An Improved Tente D'abri

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AN IMPROVED TENTE D'ABRI.

By Major Malet, Northumbcrland Fusilier.

Introductory.

This tent is made in two equal parts, each part being exactly alike; the half tents are interchangeable; in other words, any two parts taken at haphazard can be joined together, and when so joined make a complete tent. Any sized tent could be made on the principles about to be described; the dimensions here given have been calculated from a military point of view, so as to provide "lying down" accommodation for four men, or a "section of fours."

Half a tent, with all accessories, could easily be carried by coolies, or, should the occasion require it, and other transport not available, by soldiers themselves, either with or without the ordinary accoutrements. Each half tent is made, either with or without a half carpet attached to the canvas; this, though slightly increasing the weight, is recommended, as not only does it add to the general comfort, but from its position prevents all draught getting in at the sides of the tent, and also ensures the tent, when joined together, being pitched true, as will hereafter be described.

Description of the Tent, Accessories, &c.

A, B, C, D, Figs. 1 and 2, are the side walls of the tent, BC is the ridge line, 2 in. below which eight brass-bound eyelet holes are let into the canvas; those nearest B and C, 1 in. from those points, the remainder at equal distances apart. AEB and CFD, in both figures, are the front and rear half end doors; a rope loop is fixed at the points E and F, with a button-hole at each of those points; four tapes on the outside and four on the inside are sewn at equal distances apart along the pole lines BE and CF; AE and DF are the ground lines of the half doors. G, H, I, K (Figs. 1 and 2) are rectangular canvas flaps, sown down along III, with three button-holes made close to the line GK, corresponding with three buttons on the canvas at L, M, and N; an eyelet hole is put in the canvas between H and G. O and P are buttons sewn on both sides of the canvas. QR, ST are the half carpets, above which, on the ground line of the tent, along the lines AD, are four rope loops, with two other loops at the cords of the carpet at R and S; on the inside of the carpet a pocket, Q!UV, is made, opening along the line UV; this is used when packing up the half tent to carry the pegs, hammer, &c., in, while, when the tent is pitched, it can be used as a pillow; along QR and ST and RS, an equal number of alternate hooks and eyes are sewn.
The following is a description of the accessories required for each tent to make a complete load:—A combined ridge and guy rope, one end of which is lapped, the other fitted with a wooden runner, this rope measuring 21 ft. long; a pole, in two parts, each measuring 1 ft. 9 in., the one fitting into the other with a socket, and one half provided with an iron spike, about 2½ in. long; a hammer and six pegs complete the load.

**Weight.**—The total weight of a load is under 7 lb., the details of which are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Lb.</th>
<th>oz.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canvas and carpet for half a tent</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six pegs and a hammer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A pole in two parts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A combined ridge and guy rope</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, a tent complete weighs 13 lb. 8 oz.

**Dimensions.**—The dimensions of the various parts of the half tent and carpet will be seen on reference to the Plate (see Figs. 1 and 2). The length of the rope and poles have already been given; the dimensions of a tent, united and pitched, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Ft.</th>
<th>in.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note.**—Standing up accommodation could be obtained if, before pitching the tent, a hole or trench, 7 ft. by 3 ft., were first dug, the tent being afterwards pitched over it.

To unite the Half Tents, and to pitch the same when united.—The two half tents are first placed on the ground, as in Figs. 1 and 2, outside up, ridge opposite ridge; one half tent is then placed over the other half, so that the eyelet holes of the one are over the eyelet holes of the other; the lapped ends of each rope are then placed under the canvas and passed through the last double eyelet hole but one on either end; both ropes are then drawn up, and then in a downward direction passed through the next double holes once again under the tent and up through the third holes; both ropes are then pulled through the holes until about 7 ft. appear at either end of the canvas; the poles are then united, each spike passed through the last double holes at each end, the part of the rope near the bracing given one turn round the spike underneath the canvas; the two ropes where they meet in the middle are then passed through each other and over the ridge; thus a double ridge rope is formed for the tent. The lapped ends of each rope are then given one turn over the canvas on to the pole spike; the canvas flaps are placed over the ridge, the

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1 This refers to iron pegs and hammer; if wooden pegs and a mallet were used, the weight of these would be reduced to 1 lb.—J. W. M.
tents spikes passing through the eyecap holes made for the purpose, and flaps buttoned down.

The tent now united is pitched as follows:—Two guy pegs are driven into the ground in the direction the tent is to be pitched, about 14 ft. apart; 7 ft. in front of these two more guy pegs are driven in. The tent is then carried on its poles to the middle of these pegs, poles resting on the ground, the guy ropes (continuation of the ridge ropes) then loosely fixed on the guy pegs, canvas strained out on either side, poles lifted up so as to allow the rope loops on the carpet to pass through them, corner pegs driven in, half carpets hooked together, guy ropes made secure and remain, side pegs driven in. The tent is now pitched; the corner ends of the guy ropes can be used to tighten the ridge should it be found that this sags in the centre; the doors can be either tied together with the tapes or buttoned back as required. Fig. 3 shows a tent pitched as here described. Fig. 4 shows four tents pitched together, thus accommodating sixteen men. In this way it is suggested each set of four tents should be pitched on the encamping ground to economize space. It is not necessary to here describe in detail the method of pitching four tents together as shown in Fig. 4; the sketch speaks for itself after the description already given for uniting and pitching one tent. It will be observed that where the two tents meet in the middle what in a single tent were end guy ropes become in this case side guy ropes, and one pole in each tent is not used. In like manner 27 pegs instead of 48 will be required to pitch the four tents. The half doors button inside and outside of the canvas.

The method of striking the tents when pitched, and of disuniting when so struck, need not be described. Both methods are simply the reverse of those already described for pitching and joining together.

To pack the Half Tents in.—Each half tent is first laid out as in Figs. 1 and 2, doors folded back and buttoned to the sides, carpet then folded over the canvas, and the whole folded across longways at that part of the canvas not already covered by the carpet. The half tent is then doubled across once lengthways, the pegs and hammer placed in the carpet pocket in the same direction as the ridge line, canvas and carpet then folded once across in the opposite direction and twice again lengthways, poles disunited, placed inside the folds so made, and all rolled tightly together, the ropes doubled are then used to secure the roll so made, which will be found to measure 1 ft. 9 in., and be about 8 in. thick.

Addendum.

To the military world it is hoped the tent here described will commend itself. To the sportsman and traveller such a tent would prove most useful. It would be as well to note that when digging a trench so as to provide standing up accommodation in the tent, the half carpets in this case would not be used as such, but, hanging down on either side, would act as mud walling to the tent when pitched, and thus prevent draught.