

GI of Future To Be Walking Electronics Mass

Washington—Science Service—The soldier of the future will be an unrecognizable mass of scientific equipment in welded nylon underwear. He will carry a tiny radio in his helmet. A plastic mask will protect his face against the heat of nuclear blasts. Attached to his helmet will be a pair of infrared binoculars, and he will be clothed in welded nylon underwear to ward off shrapnel and bullets.

His mobility will be increased by a rocket belt around his waist. And he will carry with him an explosive fox-hole digger.

Representative by 1965
Tomorrow's GI was displayed here at the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army According to Capt. Howard H. Osserman of the Combat Development Experiment Center, Ft. Ord, Calif., this soldier will be representative of the infantry by 1965.

Specifically, here is the soldier's new equipment, most of which is under development:

The one-pound transistorized radio, built into his helmet, has a quarter-mile transmitting range. He will receive at greater range by affixing a more powerful antenna to the helmet.

Can Leap Farther

His rocket belt will assist him over streams and other obstacles. Fully equipped, he normally can broad jump about 10 feet. With the belt, which provides a downward thrust, he can leap five times farther. If he is faced with a plunge off a 50-foot cliff, he will be able to give his rockets a "squirt" of downward blast and cushion his landing.

Capt. Osserman told Science Service a more powerful rocket belt, under development, will come close to making a human missile of the soldier.

Infrared Flashlight

Along with his infrared binoculars, the future GI will carry an infrared flashlight. This is a modification of the sniperscope used by U.S. troops in Korea to spot the enemy at night. In addition, he will have an image metascope slung on his chest that will warn him when he has been spotted by enemy infrared.

His fox-hole digger will be a tube supported by three legs. The legs are jammed into the ground, a fuse is ignited, and a shaped charge is fired into the terrain. It explodes out a hole about three feet in diameter and three feet deep.

His protective face mask is made of impregnated vinyl cloth. It will prevent burns at a reasonable distance from nuclear explosions. His hands will be covered by molded plastic gloves.

Sixteen layers of spot-welded nylon will give him a set of underwear weighing about nine pounds. However, it will resist puncture by some shrapnel and bullets.

Pictures Taken of Dog to Find Owner

Stockton, Calif. — (Science Service)—A picture is better than a "pinch," dog catchers here have found.

Instead of "pinching" a dog found running loose and taking it into the pound, the dog catcher photographs the pup, develops the picture on the spot and canvasses the neighborhood for the owner.

In just two weeks of photographic dog catching, 16 of 19 cases against dog owners were handled summarily. The city was saved the cost of housing and feeding dogs brought into the pound.

Public reaction has been good, with most persons asking for copies of their dog's picture.

Oral Vibrator Made For Inside Mouth

Washington—(Science Service)—People who have had their larynx removed may regain fluent speech with an "oral vibrator" devised by a British dental surgeon, the British Information Services reported here.

The oral vibrator, carried inside the mouth in the center of an artificial plate, is powered by minute batteries operated by a button and designed to fit in the wearer's pocket.

The inventor, Dr. R. T. Tait of Rackmansworth, Hertfordshire, England, explained that two small wires must pass through a corner of the patient's mouth to connect the battery and the vibrator. By making normal speech movements, the wearer can mold the vibrations into intelligible, if mechanically sounding, words, he said.



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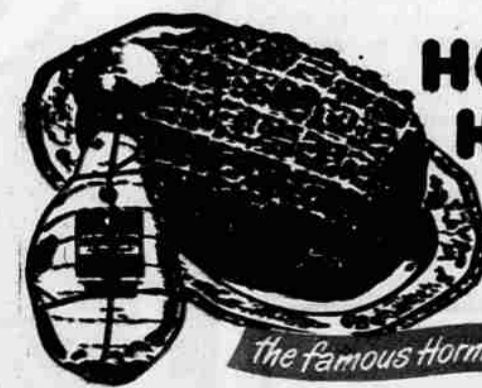
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