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CUSHION BOOT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 36—54)

The present invention relates to boots and shoes and more particularly to an ankle length or higher boot provided with cushioning means to increase its comfort.

Higher length shoes such as walking boots and work shoes, particularly those of the blucher type which are closed by a gusset and lacing, tend to be uncomfortable at points under the eyelets or hooks which receive the lacing and at the back of the heel due to the force exerted on the hooks or eyelets, by the lacing, particularly in the case of hooks, as the lacing tends to rock the hooks and cause them to dig into the foot.

An object of the invention is to provide a boot or shoe closed by lacing which is more comfortable than boots and shoes of prior known constructions.

A further object is to provide a laced boot or shoe of the type closed by lacing and having a gusset which is more comfortable at the instep and ankle than the known constructions.

A further object is to provide a laced boot which is more comfortable at the back of the heel.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description of a presently preferred embodiment of the invention, wherein reference is made to the accompanying drawing in which,

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of the boot;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation;

FIG. 3 is a horizontal sectional view on line 3—3 of FIG. 2, and

FIG. 4 is an exploded view showing details of construction of the gusset and gusset liner.

The boot selected for purpose of illustration comprises a conventional sole 2 and an upper indicated generally at 4. In the illustrative shoe the upper is of the blucher construction wherein the two quarters 6 extend forwardly over the vamp and are left free of attachment at their forward edges. Each quarter 6 is provided along its forward edge with the conventional series of hooks 8 for reception of the conventional lacing to secure the shoe on the foot. A conventional backstay 10 is provided at the back of the upper.

The front of the upper is closed by the gusset 12 which is secured to the upper by stitching 14 along its side and bottom margins, the side margins being turned forwardly to lie flat against the quarters adjacent their forward edges so that the gusset folds upon itself as the shoe is laced up.

The inner face of the gusset is largely covered by a gusset liner 16 stitched around its margin to the gusset.

In accordance with the invention I provide a cushion liner 18 between the gusset 12 and the gusset liner 16 in a position to underlie the hooks 8 at each side of the gusset and to extend across the gusset at positions corresponding approximately to the uppermost and the lowermost lacing. As shown to the best advantage in FIG. 4, the cushion liner 18 is in the form of a sheet of soft, spongy, compressible material having its central portion at 20 cut away so that the cushion liner comprises side portions 22, a top portion 24 and a bottom portion 26. The cushion liner 18 is assembled with the gusset 12 and gusset liner 16 to lie therebetween, as appears in FIG. 4, and is secured in position between inner and outer lines of stitching 28, 30 respectively, passing through the gusset and the gusset liner adjacent the inner and outer mar-

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gins respectively of the cushion liner 18. The cushion liner 18 is so located on the gusset that, as appears in FIG. 1, its side portions 22 underlie the lines of hooks 8 when the boot is closed by the lacing, and preferably so that its upper portion 24 underlies the uppermost lacing and its lower portion 26 underlies the lowermost lacing.

To further increase the comfort of the boot, I provide a backstrip comprising a layer 32 of a soft, spongy, compressible material underlying the backstay 10 and disposed between the backstay and the quarter lining 34. This layer 32 may extend from a point adjacent the sole to a point well above the heel.

As the material for the cushion liner 18 and the backstrip 32 I may use any soft, compressible, spongy material such as polyurethane foam or other foamed synthetic or natural resins or rubbers.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described for purposes of illustration, various modifications thereof may occur to those skilled in the art, and therefore it is not intended that the invention be limited thereto, and departures may be made therefrom within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the claims.

I claim:

1. A shoe having a sole and an upper, said upper being provided with a front opening adapted to be closed by lacing, and including a backstay and a quarter liner inside said backstay, hooks for the reception of said lacing secured to said upper along the side margins of said opening, a gusset secured to said upper along the side and bottom edges of said opening and disposed to underlie portions of the edges of said opening to which said hooks are secured, a gusset liner secured to said gusset and extending over at least a portion of the inner surface of said gusset, a cushion liner of a soft, spongy, compressible material secured in place between said gusset and gusset liner in a position to underlie said hooks and the uppermost and lowermost lacings, and a layer of a soft, spongy, compressible material disposed between said backstay and said quarter liner.

2. A shoe having a sole and an upper, said upper being provided with a front opening adapted to be closed by lacing, hooks for the reception of said lacing secured to said upper along the side margins of said opening, a gusset secured to said upper along the side and bottom edges of said opening and disposed to underlie portions of the edges of said opening to which said hooks are secured, a gusset liner secured to said gusset and extending over at least a portion of the inner surface of said gusset, and a cushion liner comprising a sheet of a soft, spongy, compressible material, said sheet having its central portion cut away and being secured in place between said gusset and said gusset liner in a position to underlie said hooks and the uppermost and lowermost lacings.

3. A shoe having a sole and an upper, said upper being provided with a front opening adapted to be closed by lacing, and including a backstay and a quarterliner inside said backstay, means on said upper along the side margins of said opening for the reception of said lacing, a gusset secured to said upper along the side and bottom edges of said opening and disposed to underlie said means, a gusset liner secured to said gusset and extending over at least a portion of the inner surface of said gusset, a cushion liner of a soft, spongy, compressible material secured in place between said gusset and said gusset liner in a position to underlie said means and at least the uppermost and the lowermost of said lacings, and a layer of a soft, spongy, compressible material disposed between said backstay and said quarterliner.

4. A shoe having a sole and an upper, said upper being

provided with a closable front opening adapted to be closed by lacing, means in said upper along the side margins of said opening for reception of said lacing, a gusset secured to said upper along the side and bottom edges of said opening and disposed to underlie said means, a gusset liner secured to said gusset, and a cushion liner comprising a sheet of soft, spongy, compressible material having its central portion cut away and being secured in place between said gusset and said gusset liner in a position to underlie said means and to extend across the gusset at least at a position corresponding approximately to the uppermost lacing.

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