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ROYAL NAVAL HANDBOOK OF FIELD TRAINING.

1926.

*By Authority of the Lords Commissioners of the
Admiralty.*

G.D. 3692/25.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2; York Street, Manchester;
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PART IX.

PISTOL DRILL AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

THE WEBLEY PISTOL, Mk. VI.

(Plate 41.)

1. ACTION OF THE MECHANISM, Etc.

- (a) By the trigger action for *Continuous Practice*.
- (b) By the cocking action for *Single Practice*.

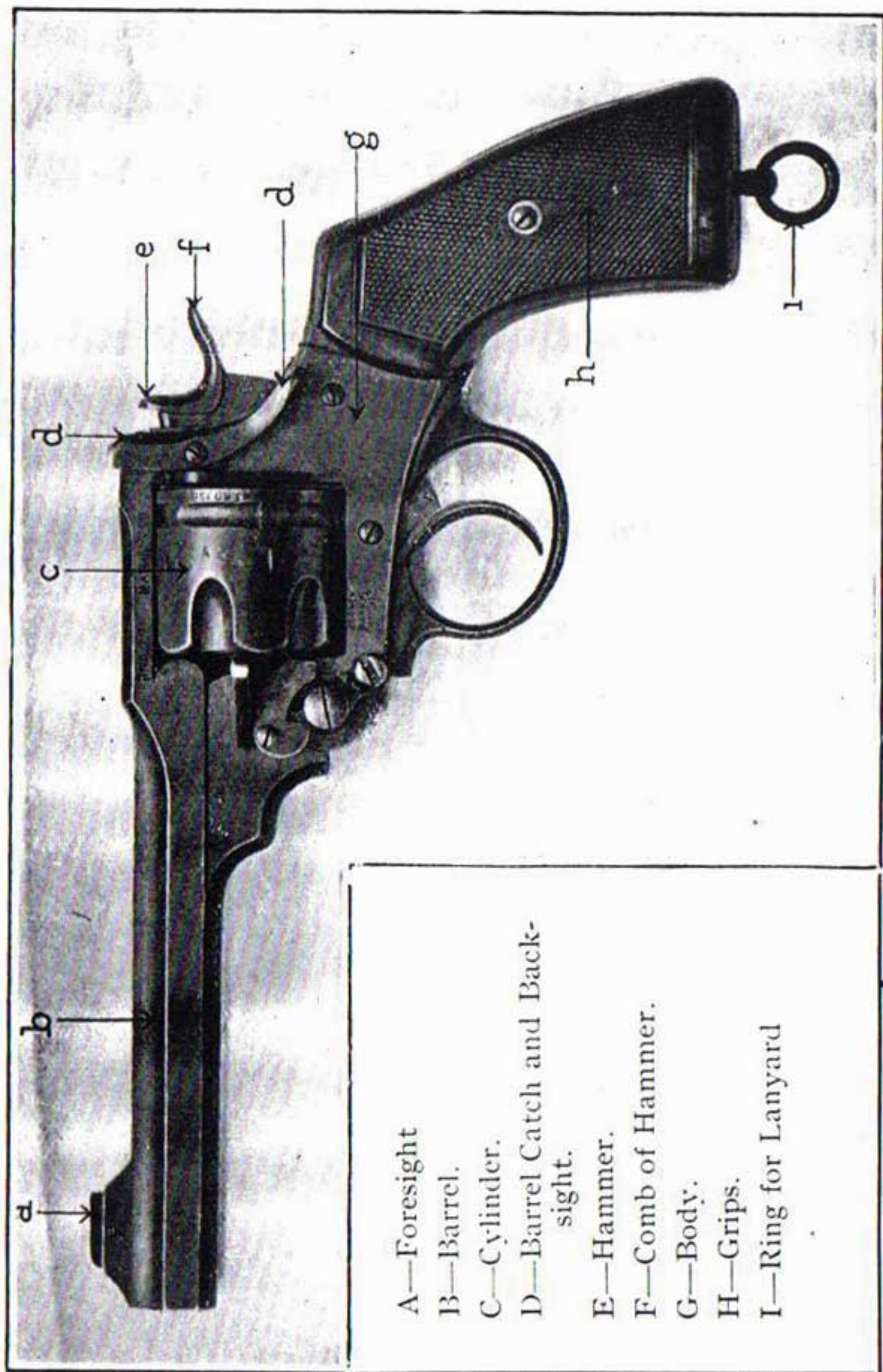
In both practices, after each shot, the trigger must be allowed to come back freely by releasing the forefinger as much as possible. As much greater accuracy can be obtained when firing single shots slowly than when firing all the chambers rapidly and continuously, the latter method should only be adopted on emergency.

The pistol is sighted to shoot accurately at 50 yards.

The pistol must be opened and closed gently, and only when the hammer is down. Neglect of this rule may result in :—

- (a) Burring the extractor lever and the body, which will cause faulty extraction and difficulty in loading.
- (b) Premature explosion.
- (c) Injury to the extremity of the pawl, from which may result partial failure of rotation of the cylinder; and the pawl may not give its assistance in holding the cylinder in the firing position.

Every part of the pistol must be kept perfectly clean, and for this purpose mineral jelly or rifle oil and flannel-ette only, will be used. The cleaning rod should be passed down the barrel from the muzzle, and through each of the chambers of the cylinder.



- A—Foresight
- B—Barrel.
- C—Cylinder.
- D—Barrel Catch and Back-sight.
- E—Hammer.
- F—Comb of Hammer.
- G—Body.
- H—Grips.
- I—Ring for Lanyard

Names of Parts of a Pistol (Webley Mark VI).



Position of " Ready " with the Pistol.

Whenever pistols are worn, lanyards are to be attached to the ring of the pistol and worn round the neck.

2. PISTOL DRILL.

<i>Quick Time.</i>	<i>Slow Time.</i>	
Ready.	Draw.	Draw the pistol with the right hand; holding it horizontal, and pointing to the left front, press the catch with the thumb of the right hand, and open the barrel with the left hand, turning it down as far as the stop; then pass the pistol into the left hand, holding it by the barrel, knuckles to the front, forefinger round the cylinder and thumb to the left of the cylinder. Cut away the right hand to the side.
	Load.	Place a cartridge in each chamber, replace the barrel by forcing up the butt, pass the pistol into the right hand, forefinger outside the trigger guard, and make a left incline, carrying the left foot back about 24 inches and placing the left hand on the hip. The pistol to be held at the full extent of the right arm and pointing well in front of the advanced foot.
	Full Cock.	<p><i>Notes.</i>—(i) Cartridges to be placed in the cylinder, commencing at 11 o'clock. Cylinder to be revolved to the left.</p> <p>(ii) This is the ready position.</p> <p>Force the hammer right back with the thumb of the hand holding the pistol.</p>

Note.—This is called the *Ready*. If the order **Ready** is given to men with pistols in the holster loaded, they will *Draw* and assume this position. (Plate 42.)

Fire.	Fire.	Align the foresight on the mark, through the notch on the breech. Place the forefinger round the trigger. As soon as correct aim is obtained, press the trigger until the hammer falls, and return to the <i>Ready</i> position. (Plate 43.)
	Recock.	Recock with the thumb of the hand holding the pistol.
	Fire.	As before.
	Re-Load.	Spring to <i>Attention</i> , turn to the front, make a right incline (in order to point the pistol down the range) and open the pistol as in <i>Draw</i> , to throw out the empty cylinders; then turn to the front and load as before detailed.
	Full-Cock.	<i>Note.</i> —When firing with the left hand, to reload, the right foot is to be brought up to left, and the pistol passed into the right hand; the procedure then is as laid down above.

Half Cock. Force back the hammer with the thumb of the disengaged hand. Then, lightly pressing the trigger, ease the hammer forward to the *Half Cock* position and return to the *Ready* position.

Stop. Half Cock and return the pistol to the holster.

Go On. Recommence firing at the same target as before.

Cease Firing. Reload and return the pistol to the holster.

Unload. Make a right incline. Draw the pistol from the holster, open the barrel carefully to prevent the extractor spring being released; then, holding the pistol by the barrel with the left hand, thumb inside the trigger guard, withdraw the unfired cartridges with



" Firing " Position with the Pistol.

the right hand, and return to the pouch; fully open and then replace the barrel, return the pistol to the holster, resume the position of attention, and turn to the front.

Stop. Unload. The pistols will be returned to the holsters unloaded.

Notes.—(i) Care is to be taken that all men are thoroughly conversant with pistol drill before they fire any rounds.

(ii) When aiming and firing, the butt should be firmly held, but without excessive pressure.

(iii) The order **Still** may be used to prevent an accident.

3. INSPECTION OF PISTOLS.

For inspection Draw the pistol and open the barrel, turning it down to the full extent;
—Draw. hold the pistol with the right hand on the stock, left hand on the barrel, and turn the cylinder to the front. After the officer has inspected the pistol, each man will replace the barrel, return the pistol, button the holster, and drop the hands to the sides.

4. PISTOL INSTRUCTION.

The sequence will be as follows, whenever possible :—

I. The squad will fall in with pistols in the holsters, or broken in the case of men without holsters.

II. The instructor will examine the pistols, which are then returned to the holster or kept broken.

III. The instructor will demonstrate and explain the correct and incorrect positions, while the squad *Stand at Ease*.

IV. Squad will perform the drill.

Note.—Men are always to break their pistols before aiming to ascertain that pistols are empty.

PISTOL ACCOUTREMENTS.

5. MILLS' WEB PISTOL EQUIPMENT.

Rucksack (Back-Adjustment Model), convertible into a Rifle Equipment.

The component parts of the equipment consist of the following :—

- (A) Waistbelt.
- (B) Cutlass Frog.
- (C) Brace Attachments (2).
- (D) Revolver Holster.
- (E) Ammunition Pouch.
- (F) Braces (1 left, 1 right).
- (G) Haversack.
- (H) Waterbottle Carrier.
- (I) Rucksack.

To convert the Pistol Equipment into a Rifle Equipment, the following parts are discarded :—

- (A) *Side-pieces* only of Waistbelt,
- (B) Cutlass Frog,
- (C) Brace Attachments,
- (D) Revolver Holster,
- (E) Ammunition Pouch,

and the following articles substituted :—

Cartridge Carriers (1 left, 1 right),
Bayonet Frog,
Intrenching Tool Carrier.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQUIPMENT.

(A) **Waistbelt.**—This is made of $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch webbing with thick selvedges, and has “flat loops” woven on the inside. It consists of 3 pieces, viz., right and left side pieces and a back piece for adjustment. The side pieces are provided with a belt buckle on the front ends, and double hooks on the rear ends; on the inside near the double hooks a loop is provided on each piece, to take the free ends of the back-adjustment piece. The

back-adjustment strap has two 3-bar 1-inch buckles on the outside, to take the rear ends of the braces; the ends are finished with metal pieces eyeletted to the fabric.

The back-adjustment model necessitates only one size of waistbelt as the adjustment strap is of such a length that the belt can be adjusted to fit large as well as small waists.

(B) **Cutlass Frog.**—This consists of a loop to slip on the waistbelt, and a body fitted with two horizontal loops. The scabbard is inserted and pushed through until the stud on the outside comes between the two loops.

(C) **Brace Attachments.**—These are interchangeable. They are provided with a "gate" slide for attachment to the belt. A piece of double webbing is attached to the top of the slide carrying a ring; to this ring a 4-bar curved buckle is attached by a piece of webbing. The buckles serve for the attachment of the front ends of the braces and the rucksack shoulder straps' hooks; the rings allow the free ends of the braces to pass down on the inside of the belt.

(D) **Revolver Holster.**—This is woven to a size to fit the revolver easily. The end of the barrel-tube is provided with a block to protect the fore sight. A large flap is provided with a snap fastener for closing. On the back two double hooks are attached, which engage the flat loops on the inside of the belt. The holster is lined with smooth material, to allow the revolver to be drawn and returned easily.

(E) **Ammunition Pouch.**—This is a woven box-shaped pocket, of substantial weave. It is provided with a covering flap having a snap fastener. A double-hook is attached to each end of the pocket to engage the flat loops on the inside of the belt. Across the top corners of the pocket, small flaps are provided to prevent loose ammunition working out.

(F) **Braces.**—These are made of 1-inch webbing, broadening out to double width in the centre to form a wide bearing-surface on the shoulders. One brace has a loop sewn on the inside at the rear near to the broad part, through which the other brace passes; this connection prevents the braces from slipping off the shoulders.

(G) **Haversack.**—This is a rectangular shaped bag, having gusseted sides. The lid is closed by two $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch straps and buckles, and on each side a 1-inch buckle is provided to which the ends of the braces, which extend below the belt on the left side of the equipment, are attached. The haversack is provided with straps to enable it to be carried on the back in "fighting-order"; viz., a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch horizontal strap is attached on the back at the top which passes underneath two web loops properly spaced and engages a buckle on the right side; on the bottom a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch buckle is attached to each of the back corners, and a loop in each of the front corners. These loops and buckles on the bottom serve to retain two $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch straps when the haversack is worn on the side, and when worn on the back the buckles serve for adjustment of the straps.

(H) **Waterbottle Carrier.**—This consists of a skeleton framework in which the waterbottle is inserted and secured by a retaining strap having a snap fastener. The carrier is fitted with two buckles for attachment to the ends of the braces extending below the waist-belt on the right side of the equipment.

(I) **Rucksack.**—This is a large rectangular bag, having sides with weather flaps. Five narrow straps are provided around the rucksack, two on each side and one on top, to enable the blanket and waterproof sheet to be carried in the form of a roll outside the rucksack, all the small articles of the kit being carried in the bag. A 1-inch strap is attached to the outside of the lid for securing mess-tin in cover, but this article may be carried inside the rucksack if there is sufficient room.

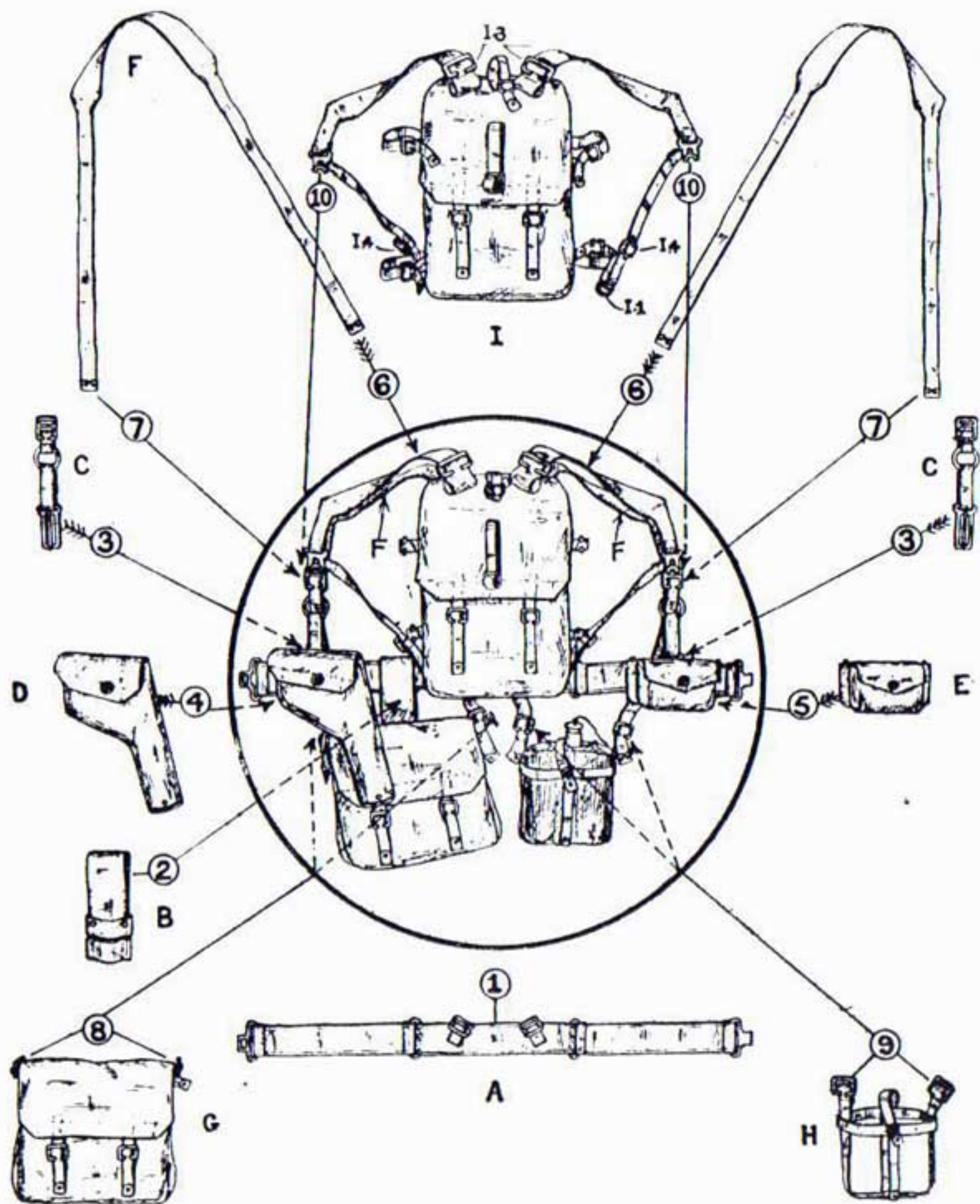


Fig. 1 — Pistol Equipment—Outside.

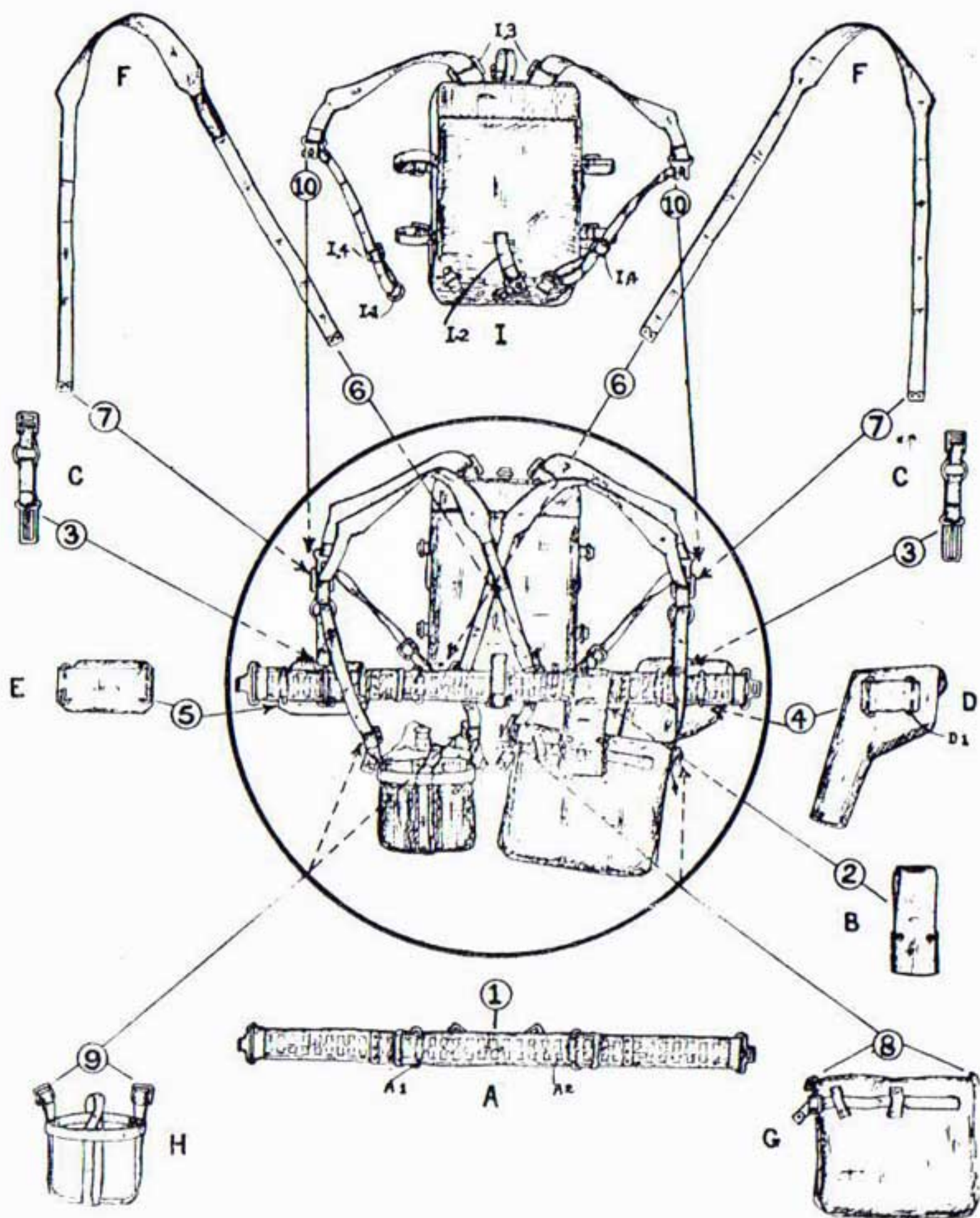


Fig. ii.—Pistol Equipment—Inside

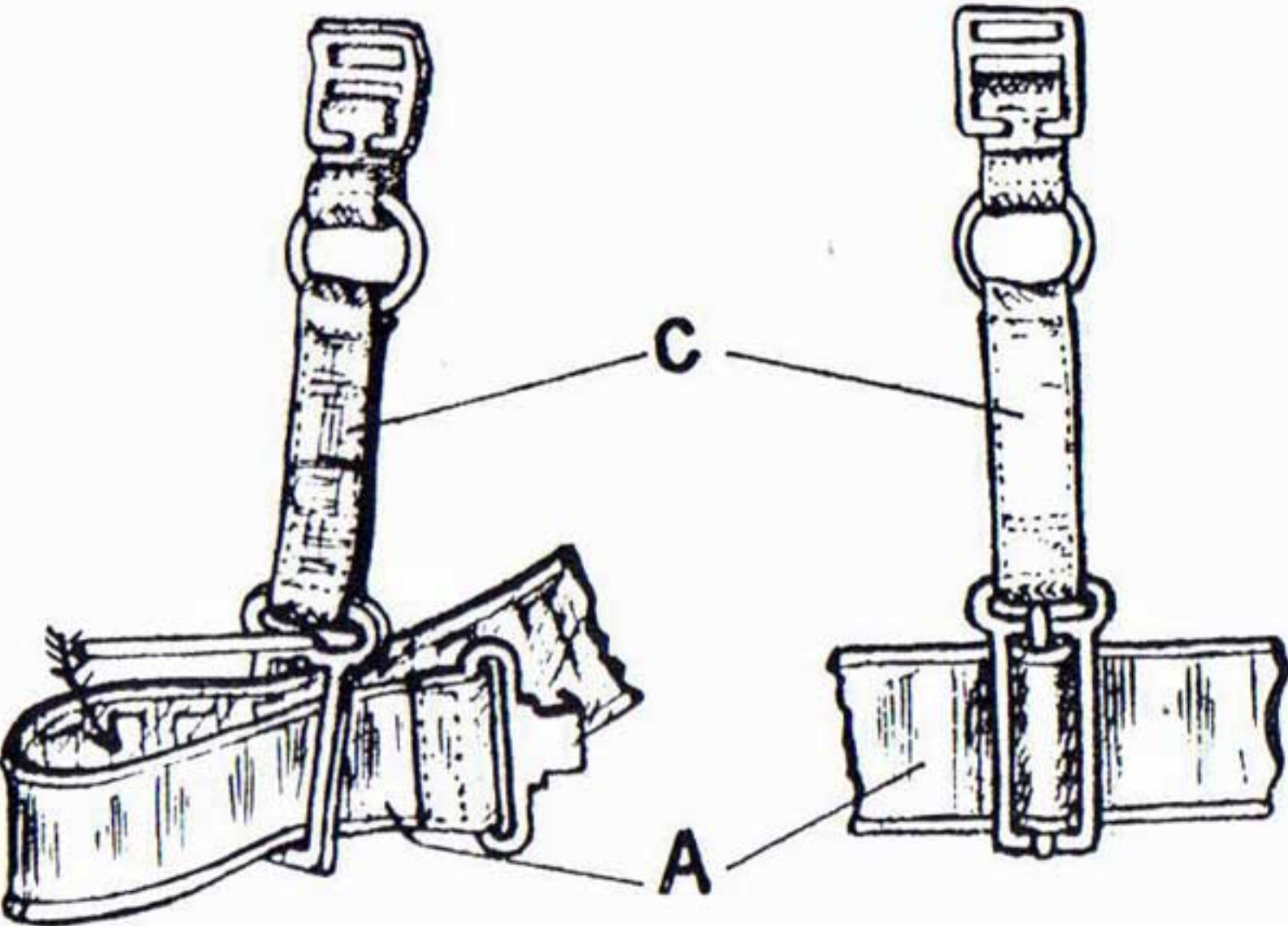


Fig. iii.—*Pistol Equipment.*

The rucksack is carried and attached to the rest of the equipment by means of shoulder-straps, broadened similar to the braces, adjustable through buckles at the top and having hooks on the narrow ends to engage in the "D's" of the buckles on top of the brace attachments or cartridge carriers.

Narrow "diagonal straps," adjustable through buckles, run from these hooks to the bottom of the rucksack, the left diagonal being permanently fixed by a metal "D," and the right being connected by means of a smaller metal "D" to a hook, which latter fitting is attached to the bottom of the bag.

On the back of the rucksack near the bottom is a short strap having a key-hole fitting which engages a stud placed in the centre of the bottom of the bag. This strap is passed around the belt, to prevent movement of the rucksack when running.

METHOD OF ASSEMBLING.

(Plate 44.)

- | | Order of
Assembling. |
|---|-------------------------|
| (A) Waistbelt. —Adjust to fit waist comfortably tight, by inserting hooks (A 1) into woven loops on inside of back piece (A 2). (<i>See Fig. ii</i>) - - - | 1 |
| N.B.—Adjustment must be made each side equally. | |
| (B) Cutlass Frog. —Slide on left end of waist-belt, so that it will hang, when the belt is put on, upon the left hip - - - - - | 2 |
| (C) Brace Attachments (pair).—Attach to waistbelt (A) as shown in Fig. iii, so that when worn they will come in a direct line with the shoulders - - - - - | 3 |
| (D) Revolver Holster. —Attach to left side of waistbelt (A), inserting hooks (D 1) into corresponding loops woven inside waistbelt - - - | 4 |

(E) **Ammunition**.—Attach to right side of waistbelt (A) in a similar manner to the revolver holster (D) - - - - - 5

(F) **Braces** (pair).—Attach rear ends to buckles on back of waistbelt (A) so that they extend about 6 inches (on an average) below waistbelt - - - 6

Pass front ends through centre opening of buckles on top of brace attachments (B) allowing sufficient "free end" to extend below waistbelt about 6 inches (on an average). Secure to buckles and pass through ring on brace attachment (C) - 7

N.B.—All four ends of Braces to extend below waistbelt equally.

(G) **Haversack**.—Secure brace ends on left side of equipment to buckles on sides of haversack 8

(H) **Waterbottle Carrier**.—Attach buckles on sides to brace ends on right side of equipment - 9

The equipment is now put on.

(I) **Rucksack**.—Put on separately by taking hold of left shoulder strap with right hand and slinging on to left shoulder. The right shoulder strap is grasped by right hand, passed over right shoulder, and the metal "D" (I.1) slipped over hook on bottom corner.

The hooks on shoulder straps are finally attached to the top bar of buckles on brace attachments (C), thus keeping shoulder straps clear of arm pits - - - - - 10

To prevent movement of rucksack, the small strap with keyhole slot (I.2) can be passed around waistbelt and slipped over stud in bottom of rucksack.

Note.—The shoulder straps and narrow "diagonal" straps should be so adjusted through their respective buckles (I 3 and I 4) as to allow the rucksack to be carried on a level with the



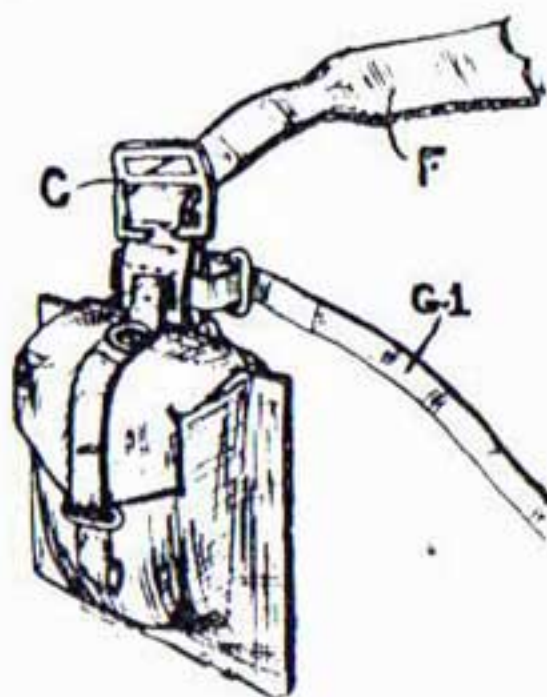
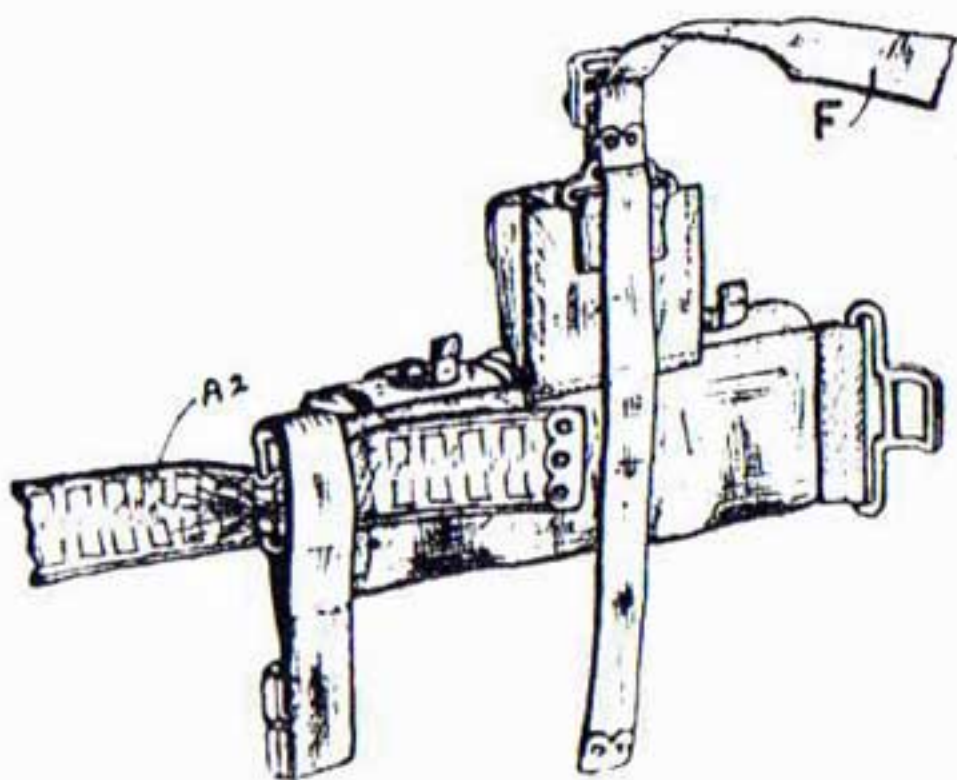
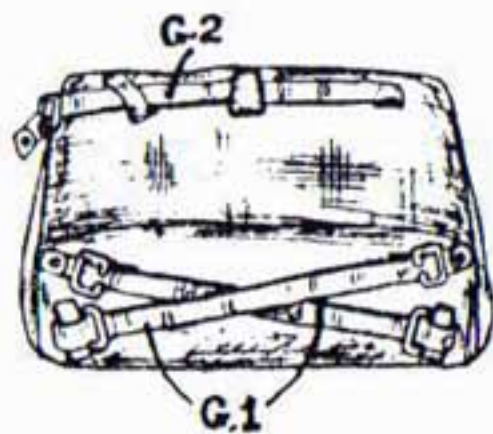
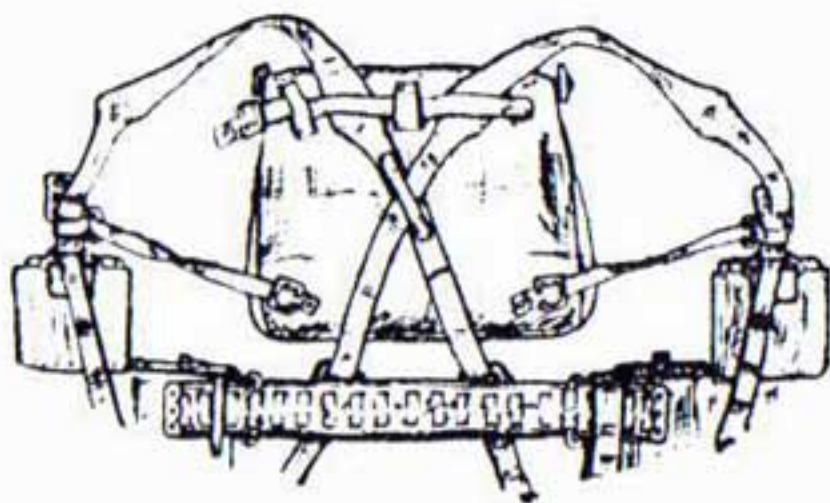
Pistol Equipment—Front View.



Pistol Equipment—Side view.



Pistol Equipment—Back view.




Pistol Equipment:—Instructional Drawing.

lower edge of the waistbelt and close against shoulders. The diagonal straps should be adjusted fairly tightly, thus supporting and balancing the rucksack.

Plate 45. Pistol equipment (front view).

Plate 46. Pistol equipment (side view).

Plate 47. Pistol equipment (back view, showing waterproof sheet and blanket attached to rucksack).

Point of Attachment shown thus - 

Direction shown thus - 

Order of Assembling shown thus - (1), (2) &c.

TO CARRY HAVERSACK ON BACK IN PLACE OF RUCKSACK.

(Plate 48.)

Lay equipment on ground, detach straps (G.1) from bottom of haversack (where they are retained when haversack is worn on side), pass round brace attachments (C) (just below buckle), through the metal loop and pull tightly. The straps are now attached to buckles on bottom corners. Unfasten narrow strap (G.2) and pull out of loops. Pass the strap (G.2) over braces and through loops alternately, finally securing to small buckle on side of haversack.

Note.—The straps (G. 1) should be so adjusted that when worn they support the haversack, the top of the haversack merely being held against back by means of the strap (G. 2). (See Plate 49.)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTICLES REQUIRED FOR CONVERTING THE PISTOL EQUIPMENT INTO A RIFLE EQUIPMENT.

(Plates 48, 49 and 50.)

Cartridge Carriers (120 rounds).—These, connected to the back-adjustment strap of the 3-piece belt, form the cartridge belt. Each carrier has four pockets, one pocket

being situated above three. Each pocket is made to contain 15 rounds in three clips, each clip being separated by a partition. All the pockets have lids of thick material, each having a strap fastening for the prevention of loss of ammunition. On the front ends of the cartridge carriers a belt buckle is attached, and on the rear ends double hooks are provided to engage the back-adjustment strap.

Each carrier has a buckle attached to the top to take the front ends of the braces, the buckles having an extra opening at the top to form a "D" for the attachment of the rucksack.

Narrow web loops are provided on the inside of the carriers at the rear ends to take the spare ends of the back-adjustment strap.

In the rear end of the left cartridge carrier a fastener stud is provided to engage a socket in the suspension loop of the bayonet frog.

Bayonet Frog.—This has a loop for suspending on the rear end of the left cartridge carrier, it being secured thereto by the socket in the suspension loop engaging the stud in the rear end of the carrier. The bayonet is passed through the two loops at the bottom, the stud on the scabbard coming out between the two loops. The loop at the top of the frog is passed over the hilt to prevent undue swinging of the bayonet when marching.

Intrenching Tool Carrier.—This is in the form of a flat tapered bag, enabling the head part of the tool to be carried in an upright position. It is lined with a fine canvas so as to allow the tool-head to be put in and taken out of the carrier easily. A metal "cup" is placed in the bottom of the carrier, which takes all the weight of the tool head, the pick part resting in this cup. Two buckles are placed on the back of the carrier for suspension from the ends of the braces on the right side of the equipment. Two loops are also provided on the right side of the tool carrier for carrying the helve. A short tab is fixed in the centre of the carrier on the outside,



Conversion of Pistol Equipment into Rifle Equipment.



Conversion of Pistol Equipment into Rifle Equipment.

to which is fastened the buckle at the bottom of the waterbottle carrier.

The waterbottle carrier for use with the intrenching tool carrier is exactly the same as in the pistol equipment, except that it has a buckle at the bottom to engage the short tab on the tool carrier.

Rifle Equipment.—To convert pistol equipment, parts A (side-pieces only), B, C, D and E are discarded, and a pair of cartridge carriers, bayonet frog and intrenching tool carrier, are substituted. Cartridge carriers are attached to back-adjustment strap; tool carrier to ends of braces on right side, with bottle carrier on outside.

Plate 49. Front view, full marching order.

Plate 50. Side view, showing position of haversack on back in place of rucksack and how diagonal straps clear arm-pits.

