M. P. VUKOSAV.

LIFE SAVING APPAREL.

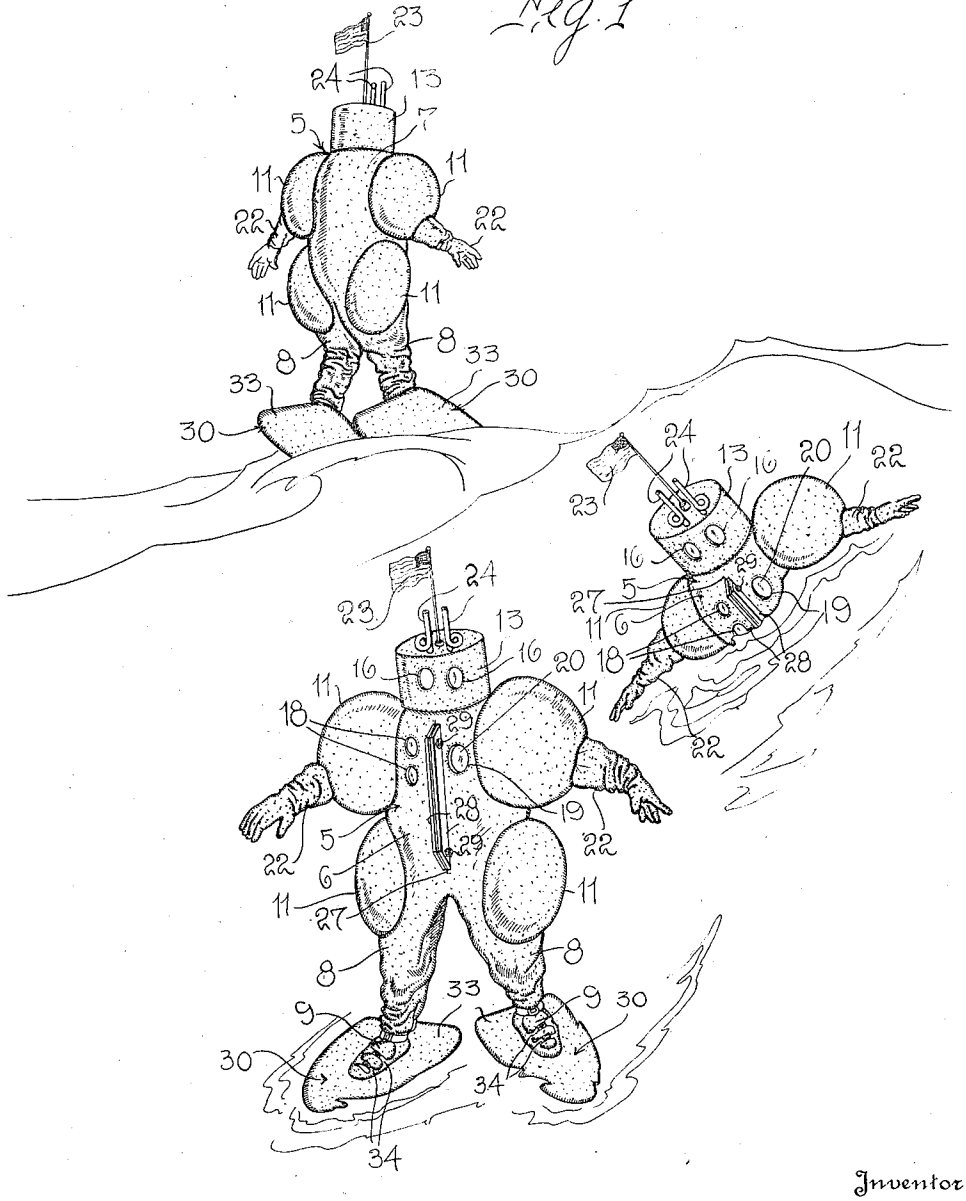
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 2, 1918.

1,268,806.

Patented June 4, 1918.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2

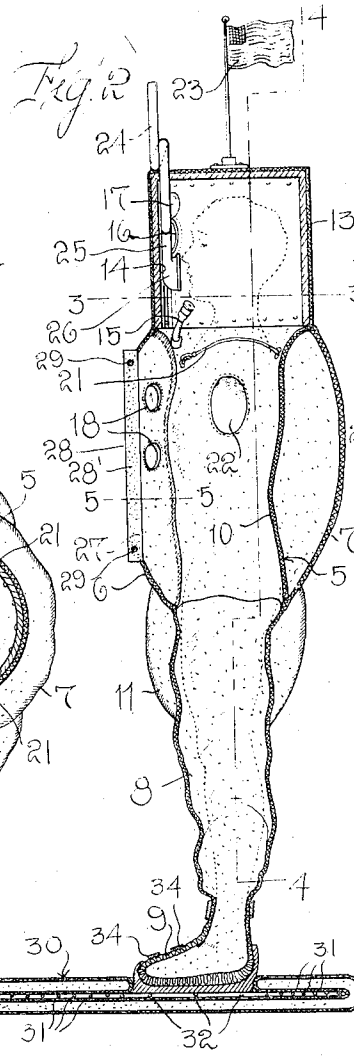


Fig. 3

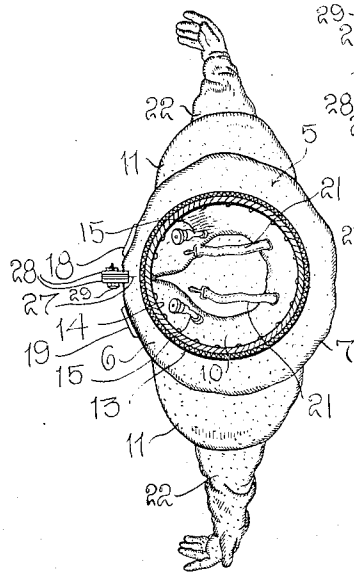


Fig. 4

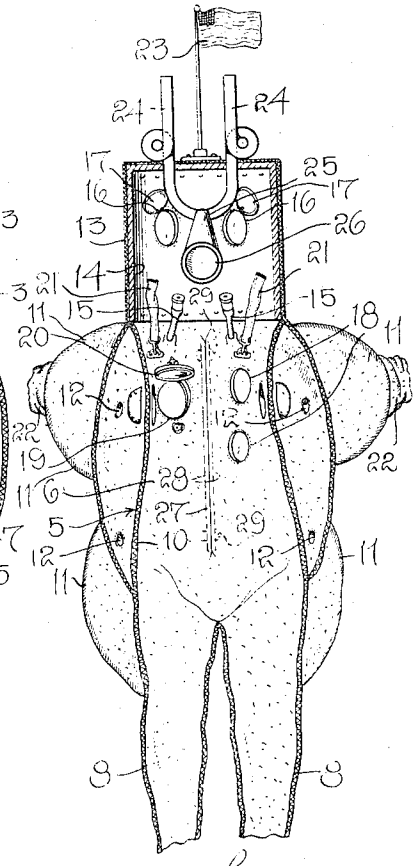


Fig. 6

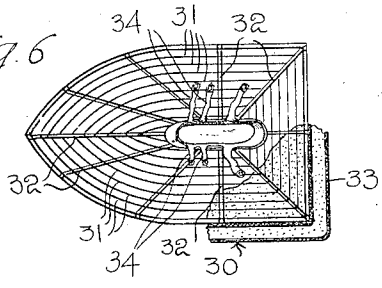
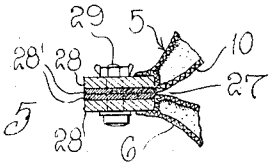


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LIFE-SAVING APPAREL.

1,268,806. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 4, 1918.

Application filed February 2, 1918. Serial No. 215,077.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that MIKE P. VUKOSAV, subject of the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, residing at West Oakland, in the county of Alameda and State of California, has invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Saving Apparel, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to life saving apparel, and has for its primary object to provide a suit or garment having an inflatable body portion, and means within the garment whereby said body may be inflated by the wearer.

It is another object of my invention to provide a life saving suit or garment which is equipped with means in the head portion thereof for affording a constant supply of fresh air to the interior of the garment.

It is also one of the detail objects of my invention to provide a garment having a longitudinally extending entrance opening in the body thereof, and means for effecting a water tight closure of said opening.

The invention also has for an important object to provide improved inflatable paddles adapted to be attached to the feet to afford additional means for sustaining the wearer in a perpendicular position in the water, and which will also permit him to make rapid progress through the water with relatively little exertion.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter more fully described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my improved life saving suit or garment and illustrating the use thereof;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view through the garment;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a vertical section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detailed section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the skeleton framework of one of the foot paddles.

Referring in detail to the drawings, 5 designates the body of the garment, which is provided with front and rear portions, designated 6 and 7 respectively, having the leg extensions 8 terminating in the foot coverings 9. To the underside of the garment body, a fabric wall or lining 10 is secured at its edges to the body wall of the garment, said walls affording between them an air space. To the body of the garment, at opposite sides thereof, spaced lateral extensions 11 are provided, each of which also has an air space 12 communicating with the main air space.

13 designates the head covering or hood, which is suitably secured to the garment body and within the same a light steel shell 14 is inclosed and secured to said head covering in any approved manner. Inflating tubes 15 are connected to the main air receiving chamber at one of their ends, and suitable closures are provided for the other ends of these tubes, the shell 14 and the covering 13 having registering openings indicated at 16, the opening in the shell being covered by glass or other transparent material. These openings may be closed by means of the pivoted plates 17. Additional glass covered openings 18 for the admission of light to the interior of the garment are provided in the front of the body portion and a relatively large opening 19 is also formed therein and may be closed by a hinged plate 20. Through this opening the arm may be extended for the purpose of throwing refuse matter from the interior of the garment, it being understood, of course, that the garment is equipped with suitable pockets to contain foodstuffs.

21 designates shoulder straps which are attached at one of their ends to the rear portion of the garment body and are adapted to be connected at their other ends to suitable hooks or fastenings on the front body wall. 22 designates the sleeves which have a water tight connection with the outer sides of the front and rear walls of the chambers 11.

If desired a flag or other suitable signal indicated at 23 may be centrally attached to the shell 14. Air inlet tubes 24 also extend through the top wall of this shell and are connected at their inner ends to a common tube 25 which terminates in a downwardly opening funnel-shaped mouth 26. Through these tubes the interior of the garment is constantly supplied with fresh air.

The front body wall of the garment is provided with a longitudinally extending opening 27 through which the occupant

enters and to the outer side of this wall along each edge of the opening, metal plates 28 of angular form in cross section are secured. The opposed flanges of these plates have rubber strips 28 or other suitable material secured thereon so that when the plates are brought together and said strips compressed they will effect a water tight closure of the opening 27. Suitable bolts, shown at 29, extend through these flanges of the plates 28 and have nuts threaded upon one of their ends which are adjustable by the occupant of the garment so as to tightly clamp the flanged plates together.

In connection with my improved life saving garment, the paddles, designated generally by the numeral 30, are employed. Each of these paddles consists of a skeleton framework made up of a number of parallel wires or rods 31 bent to define a substantially triangular shaped figure, said wires being connected at intervals by radially disposed wires 32. A fabric covering 33 of waterproof material is secured upon the frame wires and entirely incloses the same. 33 designates an inflating tube whereby the space between the opposite walls of these fabric coverings may be inflated with air. Suitable attaching straps 34 are secured to the framework and are adapted to be detachably secured over the feet and ankles of the user.

In the use of my invention, when the garment is donned and the body thereof inflated, and the inflated paddles applied to the feet, the occupant tightly closes the entrance opening 27 in the manner above explained. He may then enter the water and the air inflated paddles and the garment will sustain him in an erect position with the head and shoulders above the water. The occupant may readily move or progress in any desired direction by simply manipulating the paddles 30 with his feet. By the use of my garment, shipwrecked passengers or seamen will be prevented from drowning and as the garment may be equipped with a considerable quantity of food, life can be sustained for a long time or until a rescue is effected. The garment can, of course, be constructed in various sizes and while I have herein shown and described the preferred construction and arrangement of the several elements, it is, of course, manifest that the same are susceptible of considerable modification and I, therefore, reserve the privilege of adopting all such legitimate changes as may be fairly embodied within the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. A life saving garment having trunk and leg portions of flexible material, and a main air chamber surrounding the trunk portion of the garment, upper and lower supplementary air chambers at the opposite sides of the main air chamber and in communication with the latter, and means for inflating said chambers.

2. A life saving garment having trunk and leg portions of flexible material, and a main air chamber surrounding the trunk portion of the garment, upper and lower supplementary air chambers at the opposite sides of the main air chamber and in communication with the latter, and sleeves connected to the walls of the upper supplementary air chambers.

3. A life saving garment having a body provided with a main air chamber and lateral extensions of said chamber at each side of the garment, inflating tubes within the garment connected to said chamber, spaced shoulder straps fixed at one of their ends to the rear body wall of the garment and adapted to be detachably connected at their other ends to the front body wall thereof, a head inclosing hood connected to the garment body, one of the body walls of the garment and said head inclosing hood being provided with openings for the admission of light to the interior of the garment, and air supplying means extending through the top wall of the hood.

4. A foot paddle comprising a rigid frame, an inflatable casing inclosing said frame, and means for detachably securing the paddle upon the foot of the user.

5. A foot paddle comprising a frame consisting of a plurality of spaced wire rods, a second series of rods connecting the first named rods at intervals to each other, an inflatable fabric covering entirely inclosing said frame, and means secured to the frame for attaching the paddle to the foot of a user.

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

MIKE P. VUKOSAV.

Witnesses:
D. B. PURLEVICT,
CHRIS MOVROCSOVICT.