

Most if not all this equipment would be taken on service by a soldier. It comes as no surprise that even before the Army reached the Crimea things were being 'modified'. Writing from Varna on 2 June 1854, Sgt. W. McMillan<sup>(2)</sup> of the Coldstream Guards writes: 'We have done away with a great many unnecessarys since we have been out here. We only carry two shirts, two pairs of boots, two pairs of socks, two pairs of trousers, one red jacket, one pair of draws — it was impossible to carry all the things we brought out here with us the weight was nearly 80 pounds and what man could march with such a load on him. We have quite enough now with our Greatcoat, blanket, belt, firelock and sixty rounds of ammunition besides our bearskin cap.'

On 15 August McMillan writes: 'March tomorrow and our knapsacks are to be carried for us so that is one blessing.' And the day after: 'We marched this morning at 6.00 and our knapsacks were carried for us.' Small wonder that on 11 September an order was issued for the knapsacks to be left on board ship when the army landed in the Crimea. They were to carry a pair of boots, a pair of socks, a cotton shirt and the forage cap folded inside a blanket. The blanket together with the greatcoat and mess tins were to be carried by means of the knapsack straps.

It is my intention here to give a complete description and illustrated record of these pieces of equipment, without giving any opinions as to design or serviceability. The information is primarily intended for anyone wishing to reproduce this kit.

### NOTES ON THE SCALE DRAWINGS

The pack and contents consist of: the knapsack; two buff leather carrying straps; one set (3 pieces) of mess ('D') tins complete with cover; one holdall in brown leather.

#### Figure 1

Fig. 1/1 shows the rear of the pack, the face visible from the

rear when it is worn by the soldier. The knapsack is made of fine natural-coloured canvas, double thickness on the top, bottom, sides and flaps, single thickness on the rear face. All the exterior canvas is painted a glossy black. The corners are reinforced with black leather, stitched at six

and a half stitches to the inch. Both the metal fittings on the top of knapsack proper are of blackened steel.

Fig. 1/2. The Royal Cypher (Regimental Badge of the Grenadier Guards) is painted on the pack in yellow, red, white and black; it is 6in. high overall. All of the Royal

Cypher is painted in yellow except the following parts: the cushion in the crown and the backing disk to the 'VR' are in red, slightly vermilion in colour. The pearls and ermine in the crown are in white. The ermine and other crown details are highlighted in black.

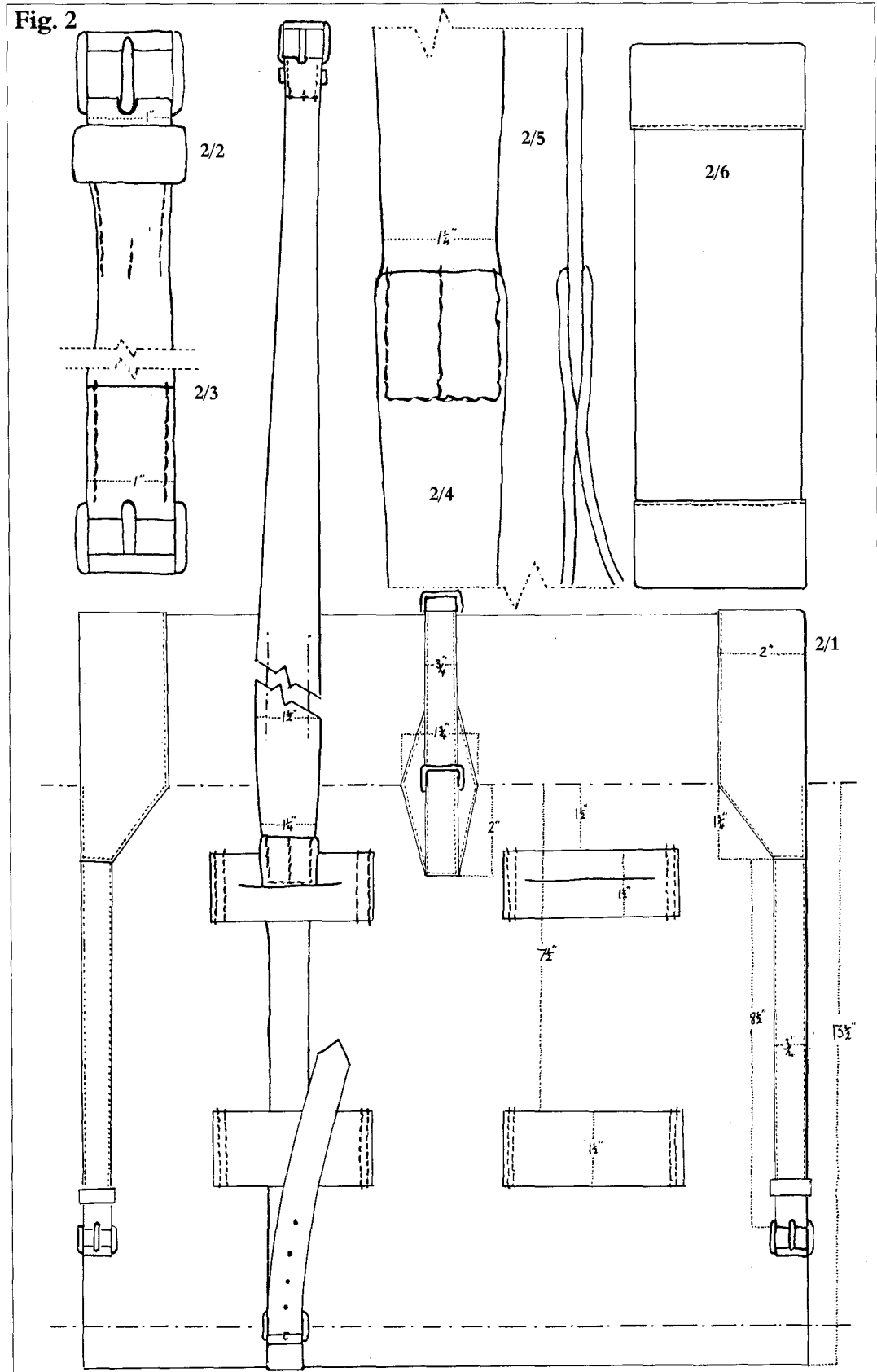
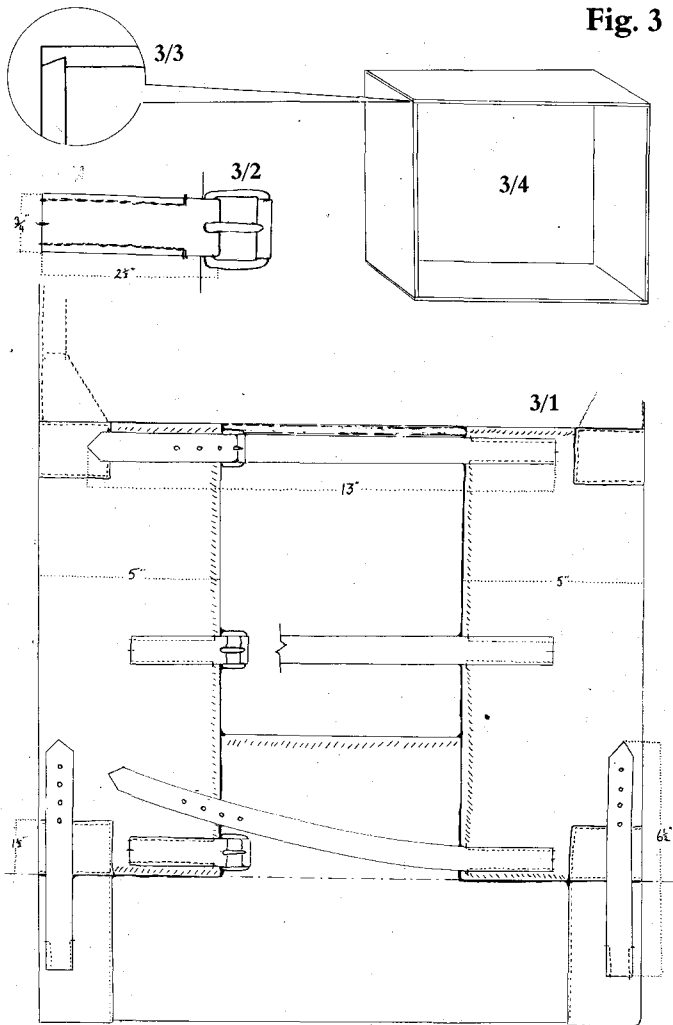


Fig. 3



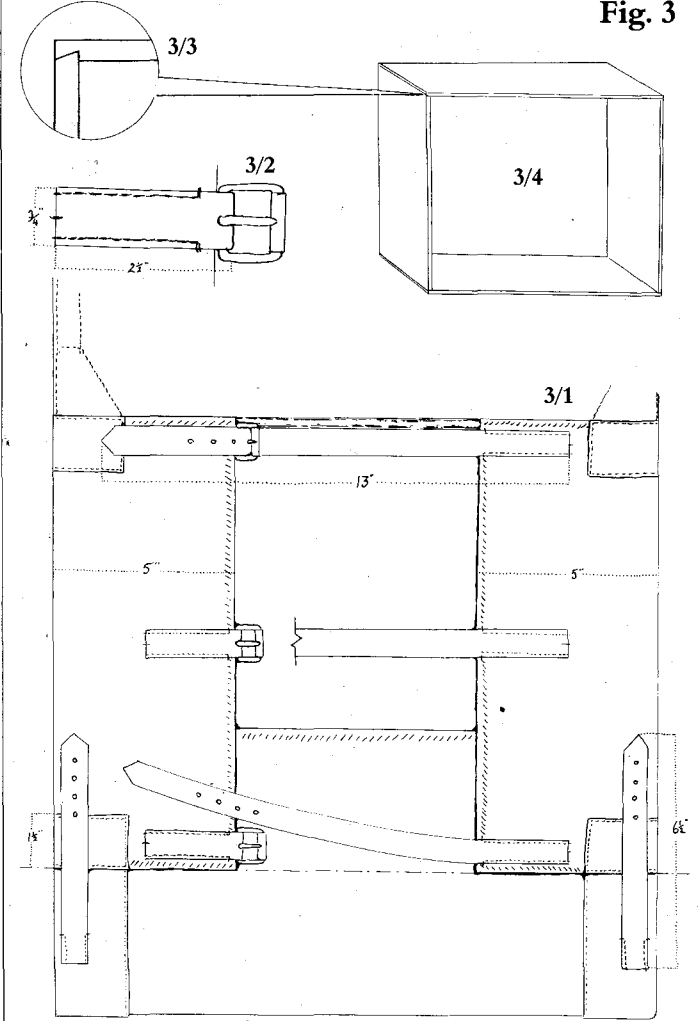


Fig. 3

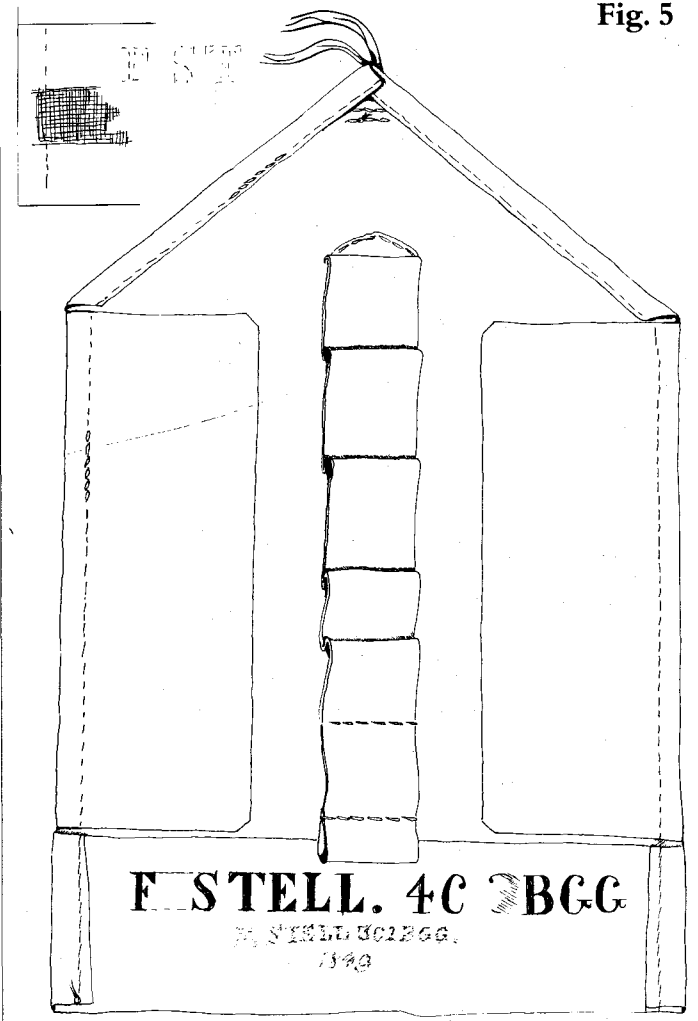


Fig. 5

**Figure 2**  
 Fig. 2/1 shows the front and top of the pack (the front is the face resting against the soldier's back when being worn). The black-painted flap overlaps at the base and is secured by two blackened steel buckles. Four pieces of black leather are quite crudely stitched onto this flap to retain the buff leather pack straps. They appear to be a later addition and are probably there to help the pack sit more securely on the back. Stell's name, etc., are on the centre of this flap approximately 3 or 4in. from the top. They are so heavily covered with blacking as to make them very difficult to read. The buff leather straps are well worn, and slightly stretched and misshapen. The stitching is quite large and crude and some of the holes appear to be home made. One of the buff leather straps is shown fastened to the pack. The greatcoat/blanket straps are missing. A similar example in the National Army

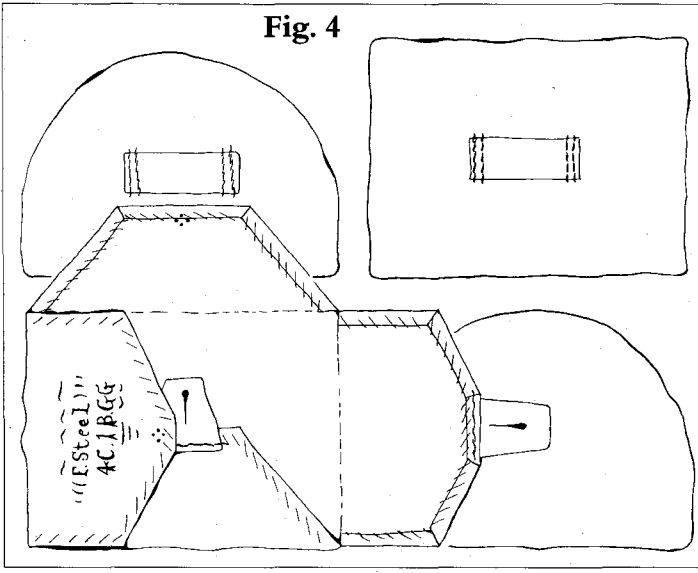


Fig. 4

Museum has straps 22.5in. long fastening to the pack straps by blackened metal sliders. Many contemporary illustrations show no chest strap.  
 Fig. 2/2. This shows the brass buckle at the end of the buff shoulder strap.  
 Fig. 2/3 shows the brass buckle at the end of the buff strap that encircles the pack.

Figs. 2/4 & 2/5 show the joining of the buff straps in plan and section.  
 Fig. 2/6 shows the side of the pack.  
**Figure 3**  
 Fig. 3/1 shows the interior and bottom of the pack as would be visible if the front flap were lifted. All the straps are of buff leather and buckles of blackened steel. The edges of the

flaps are turned back and overstitched. The sides, top and bottom of the pack are held rigid by four wooden planks approximately 1/4in. thick.  
 Fig. 3/2 shows one of the buckles and fittings.  
 Fig. 3/3 shows an end section of the joint between two of the planks, as shown in Fig. 3/4.  
**Figure 4**  
 This shows the black-painted cover for the 'D' tins. The leather tabs with button holes are brown and the buttons are missing. The lettering is painted on in a pink colour. The cover fits snugly around the 'D' tins.  
**Figure 5**  
 This shows the inside of the leather holdall. It is made out of tan-coloured (calf) leather approximately 1 to 1.5mm thick. There is no finish to it. It is stitched with natural linen thread, five and a half stitches to the inch. The lace is made out of natural-coloured linen tape half an inch wide when flat. The large letters are

*Exterior views of the knapsack.*

