members, of the braces crossing the said 130 back frame diagonally, the brace extensions pivoted to the lower member of the back frame and extending below the frame, the lower ends of said pivoted brace extensions being ar-

ranged for connection with a knapsack or valise, the said braces being connected at their rear ends with the upper ends of the brace extensions and provided at their other
5 ends with attaching means, a strap attached to the middle cross-bar and adapted to be secured to the top member of the frame, and a stay-strap connecting the braces at the front

and arranged to extend across the front of the body below the chest substantially as specified.

HENRY JOSEPH ROSE.

WILLIAM GILBERT-COOPER.

In presence of—

C. G. CLARK,

T. W. KENNARD.