

S. P. EDMONDS.
LIFE PRESERVER AND PILLOW.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 7, 1912.

1,061,275.

Patented May 13, 1913.

FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

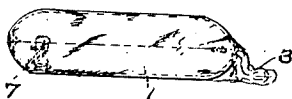


FIG. 5.

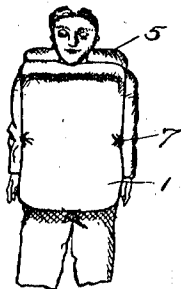


FIG. 3.

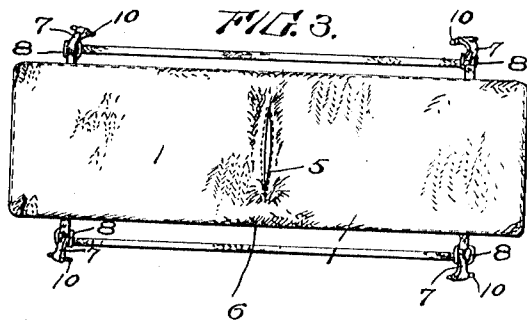
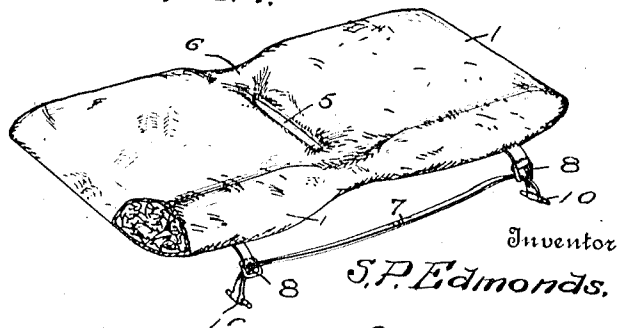


FIG. 4.



Witnesses
R. S. Trogner.
Andrew Smith.

By

Inventor
S. P. Edmonds.

Eugene L. Brown
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL P. EDMONDS, OF CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND.

LIFE-PRESERVER AND PILLOW.

1,061,275.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 13, 1913.

Application filed December 7, 1912. Serial No. 735,546.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL P. EDMONDS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Catonsville, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers and Pillows, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to life-preservers which may be readily placed in position and will permit freedom of movement of the wearer when in the water and possesses sufficient buoyancy to sustain the weight of the person when at rest.

15. One of the main purposes of my invention is to provide a life-preserver which will sustain the head and maintain it above the water even though the person may be in a comatose state or have lost consciousness, since it is possible to be in this state or condition for long periods and afterward be resuscitated. I therefore provide a construction which will rise under the chin of the wearer and at the same time will be soft and pliable, yielding to the pressure thereof so that it is perfectly comfortable. I prefer to make the device in the form of a pillow so that it may be used upon the beds, cots or bunks of vessels in the place of the ordinary pillow, although it may be adapted for a hammock-mattress, such as used by sailors, or as a bench-cushion.

While it has been proposed to make an inflatable bag to loop around the neck and also to form a life-preserver in the form of a pillow, yet insofar as I am aware, I am the first to provide a pillow-like device which is so constructed that it is maintained in position upon the body by means of the neck and a single drawing strap or set of straps about the waist. The buoyancy of the filling material causes it to rise so that it automatically maintains a position against the chin, thereby holding the head above the water even though the wearer becomes unconscious. This is a very important feature of my invention. Moreover the body of the mattress is soft and pliable so that it is impossible to hurt or injure the person by reason of a shock or jar when jumping into the water, as in the case of stiff unyielding substances, such as cork.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate an embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a life-preserver secured to a person, showing the man-

ner in which the head of the wearer will be supported above water; Fig. 2, is a side elevation of the life-preserver when used as a pillow; Fig. 3, is a plan view of the same when extended longitudinally; and Fig. 4, is a perspective view of the preserver in extended position; and Fig. 5 is a front view showing the life-preserver in position upon a person.

The pillow life-preserver is formed of a fabric cover or casing 1 which may be the usual bed-ticking, or it may be treated to form a water-proof envelop, and is filled with a buoyant resilient material, preferably having water-resistant properties. The buoyancy of this material is very great so that a person wearing one of these life-preservers may even support an additional weight, as by carrying a child.

The opposite halves of the body portion are preferably alike so that it is immaterial whether the parts be folded in one direction or the other. In fact it is desirable to reverse the parts occasionally during its regular use as a pillow. In Fig. 2, I have shown the pillow in its usual folded position and incased in an ordinary pillow-slip or case 3. By reason of the soft fluffy nature of the silk floss, this construction provides an exceedingly comfortable pillow.

One of the important features of my invention resides in the construction which causes the portion at the fold to snugly hug the neck and to permit the body-portion to rise up under the neck and yet be absolutely secure from danger of coming over the head of the wearer whether young or old. I accomplish this by forming a narrow elongated slot 5, transversely of the part 6, which forms the fold and causing the slot to extend only a portion of the width of the body portion, leaving a space between each end of the slot and the side or edge of the cover so that the filler may extend entirely across from one bag-portion to the other. When in position on the wearer, the filling extending across the sides of the fold, bears snugly against the sides of the neck and not only enhances the comfort but assists in maintaining the head above the water. It will be observed that my life-preserver forms a protective pad both front and back over all of the vital parts of the body, thereby warding off the chill of the cold water, and also protects the neck and spine above the water and from the force of the waves. This is

of great practical value, as will be recognized by physicians and others.

When the preserver is slipped over the head, the slot 5, is spread open and the head 5 will instinctively be turned somewhat to one side in the direction of the length of the slot. One end of each side strap 7 is then pulled until it is tightened and fastened in the buckles 8. In order that there cannot 10 be a mistake in pulling on the preserver and further that the person may not require the assistance of another, even though nervous and excited, as is liable to be the case in time of an accident, I have made both 15 sides alike and have so arranged the straps and buckles that they will be tightened by pulling upon either end of the straps. This may be accomplished by providing buckles upon both sides of the preserver and passing 20 the opposite ends of the strap through the opposite buckles, the ends being prevented from slipping out of the buckles by stops or bars 10 secured to the ends of the strap. Both ends of the strap are provided with a 25 series of holes so that either end may be adjustably fastened in the adjacent buckle or other fastening device.

I avoid using any straps upon the upper part of the body under the arms, in order 30 that the body of the preserver may be free to rise and as soon as it reaches the water its buoyancy will automatically cause it to rise and work upwardly until it bears against the chin and head. This is an important 35 feature of my invention as upon this depends the power to hold the head well out of the water when the party may have become comatose or unconscious, which so frequently happens after floating for a number 40 of hours. When the preserver thus rises about the neck and throat, it will be prevented from slipping over the head by reason of the construction of the narrow slot running transversely of the body portion. 45 When the head drops forward as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, the chin is slightly embedded in the soft yielding body portion and is thereby supported. The buoyancy of the preserver maintains the person from becoming prone 50 or falling below the level of the water as is

evident from a consideration of the construction above described.

While I have described in detail the particular construction illustrated in the drawings for the purpose of explaining an embodiment of my invention, I am aware that 55 changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:—

1. A life-preserver comprising a fabric 60 casing or envelop having similar substantially rectangular pillow-like compartments connected by an intermediate shoulder portion having a narrow transverse slot to receive the head of a wearer, a 65 buoyant resilient non-absorbent material filling said compartments, fastening means connecting intermediate parts of said compartments adjacent the waist-line, which 70 upon being submerged permits the entire buoyant body to rise and concentrate the sustaining force thereof about the head and shoulders of the wearer, the portion adjacent the slot engaging the head and the 75 casing being held upon the wearer solely by the engagement about the neck and said intermediate fastening means.

2. A life-preserver comprising a fabric casing forming a substantially rectangular closed bag, said bag being normally folded 80 upon itself and provided with a narrow transverse slot or opening in the fold, a buoyant resilient material filling the bag, and adjustable fastening devices connected to opposite intermediate parts of the folded 85 bag, the bag being held upon the wearer solely by the engagement about the neck and said intermediate fastening device, whereby upon being submerged the entire 90 buoyant body is raised and the sustaining force thereof is concentrated about the head and shoulders of the wearer, the portion adjacent the slot engaging the head.

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

SAMUEL P. EDMONDS.

Witnesses:

EUGENE C. BROWN,
M. E. ELWOOD.