Feb. 6, 1945. H. GOLDMAN 2,368,825

UNIFORM CAP

Filed June 10, 1943

Fig. 1.

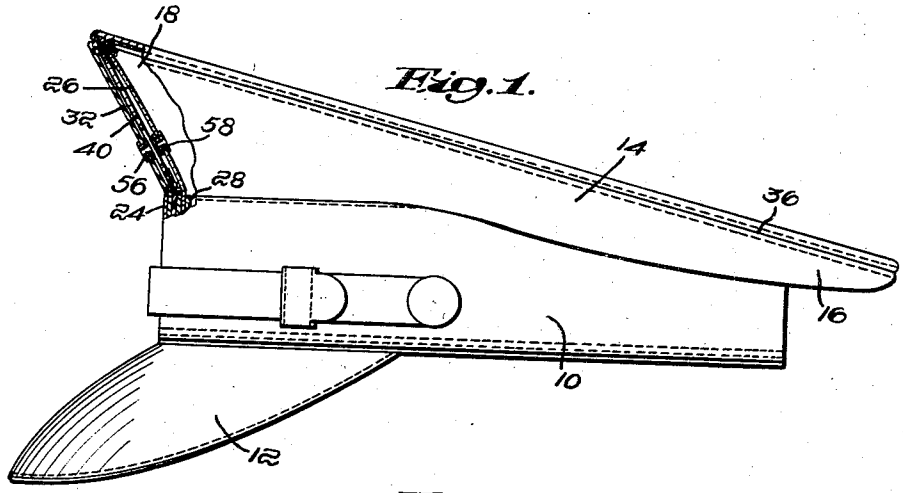


Fig. 2.

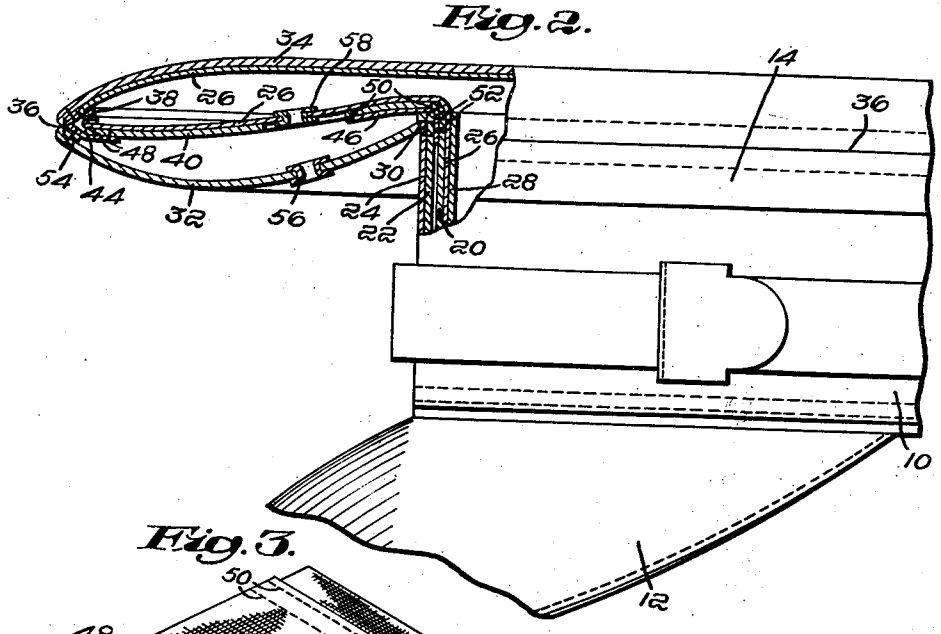
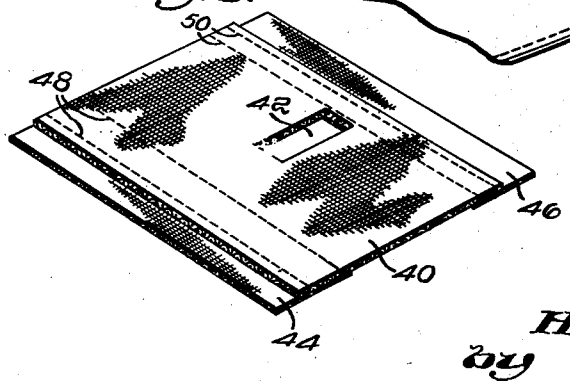


Fig. 3.



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UNIFORM CAP

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Application June 10, 1943, Serial No. 490,301

4 Claims. (Cl. 2—195)

This invention relates to improvements in uniform caps and more particularly to military caps of the type worn by officers which are made with a relatively stiff band and visor and with a flaring crown which is normally held in raised position by a front stay.

Officers' caps of the type described are hard to pack because the flat top or tip which is spread outwardly by a circular wire grommet is inclined with respect to the top of the band and the height of the cap in front between the bottom edge of the visor and the top of the cap is materially greater than the height at the rear portion, which is no greater than that of the band.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a uniform cap of the type described, the top of which may be collapsed for packing purposes.

A further object of my invention is to provide a uniform cap having a collapsible top which is retained in normal upright position even when the cap is not being worn, but which after removal of the cap ornament may be readily collapsed so that the cap will fit into a smaller space for packing.

More specifically it is an object of my invention to provide in a uniform cap a front stay which is free to fold like a hinge at its attachment to the stiff band, the stay being free to separate from the front quarters or crown of the cap as the top is collapsed.

Further objects and advantages of my improvements in a uniform cap will be more readily apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiment thereof as disclosed in the attached drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a uniform cap, a portion of the front part of the crown being broken away and shown in section to show the improved construction;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevation of the cap on an enlarged scale, the front of the crown which is shown in section being in collapsed position; and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the front stay.

The cap as shown in Fig. 1 is conventional in shape and construction except as hereinafter indicated. The cap includes the stiff head band **10**, the stiff visor **12**, and the crown **14**. The rear part of the crown normally droops below the band **10** as indicated at **16**, while the front of the crown **18** normally stands in upright position, the quarter portions outwardly and upwardly flaring from the band **10**. In the conventional construction, the front of the crown **18** is held in the position shown in Fig. 1 by a relatively stiff stay attached to the outer fabric covering of the top **14** and to the inner lining thereof. A uniform cap of this character is bulky and difficult to pack. If too much pressure is applied to the top of the cap in packing the stay will be broken down and the crown will not return to its proper position when the cap is unpacked.

According to my invention I have provided an improved construction which permits collapsing the crown to the position shown in Fig. 2 without causing damage to the cap. The cap may be readily restored to the shape of Fig. 1 by snapping up the front of the crown and the cap will be retained in the shape shown in Fig. 1.

The band **10** includes a stiffener **20** covered on the outside by the fabric **22**, which in turn is covered by braid **24**. On the inner side the stiffener band is covered by the lining **26** and the sweat band **28**. The fabric piece **22** is joined by a stitched seam **30** to the flaring part of the fabric crown **32** which is usually made up of separate quarter portions. The top of the cap is formed from a slightly oval-shaped fabric piece **34** joined at the stitched seam **36** to the quarters **32**. The top is stretched flat by a wire grommet **38**. A lining **26** is preferably attached covering the full interior of the cap.

In order to maintain the front of the crown in normal raised position as shown in Fig. 1, I provide a front stay **40** shown in detail in Fig. 3. The stay **40** composed of hair cloth is relatively wide and provided with a slotted opening **42** for a purpose which will be later described. At the upper and lower edges a pair of fabric strips **44** and **46** are attached to the stay **40** by the lines of stitching **48** and **50**. The fabric strips **44** and **46** provide means for attaching the stay to the body of the cap in such a manner that the stay is free to fold similar to a hinge. As shown in Fig. 2, the strip **46** is attached to the stiffener **20** by the stitching **52**. It will be noted that the edge of the stay **40** abuts but is not directly attached to the band or stiffener **20**. The strip **44** is attached to the fabric crown adjacent the seam **36** by the stitching **54**. The stay **40** between its ends is entirely free from the outer fabric **32** and inner lining **26**.

In military caps of this character it is necessary to provide some means for attaching the cap ornament or insignia. In the usual construction a single eyelet is fastened to the three layers, namely the outer fabric, the stay and the lining. In my construction I provide an eyelet

56 in the fabric 32 and a similar eyelet 58 in the lining layer 26. These eyelets are arranged in alignment and the slotted opening 42 in the stay permits the insertion of the pin by which the cap ornament (not shown) is affixed. It will be understood that before collapsing the cap for packing the ornament will be removed.

Normally the raised front of the cap will be retained in the position shown in Fig. 1 with the three layers—the outer fabric 32, the stay 40 and the lining 26—close together. Pressure on the top of the cap (after removal of the ornament) will collapse the top to the position shown in Fig. 2, in which it will be noted that the quarters 32 droop down and separate from the stay 40. The fabric strip 46 serves as a hinge at the point where the stay is attached to the stiffener or band 20. Since the stay is attached to the band 20 through the fabric hinge 46, it is not subject to sharp flexing which might break the stiffening. When the stay is in upright position the crown will be held up even though the cap is not resting on the head. The attachment of the ornament further assists in holding the crown in its proper position as the crown can not be collapsed while the fabric, stay and lining are held tightly together.

I claim:

1. A collapsible uniform cap comprising a band, a visor attached to the band, a crown of flexible material, a front stay attached at one end to the upper edge of said band and at the other end to the front of the crown forwardly of said band, whereby said stay normally extends forwardly and upwardly from the band to the crown, said stay being free to fold at the point where it is attached to the band whereby the crown may be collapsed.

2. A collapsible uniform cap comprising a relatively stiff band, a relatively stiff visor attached to the band, a crown of flexible material attached to the band, said crown comprising a top and flared quarter portions, a relatively wide front stay, means attaching the lower edge of the stay to the band, and an attachment between the upper edge of the stay and the marginal edge of the top, said means serving as a hinge to permit the stay to swing downwardly and forwardly with respect to the band whereby the crown may be collapsed.

3. In a collapsible uniform cap of the type described, a relatively stiff band, a relatively stiff visor attached to the band, a crown of flexible material attached to the band, said crown including flared quarter portions and a substantially circular top, a lining for the cap, a front stay interposed between the quarter portions and the lining, the upper and lower ends of said stay being attached to the crown and band respectively, said stay being free to separate from the quarter portions and lining between its ends, said stay, quarter portions and lining being provided with aligned openings adapted to receive the attachment of a cap ornament, said stay being free to fold at the point where it is attached to the band whereby the crown of the cap may be collapsed.

4. In a uniform officer's cap, a band, a visor attached to the band, a crown of flexible material attached to the band, a fabric lining for the cap, a non-metallic front stay attached at its ends to the crown and to the band, said crown and lining having openings at the front of the cap and separate eyelets affixed to the margins of said openings, said eyelets being adapted to receive an ornament attachment, and said stay having an opening in alignment with the eyelet openings, said stay being free to fold at the point where it is attached to the band and free to separate from the crown and lining whereby the crown may be collapsed for packing purposes.

HARRY GOLDMAN.