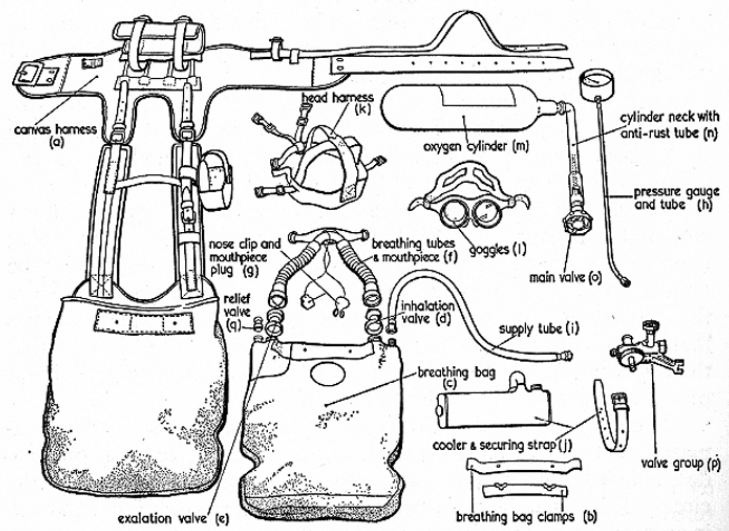




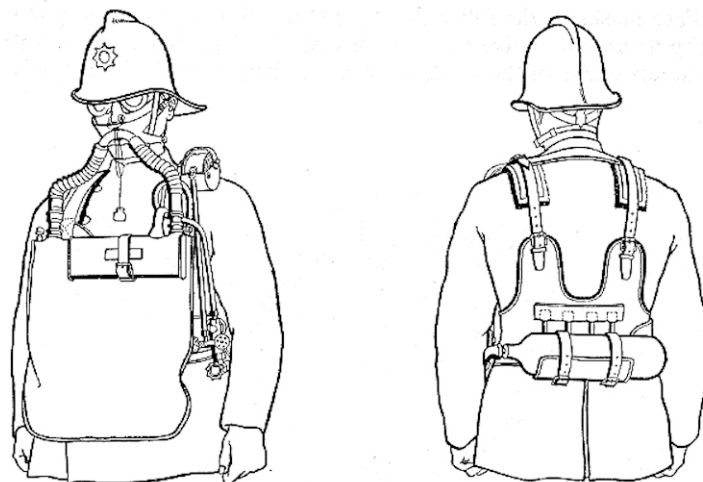
Breathing Apparatus

The breathing apparatus most commonly used by the Fire Service, prior to the introduction of the compressed air breathing apparatus, was the Proto one-hour oxygen breathing apparatus. A two-hour version of this set was also used by Mines Rescue due to the distances they had to travel underground. In the Edinburgh Fire Brigade these sets were initially hung in the rear of the Engine Room, only to be used when considered essential and in exceptional circumstances, as personnel were expected to be 'Smoke Eaters' and the use of B.A. (breathing apparatus) was not encouraged.

Later, when the change in materials used in buildings and furnishings made their use essential due to the type of fumes and smoke produced in fires, the need for B.A. was more widely accepted. Two sets were carried on each pumping appliance and crews encouraged to use them. Even then they were used sparingly due to the time it took to service the sets after a fire, which was not popular.



Dismantled view of 'Proto' one – hour closed circuit regenerative breathing apparatus



'Proto' apparatus correctly fitted on wearer