



### Source

The Commando snorkel is made by **Sommap** (Société Méditerranéenne de Matériels de Pêche sous-marine), a diving, swimming, spearfishing and nautical equipment manufacturer and wholesaler located in Roquefort la Bédoule near the southern French port of Marseilles. This breathing tube (Sommap Reference Number 1510) is stocked by a number of European online retailers, including [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk), [Eanfind.co.uk](https://www.Eanfind.co.uk), [Fieldsportsfishing.com](https://www.Fieldsportsfishing.com), [Mikes-diving.co.uk](https://www.Mikes-diving.co.uk), [Scubaland.co.uk](https://www.Scubaland.co.uk) and [Vieuxplongeur.com](https://www.Vieuxplongeur.com). Spare mouthpieces for this J-shaped snorkel (Sommap Reference Number 1610) can be bought separately at [Vieuxplongeur.com](https://www.Vieuxplongeur.com).

### Measurements

Size	Outer length	Inner diameter	Inner volume	Mouthpiece size	Weight
	440 mm	20 mm			

## Description

The Sommap Commando (English: Commando) snorkel resembles a letter “J” in shape and consists of a straight barrel with a 180°-angle “U”-bend at its lower end connected to a standard rubber mouthpiece (right). The length and internal diameter of the barrel are 44 cm and 2 cm respectively.

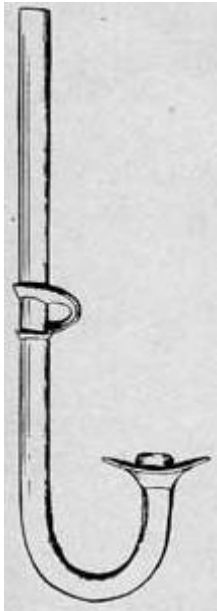


J-shaped snorkels were among the earliest breathing tubes to be marketed. They first appeared in the early 1950s. A disadvantage of this design is that water tends to accumulate at the base of the U-bend, causing the snorkel to be harder to clear.

The Commando has a high-visibility top and a durable connector for fastening the snorkel to a mask strap.

## Antecedents

J-shaped snorkels have been around since the early 1950s. The design remains popular with underwater hunters who prefer traditional equipment.

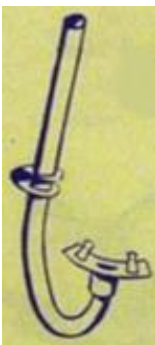


The all-rubber Bel Aqua Snorkel (left), which appeared in 1952, may have been the first J-shaped breathing tube in commercial production.

The snorkel was designed and marketed by Bill Barada (right), a pioneer diver whose Los Angeles company Bel Aqua also manufactured drysuits and spearguns.



J-shaped snorkels appearing in the mid-1950s include:



Barakuda. (1954)  
Made in Germany



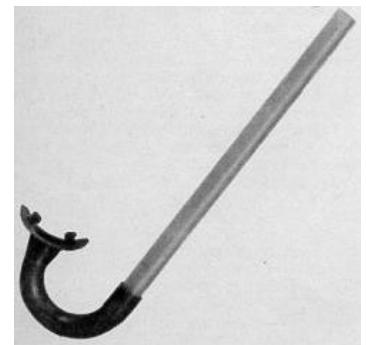
Cressi (1955)  
Made in Italy



Typhoon (1956)  
Made in England



Heinke (1956)  
Made in England



Desco (1956)  
Made in USA