



Ministry of Defence

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20 August 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email of 30 July in which you asked for the following information:

"I would like to ask do you have a library of information or collection of documents available relating to the past trials programmes? Some examples of the sorts of documents that we are trying to locate are as follows:

- a. Harding, J. (2004). The Demise of the 1975 Pattern Design & Route to the '90 Pattern. Army Historical Branch Report. HB(A)/CM/6/3.
- b. Harding, J. (2003). Impact of Load Carriage - Historical Data. Army Historical Branch Report.
- c. TD/MISC/7/4. INFANTRY TRIALS AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT. Personal load carriage equipment in nylon butyl material: trial report. 1975.
- d. APRE Working Paper 13/84 (2nd issue). User trials: Personal load carriage equipment (PLCE). 1984
- e. Carriage of equipment in the assault (Infantry Team consultancy report). ARMY MANAGEMENT SERVICES GROUP (WORK STUDY). (C 6053). 1981.
- f. Lippold, O.C. J.: The Design of Load-Carrying Equipment for the Soldier in Battle. Army Operational Research Group. Report No: 11/50. 1950.

As this list hopefully suggests, we are very serious about our research and wish to provide an accurate history upon the subject in question.

If you could provide access to any of the documents mentioned, in whole or part (i.e. the conclusion sections), we would be very grateful.

If required, please do treat this appeal as an FOI request (although we wish to reiterate our is a polite and friendly request for help!)."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held. I have, therefore, enclosed

copies of "The Soldiers Load: Historical Data" and "The Demise of the 1975 Pattern Design & Route to the '90 Pattern".

Some of the information contained within these documents is exempt from release under Sections 23 of the Freedom of Information Act – information relating to bodies dealing with security matters and Section 40 - personal information. In the case of the latter exemption, I have redacted details of an individual where I have been unable to confirm if the information referred to is in the public domain. These are absolute exemptions and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The remainder of the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence. However, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act I can advise that the following information is held at The National Archives:

TD/MISC/7/4. INFANTRY TRIALS AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT. Personal load carriage equipment in nylon butyl material: trial report. 1975.

TNA Ref: WO 291/2693 <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C11482144>

APRE Working Paper 13/84 (2nd issue). User trials: Personal load carriage equipment (PLCE). 1984

TNA Ref: WO 404/116 <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C11481860>

Carriage of equipment in the assault (Infantry Team consultancy report). ARMY MANAGEMENT SERVICES GROUP (WORK STUDY). (C 6053). 1981.

TNA Ref: WO 291/2692 <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C11482143>

Lippold, O.C. J.: The Design of Load-Carrying Equipment for the Soldier in Battle. Army Operational Research Group. Report No: 11/50.1950.

TNA Ref: WO 291/1119 <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C1824373>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat