A. A. LETHERN.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 25, 1917.

1,301,421.

Patented Apr. 22, 1919.

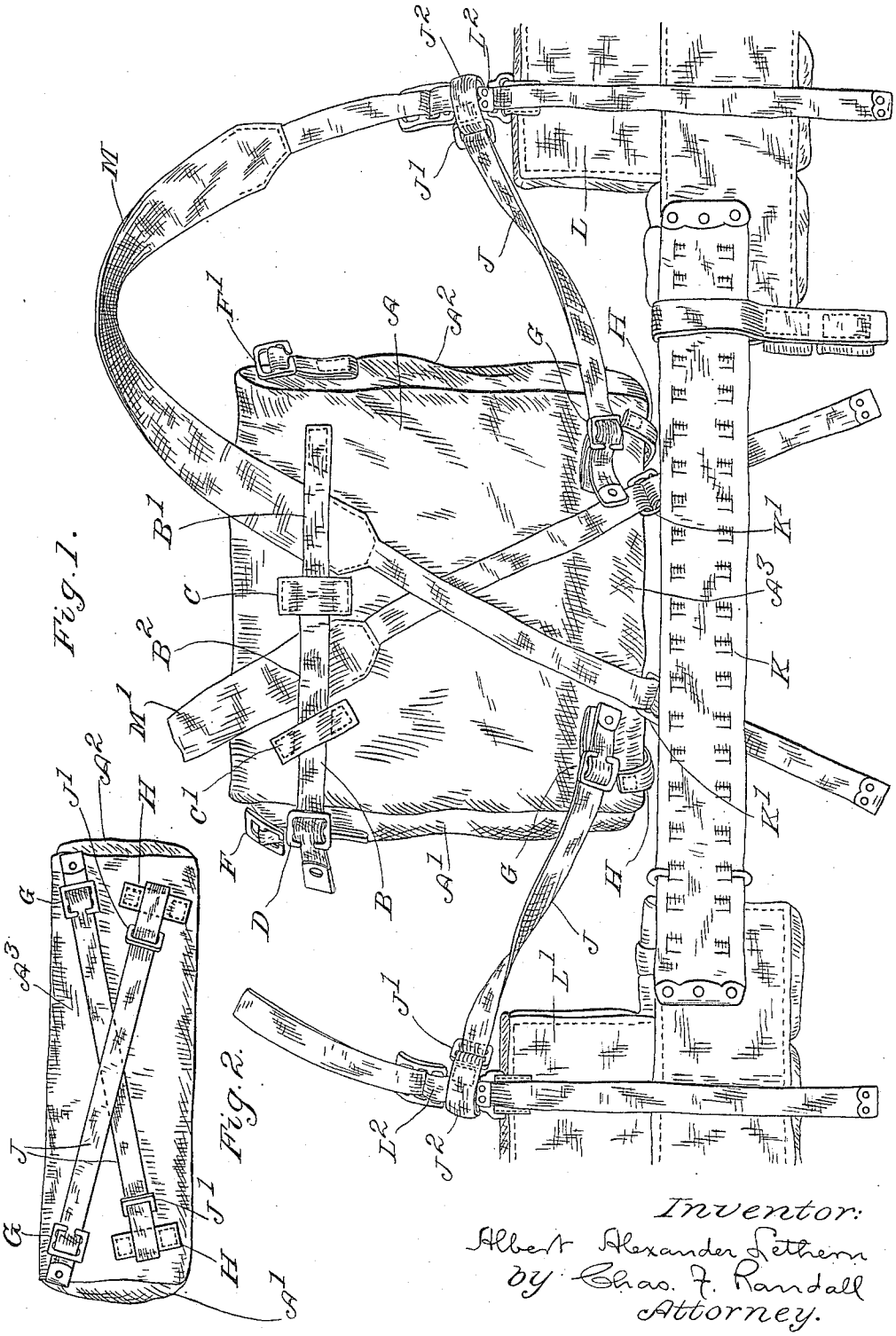


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Inventor:
Albert Alexander Lethern
by Chas. F. Randall
Attorney.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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

MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

1,301,421. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 22, 1919.

Application filed October 25, 1917. Serial No. 198,534.

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 has for its object to effect certain improvements in connection with the haversack with a view to enabling it to be carried on the back as an alternative to being slung at the side in the usual manner.

A haversack having the invention applied thereto may be used in conjunction with various types of military equipment comprising braces and a belt but it is more particularly intended for use with an equipment of the well-known type described in the specification of British Patent No. 23,586 of 1911. Such an equipment comprises a belt and crossed braces the ends of which are connected to the belt, the latter being composed of a back portion the ends of which are detachably connected to cartridge carrying or other equivalent members which form the front parts of the belt. The ends of the braces are pendant below the belt and serve for the attachment of a haversack, waterbottle, or other articles.

According to this invention a haversack which may be so constructed that it can be either slung in the ordinary manner by attaching it to the pendant ends of brace members, is so constructed that it may be mounted on the back and carried as a knapsack by passing the brace members through loops formed on the back or inner wall of the haversack, the bottom corners of which are connected by straps to intermediate points in the length of the braces.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the improved haversack as applied for example to one construction of military equipment. In these drawings,—

Figure 1 is an elevation of the equipment viewed from the inner side and showing the position of the haversack when carried on the back.

Fig. 2 is an underside view of the haversack showing the manner in which the lateral straps are disposed when not in use.

To the back or inner wall A of the haversack is attached one end of a strap B, the point of attachment being conveniently toward one side or end of the haversack and near one of the upper corners. This strap B extends horizontally across the back wall of the haversack and passes through two loops C and C′ suitably attached to the back of the haversack. The end of the strap B is engaged with a buckle D carried on one of the sides or ends A′ of the haversack. This buckle D is conveniently placed adjacent to the usual buckle F which together with a similar buckle F′ at the opposite end A^2 of the haversack is usually disposed toward the upper parts of these end portions so that these buckles may serve for the purpose of slinging the haversack from brace members in the ordinary manner. The horizontal strap B thus forms two loops B′, B^2, which lie respectively between the point of attachment of the end of the strap B and the fixed loop C and between the two fixed loops C and C′. On the bottom A^3 of the haversack and toward the back and ends thereof are mounted two buckles G and adjacent to these buckles G but disposed toward the outer part of the bottom A^3 there are two fixed loops H. Two separate straps J are provided, each of which carries at one end a flat metal or other ring or loop J′ so arranged that by passing the strap through its ring J′ a loop J^2 can be formed, the free end of the strap being then engaged with a buckle G.

The main equipment in the present case comprises a belt composed of a back portion K the ends of which are detachably and adjustably connected to two cartridge carriers L, L′. Two brace members M and M′ are arranged so that they cross at the back of the wearer, one end of the brace M being connected to the upper part of the cartridge carrier L while the other end of this brace is attached to the back portion K of the belt by means of a buckle K′. The other member M′ is similarly arranged, one end of it being attached to the upper part of the cartridge carrier L′ while the other end of this brace is connected by a buckle K′ to the back portion K of the belt. The four ends of the brace members are of such length that they all hang slightly below the back portion K of the belt and the bottom portions of the cartridge carriers L, L′, these pendant por-

tions of the braces serving for the attachment of various articles, such for example as the haversack when the ends of the braces are engaged with the buckles F, F', which as described are arranged at the upper parts of the sides A', A^2, of the haversack. Such an equipment, which is the subject of the British patent above mentioned, is well-known and extensively in use.

When it is desired to mount the improved haversack on the back so that it may be carried after the fashion of a knapsack, the horizontal strap B on the back of the haversack is disconnected from the buckle D and drawn out from the loops C, C'. The said strap B is then passed over or around the brace member M and again threaded through the fixed loop C and next passed over the brace member M' and threaded through the fixed loop C', the end of the strap B being finally passed through the buckle D whereby it is secured. The brace members M, M', thus pass through the flat loops B', B^2, formed by the strap B so that the brace members then lie and are retained closely against the back wall A of the haversack. Each strap J is now passed around a brace member at a point just above where this brace is attached to a cartridge carrier, the strap J being threaded through its ring J' and the loop J^2 so formed being drawn up closely on to the part of the brace member which it surrounds. The loop J^2 on the end of the strap J constitutes a firm connection to the brace member and may be prevented from shifting along this member by reason of a part of the strap J in forming the loop J^2 being passed between the short strap L^2 which extends from the top of the cartridge carrier, and the part of the brace member which after passing through the buckle on the end of the strap L^2 lies on the front side of this short strap. The free end of each strap J is then carried to one of the buckles G positioned toward the end of the bottom A^3 of the haversack, the end of the strap being passed through this buckle and thus secured in an adjustable manner. When the equipment with the haversack thus arranged is worn the weight of the haversack is carried partly by the brace members which are frictionally held in the loops B', B^2, but mainly the weight is carried by the straps J. The pull on these straps J resulting from the weight of the haversack is transmitted to the brace members M and M' at the intermediate points where the straps J are connected to these braces, but this pull is counteracted by the weight of the cartridge carriers L and L', which is distributed over the shoulders by the braces in the usual manner and partly balanced by the weight of the back portion of the belt to which the other ends of the braces are attached. In the result the haversack is caried in a manner which is comfortable to the wearer and without any tendency for it to drop down on the wearer's back.

When it is desired to sling the haversack by means of the buckles F, F', from the pendant ends of the brace members in the ordinary manner, the strap B is disengaged from the buckle D and withdrawn from the loops C, C', thus freeing it from the brace members. The strap B is then again threaded through the loops C, C', and the buckle D. The two straps J are disengaged from the buckles G and respectively drawn through their rings J' and disconnected from the brace members which they engage. Each strap is then passed through one of the fixed loops H on the bottom of the havesack and through its own ring J' the end of the strap being engaged with the buckle G at the diametrically opposite corner of the bottom A^3 of the haversack. The two straps J thus lie across each other on the bottom of the haversack, in the manner shown in Fig. 2, where they are neatly disposed and yet available for use when required.

Though as more particularly described and illustrated the front portion of the belt is formed by cartridge carriers L, L', it will be understood that as in known constructions of such equipment, for example where adapted for officer's use, other carrier members may be used in place of these cartridge pockets, such carrier members being adapted to contain field glasses, a revolver and cartridges therefor or first aid packets and other articles. Yet again in some cases the belt may be formed in one piece throughout its length with the braces M, M', connected thereto by buckles disposed toward the front ends of such a belt in the same way as these brace members are connected to the back portion of the belt. With either construction of equipment the improved haversack may be used and the straps J may be connected to the front portions of the brace members as in the manner described.

The several straps and loops are preferably constructed of woven material but other material such as leather may be employed in their construction if desired. While the rings J' are preferably formed of metal they may alternatively be constructed of loops of the same material of which the straps J are made. Other details of the construction and disposition of the parts may be modified as found desirable.

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. In a military equipment the combination with a cartridge-carrying or other belt, and crossed braces connected at their ends to the said belt, of a haversack having connected therewith a strap such as B arranged horizontally on the upper part of the back or inner wall so as to form two loops through which the braces are passed, and having also two detachable straps which run

from the bottom corners of the haversack to intermediate points in the length of the braces as set forth.

2. In a military equipment comprising a belt and crossed brace members connected to the back portion of the belt and to the front part of the belt or the upper parts of carrier members constituting the front portions of the belt, the combination with said crossed brace members, and a haversack having buckles on its bottom, of a strap attached at one end to the back or inner wall of the haversack toward one side and running through fixed loops on the haversack, the end of the strap being passed through a buckle, and two detachable straps each constructed to form a loop at one end adapted to engage a brace member at the front of the wearer and at some point in the length of the brace or near its point of attachment to a carrier member while the other end of the strap is passed through a buckle on the bottom of the haversack so as to transmit part of the weight of the haversack laterally to a brace member as set forth.

3. In a military equipment or the like, the combination with a haversack of means for retaining a pair of stay straps or the like when not in use, comprising a pair of loops H, H, mounted upon the haversack bottom at opposite corners of the latter and a pair of buckles G, G, applied to the remaining corners, whereby the said straps may be engaged with the said loops and buckles, crossing each other.

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

ALBERT ALEXANDER LETHERN.

Witnesses:
W. J. FRANKE,
R. HERITAGE.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."