J. R. ORTMAN.

LIFE PRESERVER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 23, 1910.

1,068,816. Patented July 29, 1913.

Fig. 1.

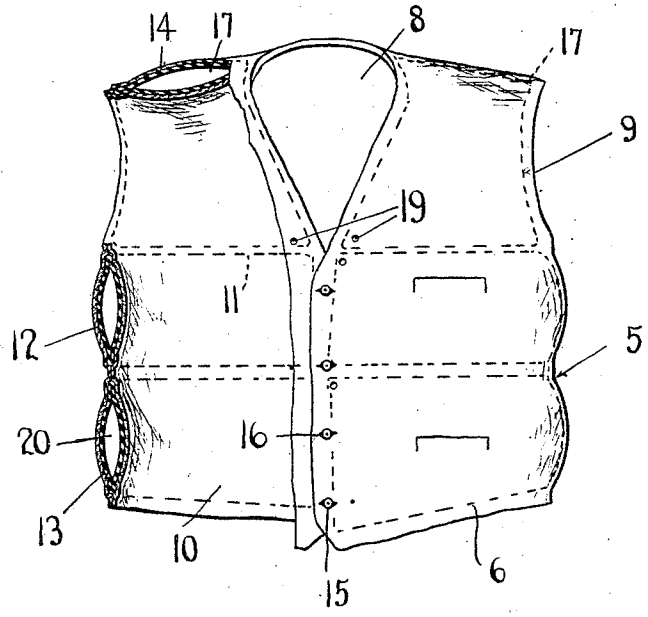


Fig. 2.

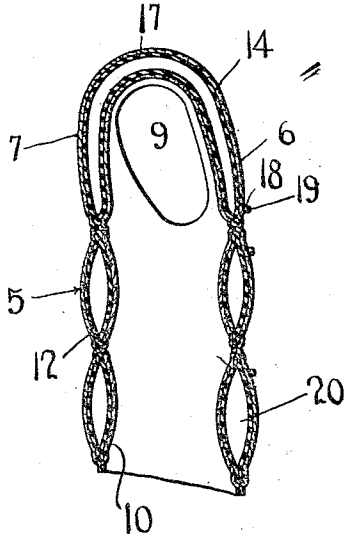
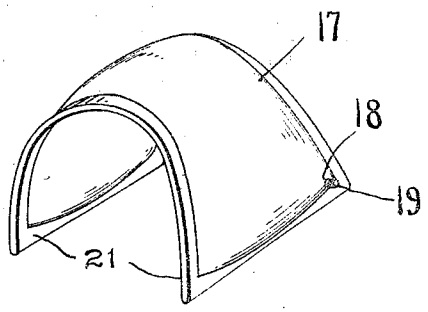


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN R. ORTMAN, OF RAYNESFORD, MONTANA.

LIFE-PRESERVER.

1,068,816. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 29, 1913.

Application filed July 23, 1910. Serial No. 573,403.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN R. ORTMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Raynesford, in the county of Cascade, State of Montana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The invention relates to a life preserver, and more particularly to the class of garment type life preservers.

The primary object of the invention is the provision of a life preserver in the form of a garment adapted to be worn in the usual manner and constructed to be quickly and conveniently converted into a life preserver when the occasion requires.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a life preserver made up to represent and having all the appearances and functions of a vest, the same being divided into independent pockets in which are arranged inflatable bags, the same being normally collapsed for ready and convenient inflation to give buoyant effect to the garment when it is desired to use the same as a life preserver.

Another object is to provide a vest of this character, wherein the vest is practically covered with inflatable floats, thereby obtaining maximum sustaining power without sacrificing neatness in appearance, the floats being arranged so as to admit of freedom of movement to the vertebræ and shoulder bones of the wearer, thereby decreasing the hampering effects of such a vest, and reducing to a minimum the rubbing and chafing of the contacting rubber of the several floats when they are deflated and the compression of the air therein when inflated.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a life preserver which is simple in construction, and that may be manufactured at a minimum expense.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings disclosing the preferred form of embodiment of the invention and pointed out in the claim hereunto appended.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a front elevation of a life preserver constructed in accordance with the invention, the same being partly in section. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through the same. Fig. 3 is a detailed perspective view of one of the inflatable shoulder bags.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views in the drawings.

Referring to the drawings by numerals 5 designates generally an article of wearing apparel preferably in the form of a vest comprising outer front cloth sections 6 united at their upper edges and for distances along their side edges to an outer back section 7 to provide a neck opening 8 and arm holes 9 and to the said front sections and also the back section is secured an inner lining 10 the same being secured at intervals to the said front and back sections by transverse rows of stitching 11 to form independent pockets 12 and 13 extending continuously transversely of the garment to the open front thereof, and above the said pockets are provided independent shoulder pockets 14. The said front sections 6 of the vest are provided with the usual buttons 15 and button-holes 16 respectively, whereby the said vest may be secured about and readily removed from the body of a wearer in the usual way.

Within the shoulder pockets 14 are independent inflatable bags or members 17 the latter each being provided with the usual valve tube 18 carrying a removable screw cap 19 whereby air may be introduced into the said bag and prevented from escape therefrom. The valve tube 18 is of a type as ordinarily used on bicycle tires. The floats 17 are relatively long and gradually widen from their centers toward their ends. As shown they extend from the neck opening to the arm openings of the vest and terminate in front and back on a horizontal line with the arm pits of the vest. These floats are also provided with surrounding marginal flanges 21.

The constant movement of the shoulder bones of a wearer of the vest would have a tendency to displace the floats. The flanges 21 prevent to a great extent the floats becoming displaced, thus reducing the danger of their lumping and pinching, as also the frictional wear due to the floats' movements between the plies of the vest.

In the pockets 13 and 14 are independent

inflatable air bags or members 20, each being provided with the usual valve tube for permitting the introduction of air and preventing its escape. The valve tubes extend through suitable openings in the front sections 6 outwardly exteriorly thereof for free accessibility whereby the air bags may be readily and conveniently inflated when the occasion requires. It is of course to be understood that the vest is worn in the ordinary manner and on such occasion the bags are in collapsed condition.

It is clearly obvious that when the bags are inflated with air should one become punctured it will not affect or in any way disturb the other bags so that the vest will not be deprived of its usefulness as a life preserver.

It is to be observed that the adjacent edges of the horizontally arranged floats are spaced. The same is true of the ends of a shoulder float in relation to the upper edge of the uppermost float.

When the garment is worn, the floats being deflated, stretching, rubbing and chafing of the contacting rubber is greatly reduced as the intermediate web portions of the garment between the adjacent edges of the floats admit of the garment conforming to the movements of the body of the wearer. When the floats are inflated, a great advantage obtained by these intermediate web portions is that the floats, to a great extent, have an individual movement, thus not hampering a swimmer. This is very important. The ends of the shoulder floats terminating in the front and back on a horizontal line with the arm-pits permits full freedom of the shoulder bone.

What is claimed is:—

A life preserving vest formed of inner and outer plies of flexible fabric of substantially the same size, the plies being secured together at their edges, means for maintaining a plurality of circumferentially extending inflatable floats arranged between the plies, in position, elongated spool-shaped inflatable floats arranged between the plies at their shoulder portions, the shoulder floats extending from the neck opening to the arm openings of the vest, the ends of the said floats terminating in front and back about on a horizontal line with the arm pits of the vest, the floats being each provided with a surrounding marginal flange.

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

JOHN R. ORTMAN.

Witnesses:
GEO. W. HYDE,
JOHN BRYAN.