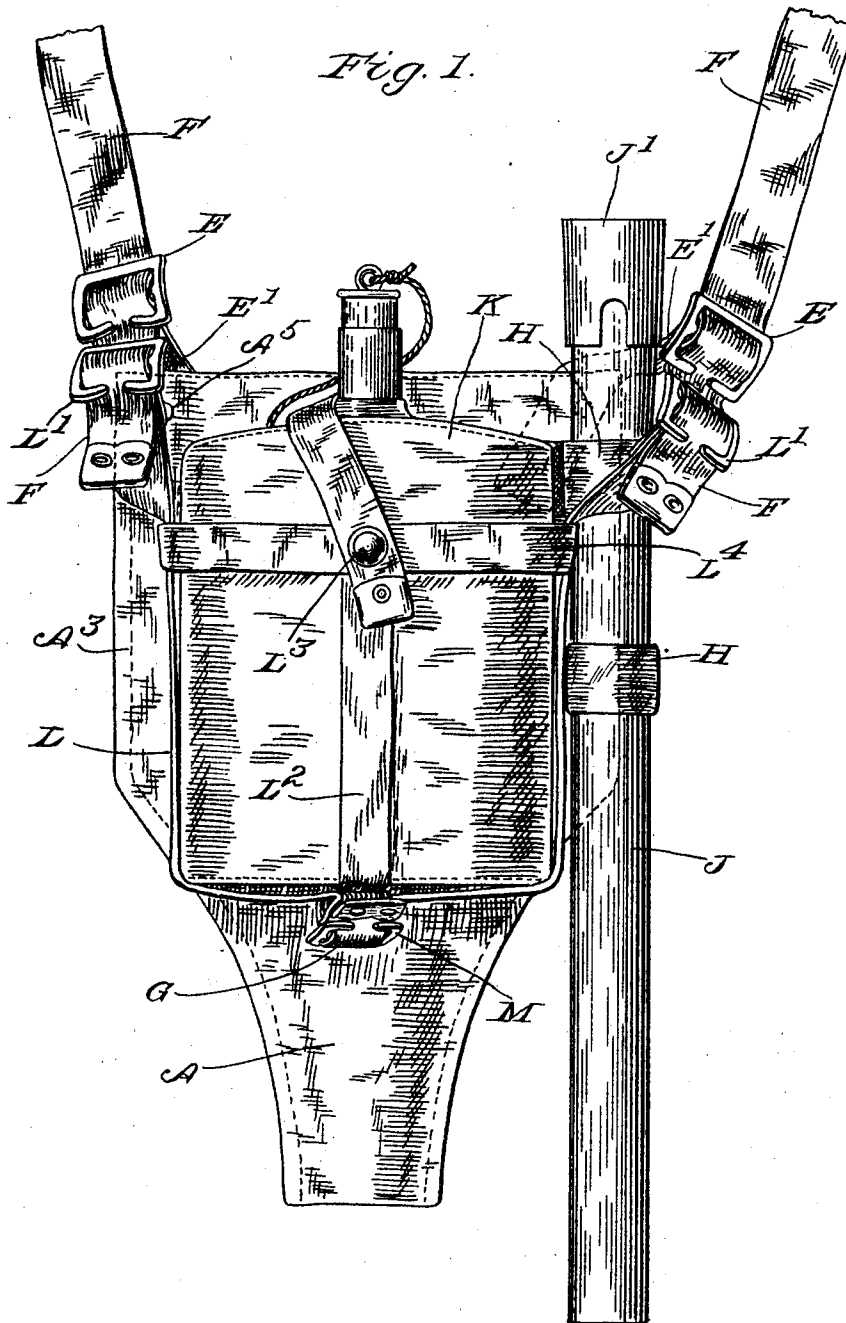


A. A. LETHERN.
MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 29, 1917.

1,383,315.

Patented July 5, 1921.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witness:
Oscar F. Hill

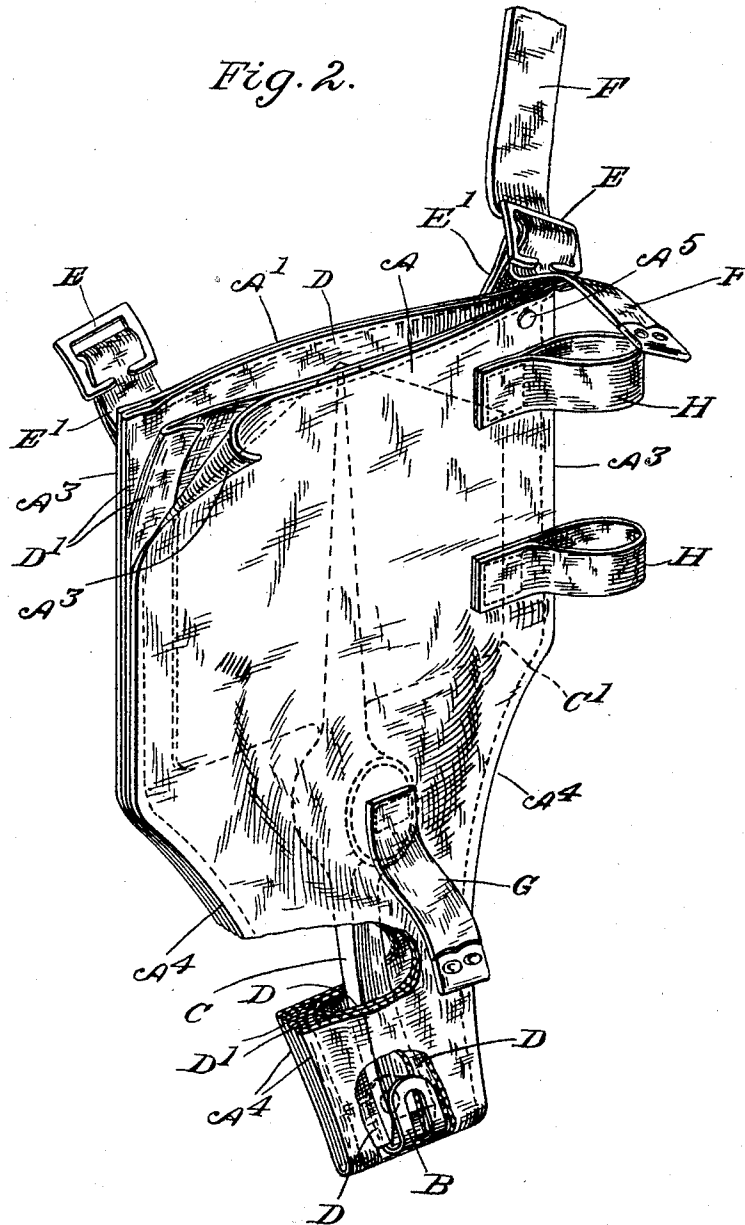
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT ALEXANDER LETHERN, OF LONDON, ENGLAND, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO MILLS BELT COMPANY, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

1,383,315.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 5, 1921.

Application filed October 29, 1917. Serial No. 198,945.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT ALEXANDER LETHERN, a citizen of Great Britain, residing at London, England, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Military Equipments, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to military equipments and is more particularly an improvement upon such a combination of intrenching tool pocket and water-bottle carrier as is described in the specification of British Patent No. 14,328/12. In the construction described in the said British patent the pocket in which the tool is carried was formed integral with the water-bottle carrier, the latter being arranged on the inner side of the tool pocket, both the tool pocket and the water-bottle being suspended from the same pair of straps which were connected to the bottle carrier. In the present invention this structure has been modified so as to enable the water-bottle to be detachably mounted upon the tool pocket, so that one of these articles only may be carried if necessary.

According to this invention the pocket in which the intrenching tool is disposed is adapted to be suspended as heretofore from the pendant ends of brace members which form part of the equipment, and a water-bottle carrier of suitable construction is detachably mounted on one face of the tool pocket by attaching the bottom of the water-bottle carrier by means of a strap and buckle or other suitable connector to the face of the tool pocket while the upper part of the water-bottle carrier is suspended from the same ends of the brace members to which the tool pocket is attached.

The accompanying drawings illustrate an embodiment of the invention in the preferred form. In these drawings,

Figure 1 is an elevation showing the tool pocket with a water-bottle disposed on one face thereof.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view partly broken away, and with the water-bottle carrier, bottle, and tool-handle removed.

The illustrated construction of the pocket in which the intrenching tool is carried is no part of the present invention. As shown in the drawings, the said pocket is formed from a continuous strip of material folded

on itself so that the two parts A, A', lie facing each other, with their ends brought together. At the bottom of the pocket, within the fold in the material, is placed a bent metal strip B which is secured by a rivet or otherwise to one wall of the pocket. The metal piece B constitutes a protection for the bottom of the pocket and is so positioned as to receive the weight and wear arising from the end of the tool C. The narrowing of the pocket toward the bottom is effected by cutting away the side portions of the material of which the pocket is formed. The edges A⁴ are at an angle with relation to the parallel edges A³ and may be slightly curved and are so arranged that when the edges A⁴ of the opposite walls of the pocket are united the pocket about its center is given a certain fullness so as to allow of the extra space required for the head C' of the tool, the thickness of which is somewhat greater than the other parts of the tool. The whole of the pocket is lined with suitable material D, preferably canvas, which covers the greater part of the metal end-piece B and extends to the edges of the pocket. It is desirable and structurally more convenient not to carry the lining over the whole of the bottom part of the metal end-piece B but to leave an opening at the bottom of the lining through which the end of the intrenching tool can pass and bear directly upon the metal of the end-piece B. Thus the wear and chafe of the end of the tool are taken directly by the metal piece B. The juxtaposed side-margins of the folded strip are conveniently secured together by sewing. The fastening for the sides of the pocket at the two upper corners is preferably reinforced by one or more rivets A⁵ which offer additional resistance to any tendency for the opening or mouth of the pocket to be torn at the corners. As thus far explained, the construction forms no part of the subject-matter claimed herein but constitutes a separate invention.

At each upper corner of the pocket is mounted a buckle E carried on a short strap E' attached by sewing to one face of the pocket, preferably that face which is intended to lie next the wearer. These buckles E are adapted to be engaged by the ends F of sling or brace members forming parts of the main equipment with which the

tool pocket is to be used. It will be noted that the tool is intended to be inserted in the pocket in such a way that the curve in the tool causes the bottom of the pocket to be outwardly directed away from the wearer, the buckle-carrying straps E' being thus mounted on what may be termed the inner face or back wall of the tool pocket. On the front wall of the pocket and about its center is attached by sewing or otherwise a short strap G. Also on the front wall of the pocket but toward one edge are placed two loops H through which the helve J of the tool is passed. As this helve is slightly tapered and has an enlarged head J' it cannot slip through these loops H.

The water-bottle K is disposed in a carrier of any approved construction, herein shown as a skeleton carrier, formed of a strap L which extends down one side of the water-bottle, across the bottom of the latter and up the other side thereof, each end of this strap having attached thereto a buckle L'. Another strap L² extends down the front of the bottle, under its bottom, and up at the back thereof, one end being carried outward over the shoulder of the bottle by the side of the neck and having mounted on its extremity one member of a snap fastener L³, the other member of such fastener being combined with the top end of the front portion of the strap L². A third strap L⁴ passes around the upper part of the bottle, this strap L⁴ being connected by sewing or otherwise to the straps L, and L². The strap L⁴ may be stiffened in some suitable manner, for example by one or more extra layers of material at the sides of the bottle where this strap crosses and is connected to the strap L. Where the straps L and L² cross each other at the bottom of the bottle these straps are connected by sewing or otherwise. The free end of the strap L² enables the bottle K to be kept in place in the carrier and removed when desired. A skeleton water-bottle carrier of similar construction is well known and in use at the present time. In conformity with the invention, at the bottom of the skeleton carrier is disposed a buckle M carried on a short strap sewn or otherwise secured to the strap L². The buckle M is adapted to be engaged by the outer portion of the outstanding strap G which latter is mounted by one end thereof on the face of the tool pocket A. The buckles L' are intended to be engaged by the ends of the sling or brace members F, the buckles L' being brought close up against the buckles E by which the tool pocket is connected to the sling members F. If desired, the buckle M may be mounted on the face of the tool pocket and the strap G attached to the bottom of the bottle carrier.

It will thus be seen that the water-bottle, which is disposed in a carrier which enables

it to be slung and used separately, can when required be securely mounted on the face of the tool pocket in a manner which allows the water-bottle to be readily accessible and easily removed. The manner of mounting the water-bottle is simple in that it involves the addition of only one strap, namely the strap G, on the tool pocket and one buckle, namely the buckle M, on the bottom of the bottle carrier, or vice versa. The buckles L' serve for the purpose of holding the upper part of the water-bottle against the upper part of the tool pocket without directly connecting the two together, these buckles L' if the bottle is to be carried separately being employed for the attachment of the ends of sling or brace members such as F. When the water-bottle is in place on the tool pocket the one end of the carrier strap L which lies adjacent to the helve is preferably carried outside or around the latter in connecting this strap to the end of the sling member F. This makes the arrangement more compact and the helve is pressed against the face of the pocket and the top of it is prevented from projecting forwardly to an undue extent as the tool pocket is conveniently slung on the right-hand side of the wearer.

It will be seen that with the tool pocket disposed between the bottle and the person of the wearer of the equipment the bottom of the pocket curves outwardly beneath the bottom of the water-bottle. If desired the position of carrying these articles may be reversed and the water-bottle may be arranged next the wearer with the tool pocket outside. With that arrangement the water-bottle maintains the tool pocket at a sufficient distance from the leg of the wearer to prevent the inward curve of the bottom of the pocket from being in the way. When the water-bottle is thus carried the ends of the sling members F are first passed through the buckles L' by which the water-bottle is slung. The ends of these straps F are then passed through the buckles E attached to the tool pocket. In this arrangement the tool pocket which lies on the outside must be removed first if it is desired to separate it from the water-bottle.

Woven fabric may be used in the construction of the several straps and loops, though leather or other material may be used if preferred for some or all of these parts. The structure of the water-bottle carrier may be varied without involving any departure from the invention. In any case however the bottle carrier is provided with a buckle such as M or a strap such as G on the bottom, and buckles such as L' at the upper corners, so that it may be slung separately or mounted on the tool pocket in the manner desired.

What is claimed as the invention is:—

In military and the like equipment, the combination with brace or suspender members, and a pocket having at its top oppositely

located buckles which adjustably and detachably engage the extremities of said members, of a carrier having at opposite sides of its top buckles also engaging similarly with the said extremities, and separate means for connecting the lower portion of the carrier with the pocket, comprising a strip and buckle, one thereof connected with the pocket and the other with the lower

portion of the carrier, and adapted to be disengaged from each other without other fastening means being disturbed.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ALBERT ALEXANDER LETHERN.

Witnesses:

W. J. FRANKS,
R. HERITAGE.