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Report on New Pattern accoutrements for rifle
troops about to be armed with the Whitworth rifle

Hythe 9th March 1864.

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Sir, In reference to the last para of my report on the Whitworth Ammunition dated 3rd instant, having since that date received the new pattern accoutrements, which I have minutely inspected and caused to be worn by a soldier of the 3rd Rifles for 3 days:— I have the honor to report for the information of H. H. the G. C. Commanding in Chief; that I quite approve of the principle generally, on which the said accoutrements are made; I beg however to recommend the following alterations which would in my opinion improve them.

1st The shoulder straps of pouch belt to be altered so as to diverge from between the shoulder blades and to be supplied with buckles and runners instead of brass catches which would bend and break.

2nd Omit stiff sides of the ball bag the shape of which to be determined by stiff leather back and bottom also fins and inside leaf. — Provide a place for the oil bottle: — and protect the sides of the ball bag as in the present pattern: — One of the loops of the ball bag to be made long so as to fasten to a smaller button at the bottom of bag, to prevent said bag slipping off waist belt when unlocked.

3rd Lengthen the pouch so as to be capable of holding 60 rounds when required, and add a cap-pocket with hairy lining under outer leaf, and supply only one cap pocket to be worn on right shoulder strap of pouch belt.

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4th. The back strap of pouch belt to be made capable of adjustment by a series of button holes $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart

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The Pandraw pipe pouch would not answer so well as a ball bag.

The Adjutant General to the forces

I have &c.

(Signed) C. Hay

Insp. Gen. of Hussar Regt

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