NOTE ON THE NEW AMERICAN INFANTRY EQUIPMENT.

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The carrying receptacle of this equipment marks a departure from the generally recognized type of haversack or knapsack. It consists of two flat-shaped pieces of olive-green canvas bound with braid, capable of being converted into a bag of varying dimensions.

Fig. 1.

The larger rectangular piece, measuring 16 in. by 20 in. when packed with rations and necessaries, forms the knapsack proper and will be referred to as such. On its upper border is a short flap, on the outside of which is laced a canvas pocket for the mess tin. Three web straps, placed laterally, fasten to tongueless buckles on the opposite side thus closing the sack (see fig. 1). Attachable to the lower border by a leather coupling strap is what
is known as the "pack-carrier," in shape a truncated cone, the apex downwards ending in two peaks, each carrying a small metal D. Secured in this by two web straps engaging in tongueless buckles are carried, in a bundle, the blanket, poncho, and shelter tent portion.

Braces or suspenders are sewn diagonally to the upper border of the knapsack. These are made of canvas 3\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. wide where they cross the shoulder and pass under the axilla. It is claimed that this breadth under the effect of tensile strain will cause the edges to turn up or curl, and thus present a curved surface conforming to the part of the body under pressure. Their free ends carry a swivel for attachment to the D's on the pack-carrier or knapsack when the former is discarded. At the level of the axilla in front an adjustable web strap is sewn to the under surface of the brace, this carries a hook which engages in one of the

![Diagram showing rations, &c., in position.](image)
numerous eyelet-holes along the upper edge of the belt. Further, there is attached to the centre of the knapsack at the back an adjustable web strap, also carrying a hook which connects the knapsack to the belt behind.

Attached to the middle of the interior of the knapsack is a long piece (24 in.) of canvas, 7½ in. broad, which is for wrapping round the contents of the knapsack and securing them in position. On each edge about the centre of the strip is a D to which is attached the brace swivel when the pack-carrier and contents have been removed (see fig. 2).

![Fig. 3.—To show the position of the belt.](image)

The belt, made of webbing, in breadth 2½ in., only differs from that of the 1908 equipment in that its length adjustment is at the back, and that it has one more cartridge pouch on it. It is worn well down over the hip bones on the side and below the pit of the stomach in front (see fig. 3).
To the belt are attached the water-bottle and first field dressing pouch. The entrenching tool is secured to the outside of the knapsack in a vertical position and the bayonet scabbard is attached to the right-hand top corner of it. All these articles are attached by what is called the "double hook attachment," and provision is made for attaching scabbard and entrenching tool to the belt if necessary.

The hook is constructed so as to enter and bear equally upon two adjoining eyelet-holes, the swinging motion to the front and rear being thereby entirely eliminated, and the attachment being broad and short admits of secure fastening, and the lateral motion is reduced to practically a negligible quantity. The character of the hooks at both ends is such as to admit of ready attachment to, or disengagement from, the belt or other place of attachment, but still insures absolutely against loss.

The water-bottle is a great improvement on that of 1908. It is flask-shaped, made of aluminium and seamless, with a capacity of 24½ oz., and closed by a screw top secured by a chain. The bottom is flat and a cup fits over the lower end. The nested water bottle and cup are carried in a canvas felt-lined receptacle; this cover is closed and fixed in position by two turn screws.

To pack the knapsack the six packages of rations and necessaries

Fig. 4.—Equipment packed ready for wear.
are arranged in two layers, their lower edge on the line of attachment of the inside flap, which is folded over them. The lateral sides of the knapsack are in their turn folded over and secured by the upper two binding straps. The "pack" (blanket, poncho, and shelter tent portion tightly rolled), a bundle more or less cylindrical, some 20 in. long and from 6 to 8 in. in diameter, is inserted into

![Fig. 5.—Back view of equipment in position.](image1)

![Fig. 6.—Side view of equipment in position.](image2)

the "pack-carrier" and pushed up into the lower part of the knapsack, being secured in position by the two web straps of the "carrier." The short flap carrying mess tin and entrenching tool is turned down over all, and the lower binding strap of the knapsack secures the handle of the entrenching tool in a vertical position.

When the "pack-carrier," with contents, is coupled to the
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loaded knapsack, we have a compact and semi-rigid bundle, the component parts of which are readily separable. By simply withdrawing the coupling strap the "pack-carrier" can be detached, this containing what are called the "non-essentials" leaves the man with the essential part of his kit (see fig. 4).

The complete pack reaches from the level of the shoulders to a point from three to five inches below the waist line. This bundle is held in a vertical position on the back by means of the braces. The loaded belt in front is the counter-balance, and the short strap at the back hooked to the belt serves to steady the load. The load thus hangs from the shoulders and conforms to the general line of the spine, a portion of its weight being taken up by friction and being roughly cylindrical in shape presents a minimum of surface in contact with the back and shoulders (see figs. 5 and 6).

It is claimed that when the soldier seats himself all pressure and weight is at once removed from the body.

The new equipment packed weighs about 41 1/2 lb., a saving of some 5 1/2 lb. compared with the old, although ten extra rounds of ammunition are carried. Removal of the "pack-carrier" and contents reduces the weight to 32 lb., this is called the "normal equipment."

The description and photographs are from an actual set of this equipment in the Museum of the Royal Army Medical College. Details as to packing and method of wearing have been obtained from the Journal of the United States Infantry Association, September and November, 1910.