W. G. BROKAW.

LIFE PRESERVER.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 19, 1914.

1,150,335.

Patented Aug. 17, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

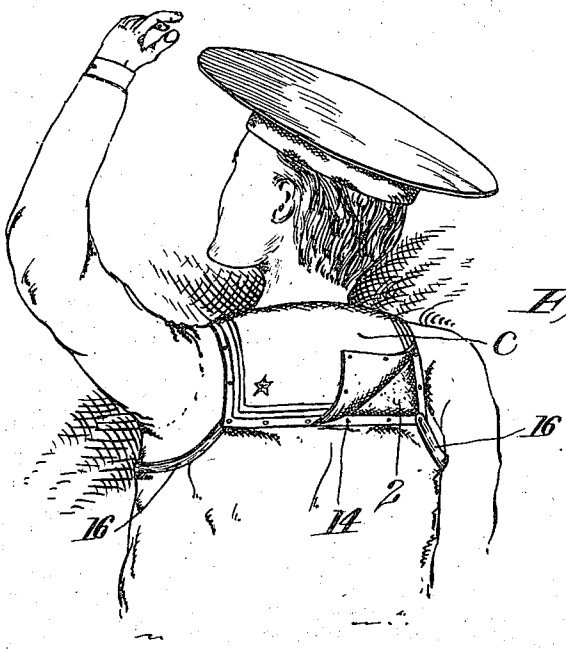


Fig. 1.

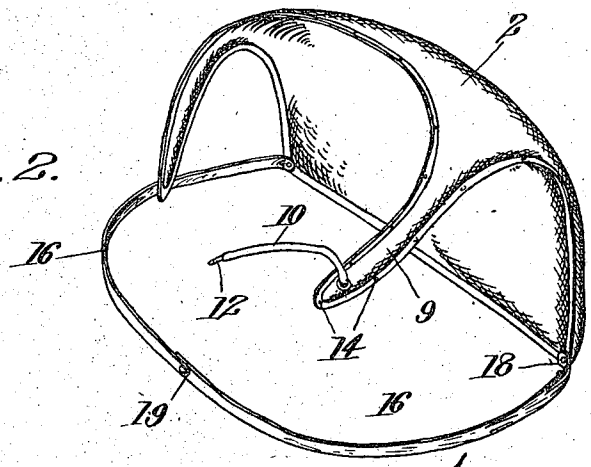


Fig. 2.

Witnesses
E. F. Baker.
A. B. Norton.

Inventor
William G. Brokaw,
by E. A. Mason Attorney

W. G. BROKAW.

LIFE PRESERVER.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 19, 1914.

1,150,335.

Patented Aug. 17, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

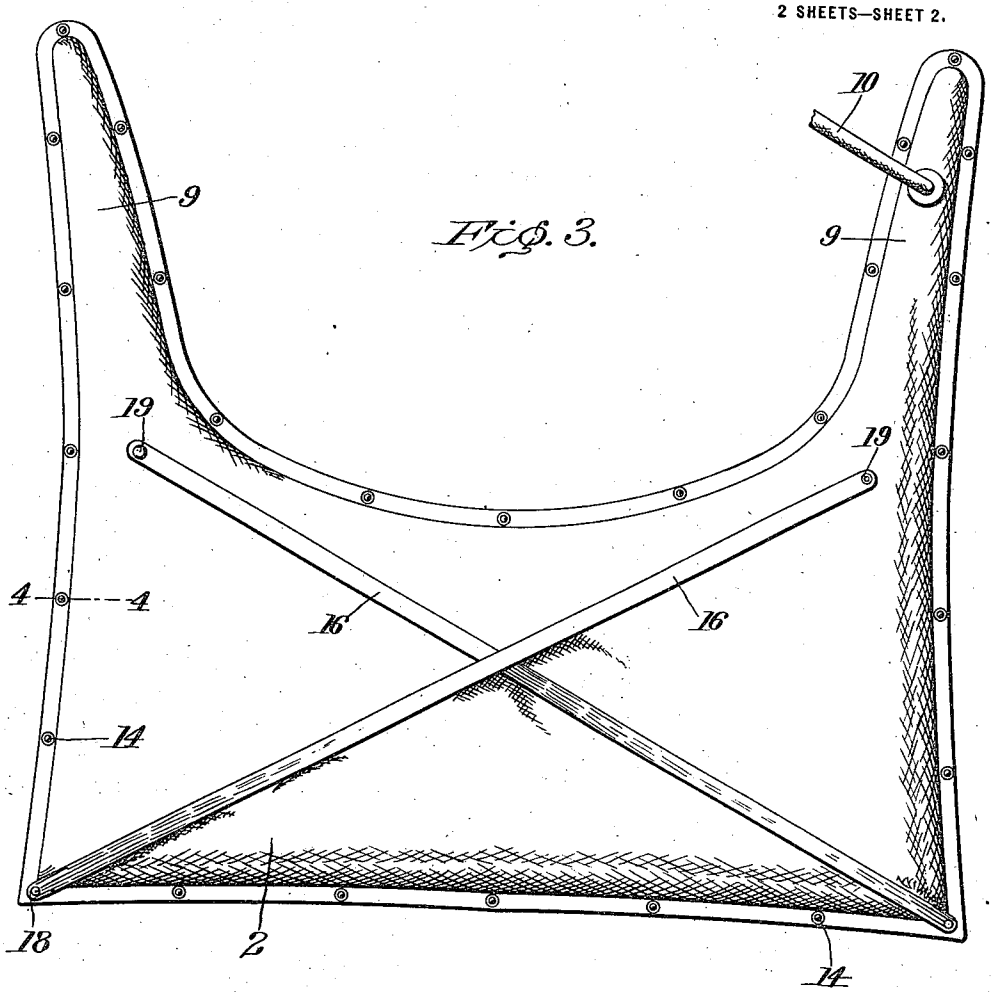


Fig. 3.

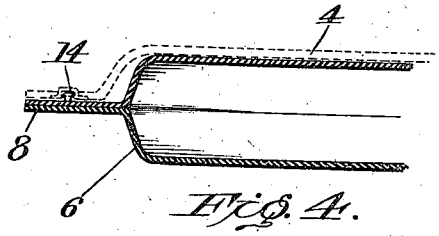


Fig. 4.

Witnesses
G. F. Baker.
A. B. Norton.

Inventor
William G. Brokaw,
by C. A. Moore Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM G. BROKAW, OF TRINITY, NORTH CAROLINA.

LIFE-PRESERVER.

1,150,335. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 17, 1915.

Application filed December 19, 1914. Serial No. 878,059.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. BROKAW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Trinity, in the county of Randolph and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to life preservers, and in particular to a device of this class which is designed for use by sailors and the general public, and whose construction is such that it may be worn under or combined with the collar of a sailor's shirt or attached to any shirt, or similar garment at all times, and will be in condition for use promptly in the case of an emergency, as for example, if the wearer is suddenly thrown into the water from any cause.

The life preserver is preferably of the inflatable type, and is made of rubber, or equivalent material, in the shape of the broad collar ordinarily used upon sailors' shirts, and, in its preferred form it is provided with means whereby it is detachably connected with the collar so as to be readily removable therefrom when desired. The life preserver is also preferably supplied with suitable means for securing it to the body of the wearer in a manner to cause the life preserver to lay beneath the chest of the wearer when he is laying upon his back in the water. The device is also capable of disconnection from the wearer's body and may be positioned under the head so as to act as a buoyant head supporter when the wearer is floating on his back. When used in the manner last specified the person wearing the life preserver will be sustained in the water with little or no manual effort on his part. These and other important features and advantages of the invention will be best understood from the following description and claims, when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 represents the device in the position which it occupies beneath the collar of a sailor's shirt, or collar of any shirt having a similar shape; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the life preserver, showing the straps for securing it about the body, in the position which they occupy when in use; Fig. 3 is an inverted plan view of the device; and Fig. 4 is a sectional detail view on the line 4—4, Fig. 3.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings the life preserver comprises an inflatable bag of rubber 2, which is composed of upper and lower portions 4, 6, made in the form of a sailor's collar, as shown best in Fig. 3, the outer edges of the two portions being cemented, or otherwise secured together in an air-tight manner to provide a margin 8 of two thicknesses of sheet rubber. The forward part of the life preserver is provided with two narrow extensions 9, 9, which follow the outline of the collar at the front of the shirt, and an air tube 10 is connected suitably to one of these extensions, and provided at its outer end with an inflating valve 12, which may be similar to that in use in foot balls, life preservers, and similar inflatable devices.

The life preserver is preferably connected detachably with the collar C of the shirt by spaced fastenings 14. These fastenings may be of any desired kind, but as shown they comprise the ordinary socket fastening, the socket members in this instance being secured beneath the collar of the shirt, and along its margin at suitably spaced intervals, while the coöperating plunger members of the fastenings are secured to the margin 8 of the life preserver at spaced intervals corresponding to the spaces between the other members of the fastenings which are carried beneath the collar.

In order to secure the life preserver to the body of the wearer two straps, 16, 16, which may be of elastic or any other desired material, are each secured at one end 18 to a corner of the life preserver either to the outer side or the inner side, as desired, and are crossed upon each other, and have their other ends secured at 19 to the life preserver at points on either side of the wearer's neck. The ends 19 of these straps may be detached from the life preserver, and the straps passed beneath the arms and around the body, and the ends 19 secured together at a point in front of the wearer's chest, in the manner shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

In use, the life preserver is placed beneath the collar with the straps 16 crossed as shown in Fig. 3, and located under the inflatable body 2. The fastenings 14 along the shirt collar are then pressed into engagement with their coöperating members along the edge of the life preserver, which latter is thus secured to the collar and, being in a flat or collapsed condition it will be entirely

concealed and may be worn by a sailor with no inconvenience whatever. In the event that the life preserver might be needed for immediate use, or on very short notice, as in the case of a storm at sea, or an engagement between war vessels, the sailor would inflate the device through the tube 10, and would disconnect the ends 19 of the straps 16, and pass these straps around his body securing said ends in front of him. His arms would then be entirely free for use in swimming, and upon turning over on his back the life preserver would offer a sufficient amount of buoyancy to keep him afloat. If the wearer should suddenly plunge into the water before he had time to inflate the device, by treading water for a short time he could place the tube in his mouth, inflate the device and thereafter float on his back with the life preserver beneath his chest, or it could be allowed to rest beneath his head, thereby sustaining the wearer in the water with little or no effort on his part. This life preserver is also well adapted for use as a pillow, and without detaching it from the collar it may be thrown back under the wearer's head and when in this position it will serve as a comfortable support for the head.

While I have shown and described as the preferred embodiment of my invention the collar of a sailor's shirt to which the life preserving collar is detachably secured, in its broadest aspect my invention is not limited to use with this particular form of collar, but may be attached to other forms of collar, as, for example, to the collar of a sailor's Guernsey, or sweater, or to a bathing suit, or a lady's garment. Such collars are high, and extend continuously around the neck, with a solid plain front. In the event that the life preserver was used in connection with such form of collar the forwardly extending ends 9 would be omitted, and the life preserver would be shaped to correspond with the shape of the Guernsey or sweater collar throughout the latter. The life preserving collar, as in the preferred form of the invention, has stiffened edges, as 8, provided with fastening members which would be used coöperatively with other fastening members on the Guernsey collar, to secure detachable connection between these parts. It is an important feature of the invention that when used in this form the life preserver may be folded and placed in a small rubber pocketbook for the convenience of the traveling public, so that each person may have his or her individual life preserver, which is also capable of use as a pillow for the head.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. The combination with a garment having a collar, of a life preserver of substantially the same configuration as the collar arranged beneath said collar and coöperating fastening devices on the collar and life preserver for detachably connecting said parts with each other.

2. The combination with a garment having a collar to extend over a portion of the back, of a separate life preserver of substantially the same configuration as the collar arranged to lie beneath said collar and be concealed thereby.

3. The combination with a garment having a collar to extend over a portion of the back, a life preserver shaped like said collar and underlying the same, and means for detachably connecting said parts.

4. The combination with a garment having a collar to extend over a portion of the back, of a collapsible life preserver arranged to lie under and be concealed by said collar, and coöperative fastening means between the adjacent edges of said collar and said life preserver.

5. A life preserver made in the shape of the collar of a garment and arranged to lie beneath said collar, straps secured to the outer corners of said life preserver and arranged to be passed around the body of the wearer and to be fastened together in front thereof.

6. A life preserver in the shape of a collar comprising an inflatable body portion composed of two layers of material united at their peripheral edges, and fastening means located along said edges for detachably securing the device beneath a collar.

7. A life preserver in the shape of a collar, comprising an inflatable body portion composed of two layers of material united at their peripheral edges, fastening means located along said edges for detachably securing the device beneath a collar, and straps each having one end secured to an outer corner of the life preserver and arranged to pass in front of the body of the wearer and be fastened together at their other ends.

8. An inflatable life preserver arranged to lie beneath a sailor's collar, and comprising a body portion 2 having the extensions 9, 9, the thickened edge 8 having fastening devices located at intervals thereon, and the straps 16, 16, each having one end secured at 18, 18 to the corners of the body 2, and at their other ends having fastenings 19, 19, for connecting said ends in front of the body of the wearer.

9. A life preserver in the shape of a collar comprising an inflatable body portion provided along its edge with fastening means for detachably connecting it with the collar of a garment in combination with a garment collar having coöperating fastening means.

10. The combination with a garment having a collar, of a life preserver made in the

shape of said collar, and combined therewith so as to be concealed by the collar.

11. The combination with a garment having a collar, of a life preserver made in the shape of said collar and combined therewith, and straps secured to the collar and arranged to be passed around the body of the wearer and to be fastened in front thereof.

12. The combination with a garment having a collar to extend over a portion of the wearer's back, of a life preserver shaped like said collar and combined therewith, and means secured to the outer corners of the collar for fastening said collar and life preserver to the wearer's back.

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

WILLIAM G. BROKAW.

Witnesses:

JAMES BLACK,

ARTHUR HUSK.