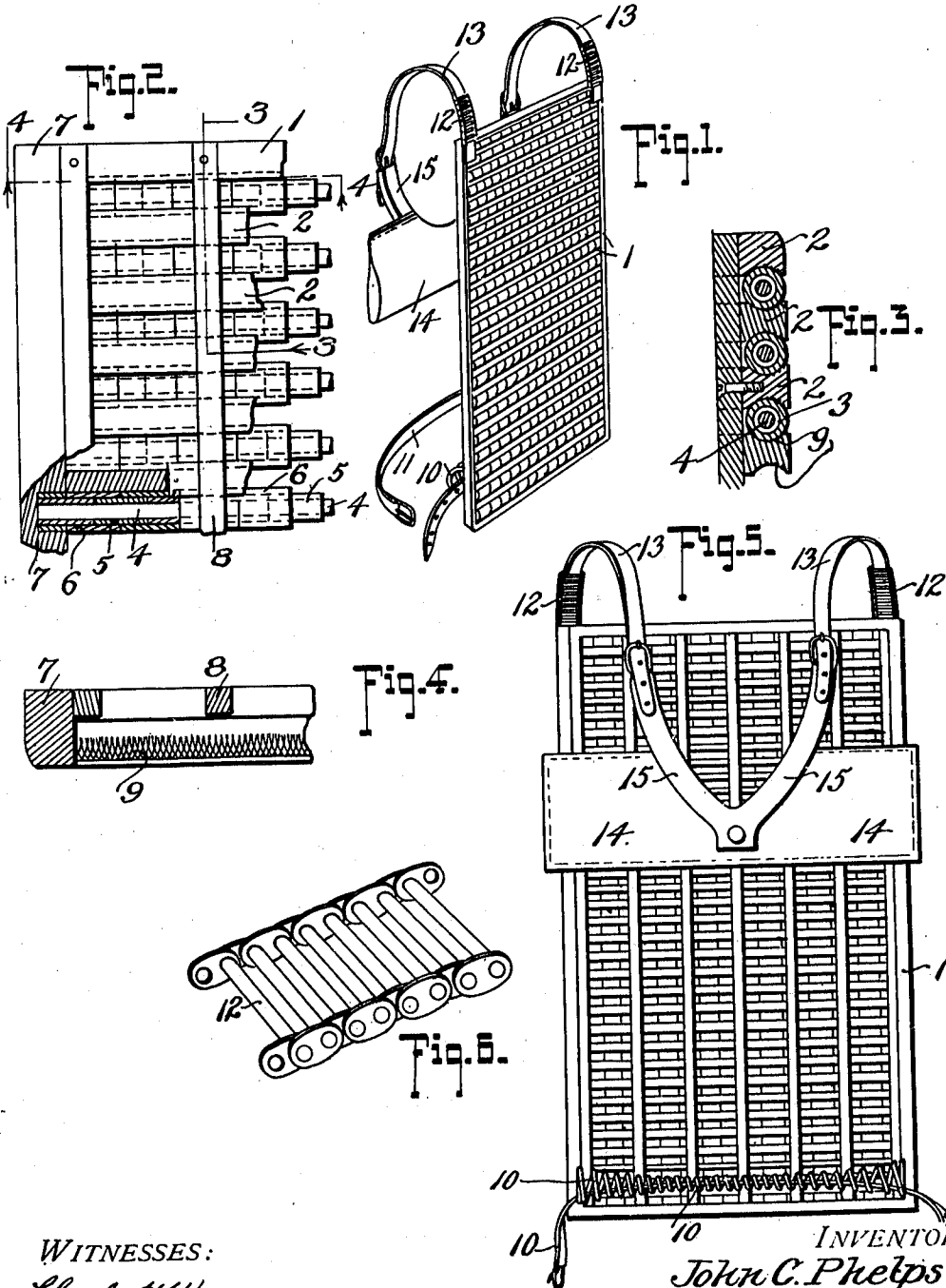


J. C. PHELPS.
BODY PROTECTOR.
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1,021,376.

Patented Mar. 26, 1912.



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JOHN C. PHELPS, OF POWNAL, VERMONT.

BODY-PROTECTOR.

1,021,376.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. PHELPS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pownal, in the county of Bennington and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Body-Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to body protectors which may be worn by soldiers or other men whose lives are endangered by assassins or the like.

An object of the present invention is to provide a body protector which may be supported by shoulder straps and worn in front of the wearer, said protector comprising a frame work made of light metallic material which can not be penetrated by the ordinary bullets.

A further object is to provide a resilient means for holding the protectors away from the body of the wearer, which resilient means aids in carrying the protector on the body and permits a yielding movement caused by any jar which a bullet or other weapon might produce.

With the above and other objects in view, this invention consists in the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, all as hereinafter more fully described, claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective of the present invention; Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view partly in section disclosing the construction of the protector; Fig. 3 is a view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2; Fig. 5 is a rear elevation of the present invention; and Fig. 6 is a perspective view disclosing the construction of the shoulder supporting straps.

Throughout the following detail description and on the several figures of the drawings, similar parts are referred to by like reference characters.

In carrying out the present invention, 1 designates a frame which may be made of any desirable light material, the same comprising a series of transverse bars 2 which have their sides grooved to receive the tubular metal members 3. Each tubular member 3 comprises a rod 4 and a plurality of tubular members 5 and 6, said members 6 being of larger diameter than, and receiving the tubular members 5. These members 3 are mounted in the side members 7, as clearly

disclosed in Fig. 2. A plurality of reinforcing straps 8 may be secured to the frame for strengthening the same. As disclosed in Figs. 3 and 4, the grooved sides of the horizontal bars 2 are knurled adjacent to their outer edges as at 9 to securely grip the sleeves 6 and prevent any rotation of the latter.

To the lower portion of the body protector 1 is secured a coiled spring 10, the diameter of the same being reduced centrally, as illustrated in Fig. 5, to conform to the shape of the body. Passing through this coiled spring 10 is a strap or belt 11 which is adapted to encircle the body for securing the protector thereto. To the upper edge of the protector 1 is secured a pair of shoulder straps, each comprising a series of links 12, such as is disclosed in Fig. 6, and a flexible member 13, such as leather or other desirable material, the latter passing over the shoulder and being secured to a knapsack 14. This chain like construction which is composed of the links 12 is adapted to bear on the body adjacent to the shoulders to prevent any lateral or skidding movement of the protector 1. The knapsack 14 comprises a bag which opens where the straps 15 are secured, said straps 15 being secured to the free terminals of the shoulder straps 13.

From the foregoing, it will be observed that a bullet proof construction is obtained which may be made of varying weights, according to the material used and of various sizes. Furthermore, it will be observed that the coiled spring 10 forms a resilient means for supporting the protector on the body, and gives to the protector 1 a yielding movement when a bullet, knife, or other weapon is struck thereagainst, said movement taking practically all the jar from the body.

The frame 1 may be of a flexible nature, if it is desired, by constructing the same of flexible or spring material. The weight of the knapsack with the aid of the strap belt 11 supports the protector on the body.

Having thus fully described my invention, what is claimed as new is:—

1. A body protector comprising a plurality of horizontal bars, a plurality of metallic members interposed between said bars, side members secured to said bars and receiving the terminals of the said metallic members, and means for securing said protector to the body.

2. A body protector comprising a frame composed of horizontal bars, the sides of said bars being grooved, a plurality of metallic members mounted in said grooves, side members securing the said horizontal bars together and receiving the terminals of said metallic members, and means for securing the frame to the body.

3. A body protector comprising a frame composed of horizontal bars provided with grooves in the sides thereof, the surfaces of said grooves being knurled, a plurality of sectional metallic members seated in said grooves, side members securing said horizontal bars together and receiving the terminals of said metallic members, and means for securing said frame to the body.

4. A body protector comprising a frame, means for securing said frame to the body, a hollow resilient body secured to said frame and adapted to retain the latter in spaced relation to the body, and means passing

through said resilient body for securing said frame about the wearer.

5. A body protector comprising a frame, means for securing said frame to the body, a hollow resilient body of smaller diameter at its central portion than at its terminals, and a belt passing through said hollow body for securing the frame to the wearer.

6. A body protector comprising a frame, shoulder straps for securing the former to the body, said shoulder straps comprising a series of links adapted to bear against the body and prevent any lateral movement of said frame, and a knapsack secured to the terminals of said shoulder straps, for the purposes herein specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN C. PHELPS.

Witnesses:

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