

J. T. Pheatt.
Life Preserving Doors
Nº 12,743. Patented Apr. 17, 1855.

Fig. 2.

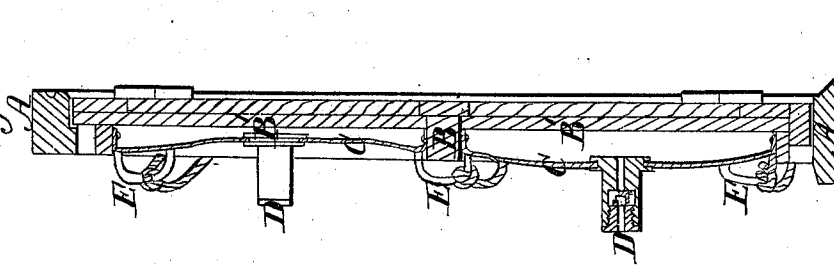
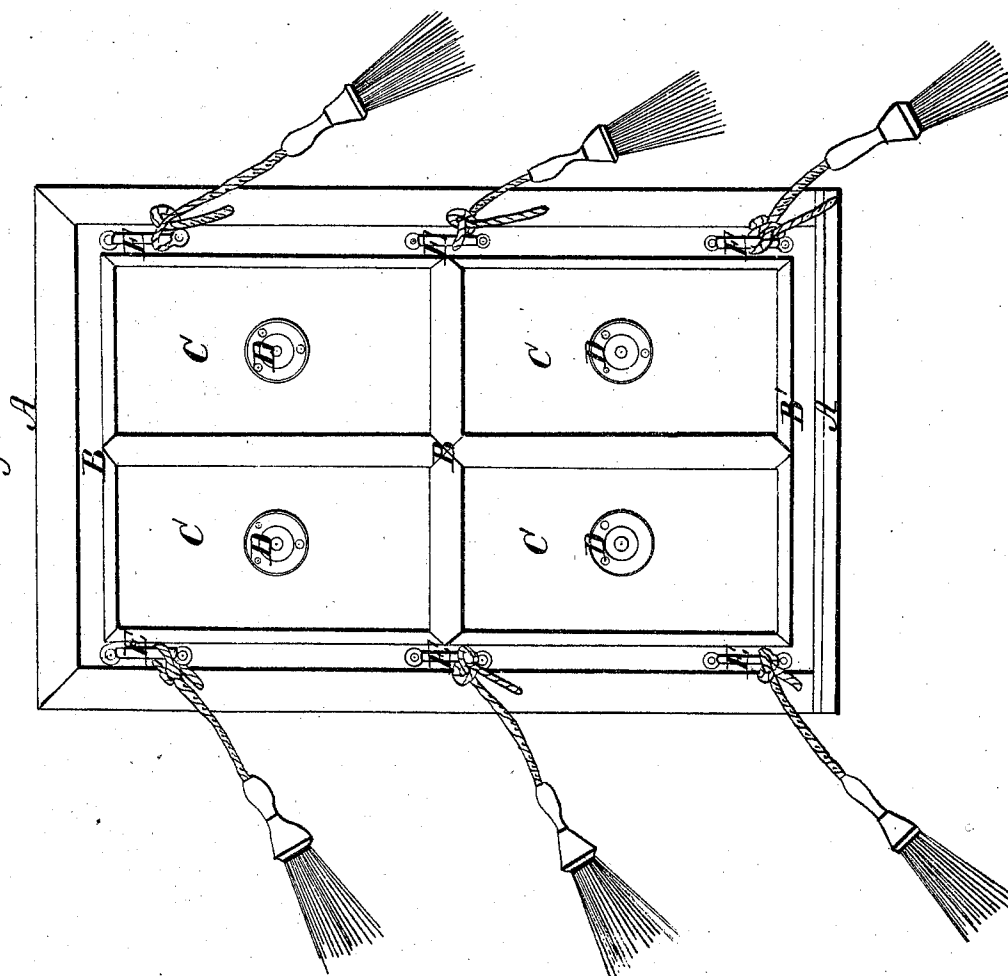


Fig. 1.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. T. PHEATT, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

LIFE-PRESERVING DOOR.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 12,743, dated April 17, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, J. T. PHEATT, of Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Life-Preserving Doors and other Similar Panel-Partitions of Ships and other Vessels, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a front elevation of a ship door constructed according to my improvement and Fig. 2 a sectional elevation of the same taken vertically through the panels of the door.

To provide against loss of life in cases of shipwreck and so forth, it has been frequently proposed not only to furnish the loose articles of furniture about the ship, such as pillows, chairs, tables, et cetera, with flexible waterproof coverings or compartments capable of inflation with atmospheric air to render them more buoyant and eligible as supporters to a person or persons in the water, but the permanent fittings or furniture of the ship has also been similarly constructed and provided, with the like object in view. It is to this latter arrangement or means of safety having air tight inflatable compartments that my improvement has reference, and my invention consists in a novel and advantageous arrangement of the air tight inflatable compartments to the cabin or other doors and other similar paneled work or partitions about the ship.

It is well known that in case of sudden accident threatening the speedy sinking of the ship, among the fittings which are first seized and removed or torn down by the passengers and crew to serve as floats in the water, are the doors and cabin partitions, as such fittings are readily unhinged or removed, and, in presenting a large flat surface, are the objects that in the confusion which exists in such emergencies first and most forcibly strike the eye as best suitable; but in reality these fittings as ordinarily constructed are very unsuitable owing to their thin build and little buoyancy. My improvement effectually remedies this defect and many others which are peculiar to the ordinary inflatable arrangements referred to whether of the loose furniture which, be-

ing constantly exposed to wear and injury, is rendered useless as regards buoyancy, although generally not discovered so till wanted, or other permanent fittings of the vessel, less readily detachable, convenient or prominently available and often equally and similarly injured.

The door (A) represented in the drawing is of the ordinary paneled construction to combine with its necessary strength the usual neatness of appearance.

On or over each panel (B') of the door, preferably on its inside only if the panels are more prominent on the other or exterior side, I arrange separate india rubber or other inflatable water-proof bags or box panel coverings (c') forming a separate air tight compartment of either panel and so arranged that the bags (c') do not project beyond the faces of the framework (B) of the door whereby they will be better protected against rent or accidental puncture to which injury, that renders them perfectly useless, other inflatable buoyant contrivances are so very liable; and supposing puncture to take place in one of the bags covering a panel, the others being tight, the buoyancy of the door will be but little reduced and a horizontal floating level (which is of importance) of the door may be maintained by omitting to inflate the panel compartment diagonally opposite the punctured or injured compartment. But the surrounding and intermediate framework (B) will in the majority of cases so thoroughly protect each and all of the several bags covering the sunken panels and arranged within or below the face of the framework of the door as to almost insure them being always available or whole, and this more especially if the bags are arranged on the inner side of the door where they will be least exposed to rough usage or injury. This arrangement also of the inflatable compartments below the face of the framework surrounding the panels, offers great convenience in the construction of a raft, as planks, spars and so forth may be laid across without detriment or injury to the bags and a frequent, steady bearing on the several parts of the framework dividing or forming the panels be given the planks or spars thus laid on the doors or paneled partitions.

Each compartment (C') is provided with a screw or other valve air tube (D) for

separate inflation; and handles (E) are arranged around or on the framework of the door for the attachment of ropes to assist in lashing several of the doors together for the construction of a large and reliable raft. This arrangement of the inflatable bags it will be observed preserves intact the usual beauty and appearance of the panel work, and in case of hasty removal of the doors or partitions in an emergency the inflatable coverings will be securely protected by the surrounding and intermediate projecting framework against injury and thus, as means of safety, they may be said to be always ready.

What I claim herein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The arrangement herein shown and described of the inflatable water-proof coverings or bags on or over the panels and within or below the face level of the surrounding and intermediate framework of the paneled door or partition as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name.

J. T. PHEATT.

Witnesses:

GEO. R. HAYNES,

S. H. BROWN.