

"TIE ME KNAPSACKS DOWN SPORT"

by A.B. Selkirk.

Whether or not it was inspired by Rolf Harris' song hit or was just the child of combined thought and discussion within the Mundaring H.Q. fire gang, will never be known, but a method of packing knapsack sprays derived from ideas put forward has proved an interesting success over the 1960-61 season.

It is a well known fault of spray tanks that, in transport over average forest tracks, they develop frequent leaks from the bashing and friction they are subject to.

The main object aimed at in constructing the spray rack was to prevent damage to tanks and save valuable vehicle floor space.

As shown in the accompanying photographs the two-deck construction saves space and yet is not too high to cause a deterioration of the metal frame work by undue sway and stress.

If bolted down to the floor at a desirable distance from the body edge, the edge will serve as a stop for any undue movement of the 4 gallon drums which occupy the bottom floor.

The completed frame fitted to a gang truck carries four knapsack sprays and six four-gallon drums. It is set on the truck in such a position that the drums are removed by sliding slightly to the rear then tilted and lifted out.

Some small amount of improvement is suggested on the existing model, such as a rack on the back for four drip torches. This rack could be set slightly off the horizontal to retain the torches even over a rough shake up.

It comes to mind that this rack constructed in the form of a self-contained unit would be a handy piece of equipment to drop on to any small vehicle and be speedily despatched.

If constructed of reasonably light angle iron and either pressed metal decks or hardwood flooring the completed article could be heavily galvanised against weathering. Packed with drums and sprays it would contain approximately 35 gallons of water and perhaps weigh slightly more than 4 cwt. As such a unit it could be handled onto most vehicles with a mobile crane, fork lift or mounted on small wheels and rolled from ramps constructed at vehicle height.

"Altogether Now".

-----