Dec. 18, 1951 H. LEV 2,579,196

UNIFORM CAP

Filed Feb. 7, 1950

Fig. 1.

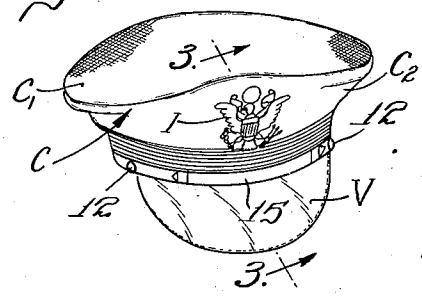


Fig. 2.

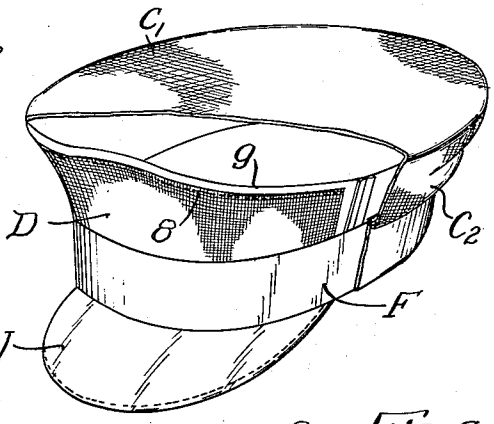


Fig. 3.

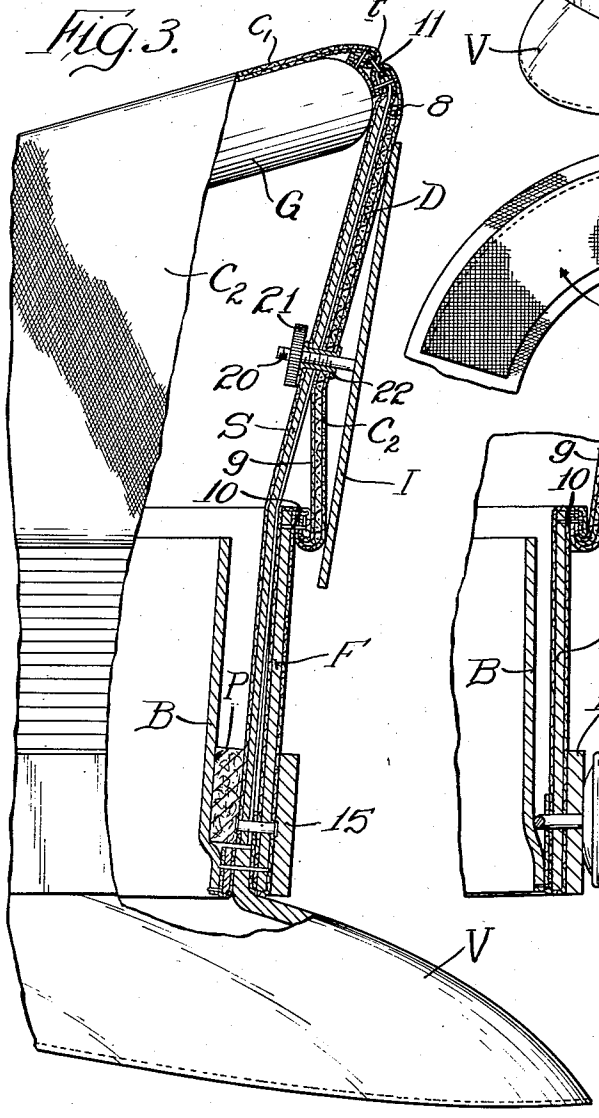


Fig. 4.

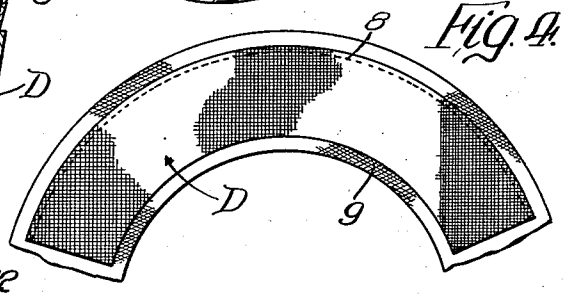
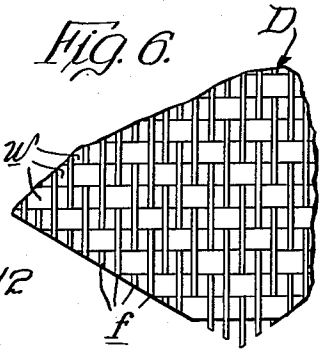


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.



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UNIFORM CAP

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2—195)

1

This invention relates generally to uniform caps of the type which is characterized by a flexible cover surmounting a frame, and in particular to the provision of a distending means which is fitted within the cover to maintain the cover yieldably taut.

Uniform caps of this general kind are worn by the military and by civilians who are engaged in various occupations. They are commonly provided with flexible covers surmounting the endless bands that provide frames for the caps. It is highly desirable for appearance sake that these flexible covers be sustained upwardly and outwardly of the frame, particularly in the frontal area. At the same time it is important that the covers be free to yield inwardly or downwardly in response to pressure at any point. The provision of means for so sustaining the cover is a primary feature of this invention.

For this purpose I utilize a large number of interconnected supports in the nature of resilient struts which may be interwoven into a light fabric-like structure which is secured within the cap cover to provide a sustaining support therefor upwardly of the cap frame. These resilient supports which may be in the form of small wires or threads are collectively ample to sustain the cap cover upwardly and also circularly in a smooth and distended condition, while permitting ready yielding of the cap cover at any point where pressure may be encountered.

The improvements now to be described in detail are illustrated, in connection with a military officer's cap, in the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view thereof, looking toward the front;

Fig. 2 which is a similar view, somewhat enlarged, shows the front portion of the cap cover broken away to exhibit the resilient distending means therefor in operative position;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary detail in section, taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of the distender as it appears when laid out in a flat plane;

Fig. 5 is a detail in vertical section taken through the cap frame and associated parts at a point about opposite one of the side buttons; and

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary detail of the distender fabric elsewhere shown in Fig. 4.

The illustrated cap is conventional in that it comprises a generally circular endless frame F made desirably of fiber or the like. This frame which may be fabric covered supports against its inner face at the front an upstanding stay S which extends substantially to the tip of the flexible cap cover C to provide a fixed support therefor. The cap is of that type which comprises a tip *t* at the juncture of the circumferential cover portion with the top 13 which is substantially round and flat. A cushion pad P which is fitted around the inside of the frame maintains spaced therefrom a sweat band B. Affixed to the lower portion of the frame at its front is the customary visor V.

2

The feature which constitutes the present invention is the provision of a distender D which extends arcuately in the front region of the cap between the frame and the tip *t* of the cover. As shown, this distender is connected along its top edge, as by stitching 8, to a supporting band 9 of lightweight material such as rayon twill. This distender is turned along its lower edge where its supporting band is attached as by stitching 10 to the frame F near its top. Along its top edge the supporting band is sewed at 11, or otherwise secured, to the circumferential cover portion 14 along a line adjacent its tip *t*. The supporting band is desirably endless so as to extend around within the cap cover circumferentially thereof. The connection 11 between the band 9 and cover tip is desirably continuous around the cover.

The material which I find is admirably suited for the distender is known as hair cloth. It comprises a filling *f* of horse's hair with interwoven warp threads *w* (see Fig. 6), the filling being disposed generally vertically so as to be resilient only in a direction between the cover tip and the top of the frame F and not circumferentially of the cap. In such a fabric the filling threads tend to remain straight and resist bending. They are susceptible of yielding, however, in response to a sufficient pressure, but will readily return to their straight condition when permitted to do so.

A distender of this kind is extended upwardly from the frame to the tip of the cap cover for a minimum arcuate distance which is substantially commensurate with the front portion of the cap between the two side buttons 12 to which the usual strap 15 is connected. The result is a sustaining support for the cap cover, extending through at least the entire frontal area of the cap where appearance counts most. The arcuate length of the distender is largely a matter of choice. It may be short, as shown, so as to extend only in the frontal area of the cap; or it may be lengthened considerably to extend to or around the rearward area of the cap. Throughout its length, whatever it may be, the resilient filling threads *f* are disposed in a generally vertical direction so as to provide a yieldable sustaining support, both upwardly and outwardly, for the cap cover adjacent its tip *t*.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 3 an insignia I may be applied to the cap at its front. As is usual, the insignia is provided with a rearward extend-

ing threaded shank 20 which is passed through registering openings in the distender D, and also in the stay S to receive a nut 21 which, when rotatively advanced upon the shank, will secure the insignia immovably in place. If desired, an eyelet 22 may be fitted through the distender and stay to interconnect these parts (see Fig. 3), thereby providing a clearly defined passageway through which the insignia shank may be extended.

The cap cover herein shown is of the conventional kind. It may be equipped with suitable means for distending it circularly, a grommet G for this purpose being commonly employed. In the construction shown the cap cover is not removable, but whether or not it be so made is relatively unimportant to this invention.

In use, the distender D is supported operatively by the band 9 which carries it. This band is desirably connected continuously along its upper edge with the cap cover, thereby resisting any endwise pull which might put it out of shape. Along its lower edge the band support also is secured to the circular frame of the cap, and because of these connections along opposite edges it serves to limit the distension to which the cap cover may be upwardly and outwardly extended, independently of the cap cover itself. This is of advantage because it imposes a certain resistance to twisting or torsional movement of the cap cover, should it be subjected to any force tending to produce such a motion.

The distender herein shown is in the form of a fabric which provides a simple and convenient structure for holding a large number of resilient filling threads which collectively provide the sustaining support that is highly desirable for the cap cover. When subjected to a compressive force these resilient threads may yield and buckle as required, but cannot move laterally of each other because of their being interwoven into the fabric structure of which they form a part. This lateral reinforcement accordingly adds strength to the strut-like supporting threads so that they tend to push upwardly and outwardly the tip portion of the cap cover whereby to hold it in distended and smooth condition.

I claim:

1. A uniform cap having an endless frame, a flexible cover surmounting the frame and secured thereto and provided with a flat top having a tip positioned upwardly and outwardly with respect to the frame, and an arcuately distending means extending across the frontal area of the cap and interconnecting the frame and tip of the cover for yieldable support of the latter, said means comprising a woven fabric having resilient filling threads extended upwardly from the top of the frame to the tip of the cover and throughout the arcuate length of the distending means and providing for the cover a yieldable sustaining force substantially uniform at all points.

2. A uniform cap having an endless frame, a flexible cover surmounting the frame and secured thereto and provided with a flat top having a tip positioned upwardly and outwardly with respect to the frame, and distending means interconnecting the top of the frame and tip of the cover and following the curve thereof throughout the frontal area of the cap for yieldable support of the cover, said means comprising a piece of hair cloth fabric of arcuate form with the resilient hair threads forming the filling and all of the resilient hairs of the fabric extended upwardly from the top of the frame to the tip of the cover and throughout the arcuate length of the fabric piece to provide for the cover a yieldable sustaining force substantially uniform at all points.

3. A uniform cap having an endless frame, a flexible cover surmounting the frame and including a flat top having a tip positioned upwardly and outwardly with respect to the frame, said cover further including a circumferential cover portion having its upper edge secured to the periphery of the flat top, a flexible band surmounting the frame and connected to the cover at the upper edge of the circumferential cover portion, a distending fabric extending across the frontal area of the circumferential cover portion and having its upper edge connected to the flexible band adjacent the upper edge thereof, and means for interconnecting the cap frame and the lower edges of the flexible band, distending fabric and circumferential cover portion to provide for the cover a yieldable sustaining force substantially uniform at all points.

4. A uniform cap having an endless frame, a flexible cover surmounting the frame and secured thereto and provided with a flat top having a tip positioned upwardly and outwardly with respect to the frame, a flexible band surmounting the frame and connected to the top of the latter and to the cover at its tip, a distending fabric disposed in close relation to said flexible band across the frontal portion thereof, and means for interconnecting the flexible band and distending fabric at points adjacent the cover tip and the cap frame and holding the distending fabric against lateral displacement whereby to provide for the cover a uniform yieldable sustaining force.

5. A uniform cap having an endless frame, a flexible cover surmounting the frame and provided with a flat top having a tip positioned upwardly and outwardly with respect to the frame and further provided with a circumferential cover portion having its upper edge secured to the periphery of the flat top, a flexible band surmounting the frame and connected to the cover at the upper edge of the circumferential cover portion, a distending fabric disposed so that it is flexible transversely of the frame, means for interconnecting the flexible band and distending fabric at points adjacent the upper edge of the flexible band, and means for interconnecting the lower edges of the flexible band, distending fabric and circumferential cover portion with the frame and holding the distending fabric from lateral displacement whereby to provide for the cover a substantially uniform yieldable sustaining force.

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