

O. E. Woods,  
Accouterments.

N<sup>o</sup> 54,807.

Patented May 15, 1866.

Fig. 1.

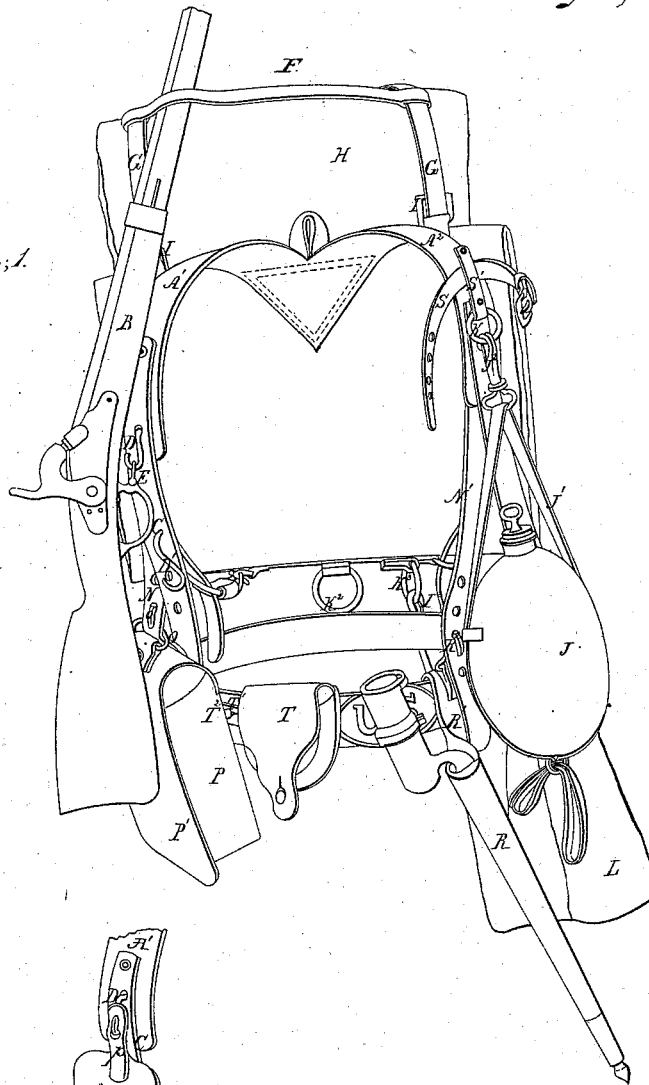
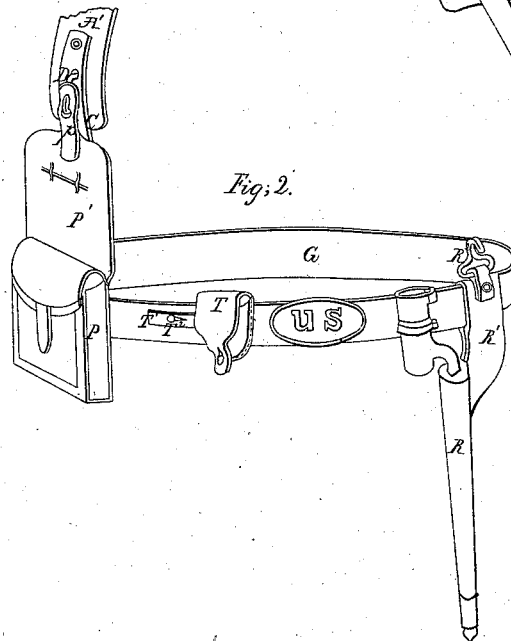


Fig. 2.



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# O. E. Woods Accouterments.

N<sup>o</sup> 54,804.

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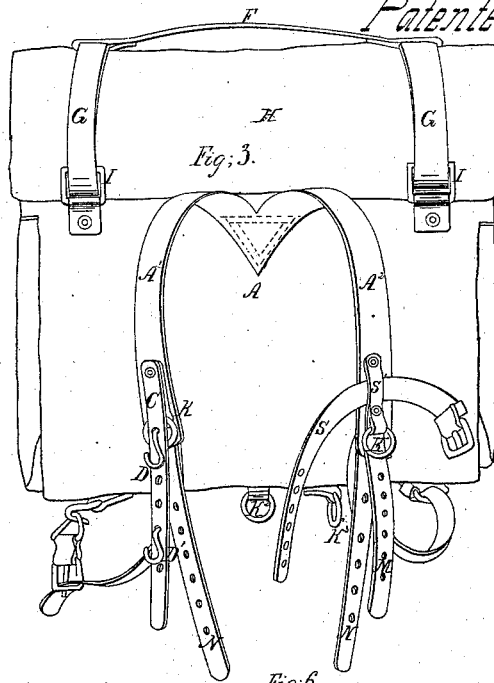
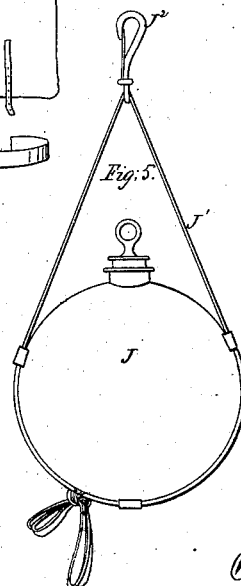
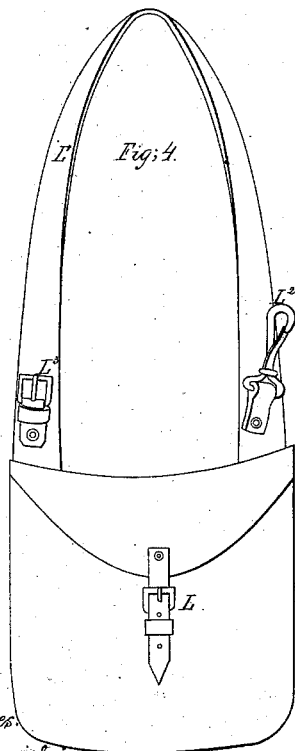
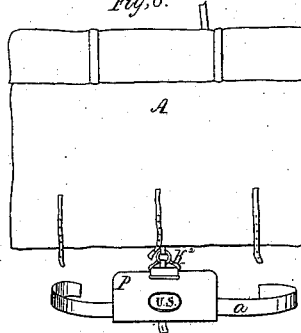


Fig. 6.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIVER E. WOODS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SLINGING ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 54,807, dated May 15, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, OLIVER EVANS WOODS, of the city and county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Slinging Arms, Equipage, and Accouterments; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the nature, construction, and operation of the same, sufficient to enable one skilled in the art to which the invention appertains to fully understand and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which are made part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a front view, illustrating the several parts in a position which they may occupy when applied to the person. Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are detached views explanative of the several features to be hereinafter more particularly referred to.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention relates to the method of slinging the gun, bayonet, cartridge-box, and canteen, and to the appliances for adjusting the equipage carried upon the knapsack. The particulars and advantages will be understood from the following description.

A represents the knapsack, and B the gun. The knapsack and the straps A' A<sup>2</sup>, by which it is applied to the person, are in themselves similar to the regulation knapsack, or that now employed in the service of the United States.

C is a strap, made fast at one end, by riveting or otherwise, to the right shoulder-strap A' of the knapsack.

D D' are hooks fixed into the strap C, and each adapted to receive the sling-loop E of the musket.

F is a strap, the looped ends of which embrace the straps G G, whereby the blanket H, shelter-tent, or other equipage may be secured upon the knapsack.

When the gun is to be carried upon the shoulder in a manner approximating to the right-shoulder shift, or with the barrel in an obliquely-vertical position, the weight of the piece may be made to devolve upon either of the hooks D D', according as the gun is carried in a higher or lower position, and in either case the barrel may be passed between the strap F and the blanket H, or, in the absence of the latter or other equipage, the barrel is thrust

between the strap F and the knapsack itself. The object in thus supporting the gun—that is to say, by hitching the sling-loop E upon one of the hooks D D' and retaining the barrel beneath the straps F—is twofold: First, the weight of the gun is made to wholly or partially counterpoise the knapsack and that which may be secured thereto; second, the soldier's hands are made free, as the gun will need no attention when thus supported. If preferred, the gun may be carried without using the hands and without passing the barrel under strap F by simply hooking the sling-loop upon one of the hooks D D', and when the gun is sustained by the lower hook, D', its position may be reversed—that is, it may be carried after the manner of "secure arms." The hooks may be hitched to any convenient part of the mountings instead of to the sling-loop E. The strap F is attached in the manner shown by means of its looped ends, in order that it may be shifted to suit the requirements of each particular circumstance.

I I represent blind buckles or loops attached at about the juncture of the front and top of the knapsack. The straps G, which secure the blanket H upon the knapsack, pass through the buckles I I, and may thereby be made to retain the blanket or other equipage in a forward position close to the neck. This feature of the invention is deemed important, for the weight of the equipage upon the knapsack, being kept forward of the center of the knapsack, causes the weight to devolve more strictly upon the shoulders, and give a steadiness and compactness which are conducive to the comfort of the soldier; whereas by the ordinary arrangement, when the only point of attachment of the blanket-straps is at the center of the knapsack the latter, under the various motions of the body, is liable to sway back and forth, thus subjecting the soldier to constant jerking and thumping actions, which soon produce exhaustion and impair the health.

J represents the canteen, the strap J' of which is provided with a hook, J<sup>2</sup>, by which it may be suspended from either of the rings K K' K<sup>2</sup> K<sup>3</sup>, or to various parts of the knapsack. The canteen and its appurtenances are shown detached in Fig. 5.

L (see Fig. 4) represents the haversack, which has the ordinary strap L', in order that it may be carried independently or detached

from the other equipage. To adapt it to be slung to the equipage it is provided with a hook,  $L^2$ , and buckle  $L^3$ , the hook  $L^2$  being attached to the ring  $K^3$  on the under side of the knapsack, and the buckle  $L^3$  being buckled to the strap  $M$ , which may be secured to the left-hand strap  $A^2$  of the knapsack.

$N$   $N'$  represent pendent straps attached to the shoulder-straps of the knapsack, and commonly known as the "waist-straps." Under the ordinary method of suspending the cartridge-box the shoulder-belt of the latter extends across the breast and obstructs the action of the lungs. I dispense with the use of this shoulder-belt and sustain the cartridge-box  $P$  by means of the waist-strap  $N$ , which is perforated to admit of the insertion of the prong  $o$  of the hook  $O$ , as seen in Fig. 1. The hook  $O$  is riveted or otherwise fastened to the top of the cartridge-box, and the waist-belt passes through the back loops of the cartridge-box in customary manner. The advantage of this method of slinging the cartridge-box is that the breast is left entirely free or open and the action of the chest is not restrained by the pressure of a strap.

In Fig. 2 is represented my method of holding open the main flap  $P'$  of the cartridge-box to facilitate the manipulation of the cartridges during action. The strap  $p$ , which fastens the flap  $P'$  to a stud or button at the under side of the cartridge-box, may be hooked to either of the hooks  $D D'$  on the gun-strap  $Q$ , so as to hold open the flap  $P'$ , as seen in Fig. 2, and thus permit ready access to the cartridges.

Under the ordinary method the weight of the bayonet  $R$  devolves directly upon the waist-belt  $Q$ , so that the waist-belt must be kept constantly buckled around the waist, in order to support the bayonet in a convenient position. I attach to the bayonet-loop  $R'$  a hook,  $R^2$ , whereby it may be attached to the waist-strap  $N'$ , as shown in Fig. 1. Hence if, on a "route step" or "arms at will," the waist-belt be unbuckled at the front to afford relief to the stomach, the bayonet, as before, is sustained in the desired position by the waist-strap  $N'$ .

If desired, the cartridge-box, as well as the bayonet, may be shifted to and sustained by the ring  $K^2$  at the rear of the knapsack, which is done when a portion of the weight is required to be transferred to the rear to effect the more perfect equipoise of the burden.

$S$  may represent a strap held under the loop  $S'$  on the left shoulder-strap of the knapsack, and employed to secure any additional equipage that may be carried at the front.

The cap-box  $T$  has a strap,  $T'$ , which fastens over the button  $T^2$  on the waist-belt, and is thus supported when the waist-belt is unbuckled.

Having thus described my invention, the following is what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. Slinging the gun by means of the strap  $C$  and one or more hooks,  $D D'$ , substantially as and for the purpose described.
2. A hook,  $O$ , attached to the cartridge-box  $P$ , to adapt the latter to be attached to and supported by any part of the equipage.
3. The method of holding open the flap of the cartridge-box.
4. Providing the bayonet with a hook,  $R^2$ , to enable it to be slung to the equipage, as and for the purpose specified.
5. Slinging the cartridge-box behind to the knapsack in any manner, substantially as described.
6. The blind buckles  $I$ , or their equivalents, attached to the front of the knapsack, to enable the blanket or other equipage to be retained by the coat-straps  $G G$  in a position forward of the center of the knapsack, in the manner and for the purpose set forth.
7. The ring  $K^2$ , attached to the under side of the knapsack, to support the accouterments when shifted to the rear.

To the above specification of my improvements in slinging arms, equipage, and accouterments, I have signed my hand this 1st day of March, 1866.

OLIVER EVANS WOODS.

Witnesses:

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