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Jan. 2, 1962 J. H. CROSSON ET AL 3,015,104

CAMOUFLAGE COVER FOR HELMETS

Filed March 28, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

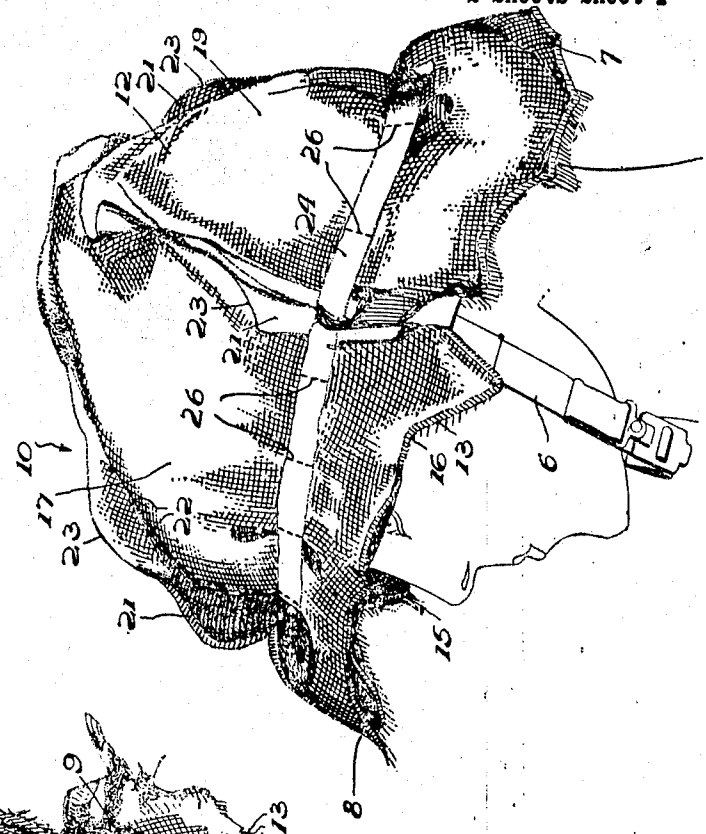


Fig. 2.

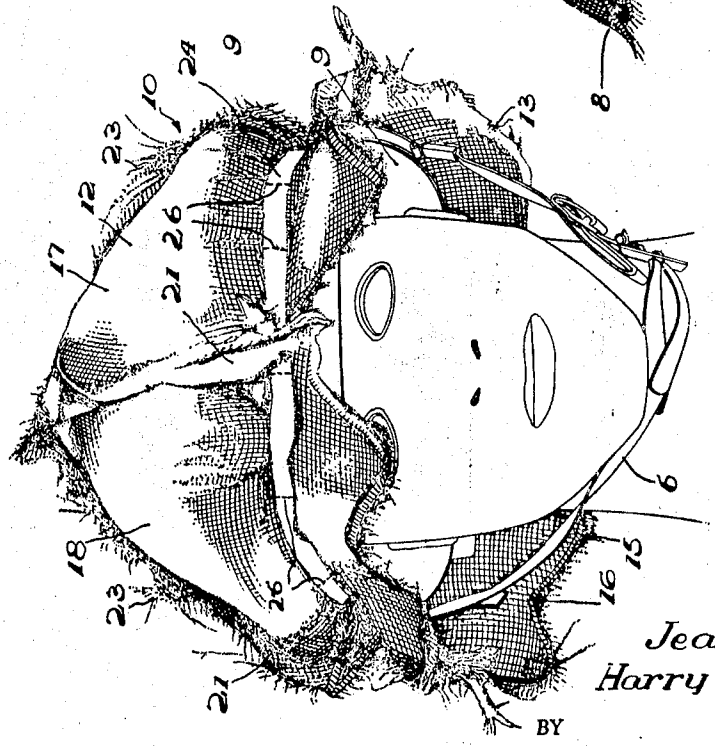


Fig. 1.

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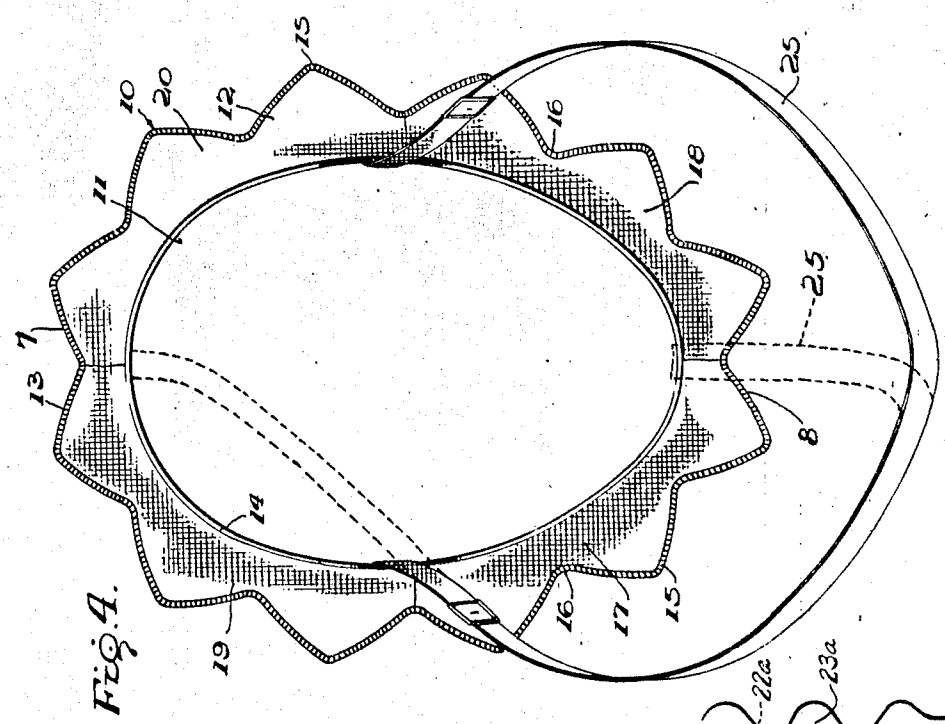


Fig. 4.

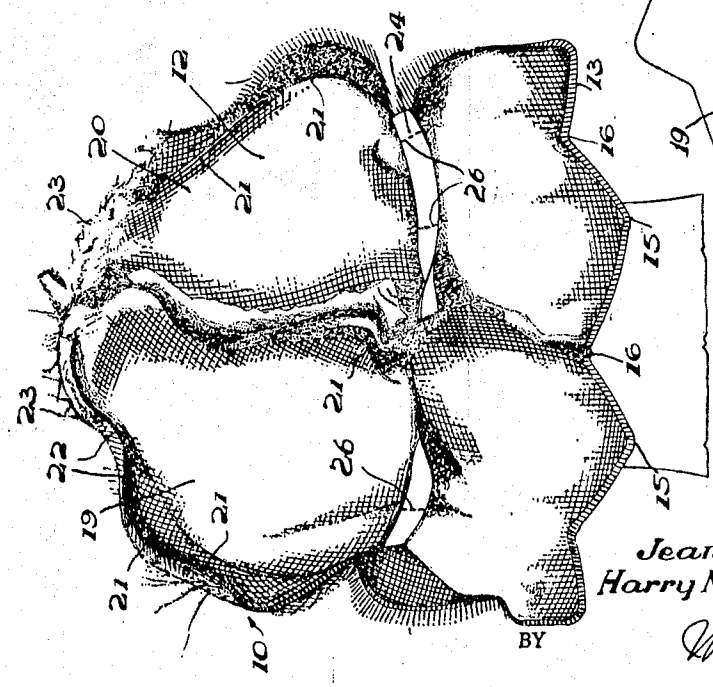


Fig. 3.

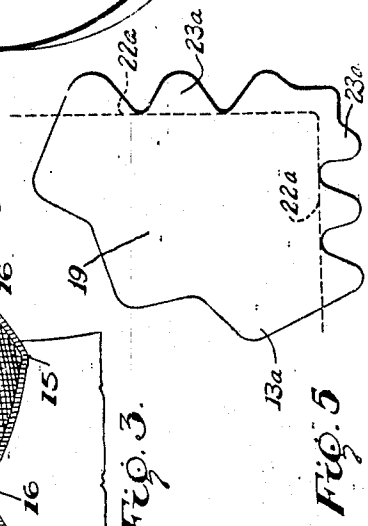


Fig. 5

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United States Patent Office 3,015,104 Patented Jan. 2, 1962

3,015,104

CAMOUFLAGE COVER FOR HELMETS

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Filed Mar. 28, 1960, Ser. No. 18,205
2 Claims. (Cl. 2—6)
(Granted under Title 35, U.S. Code (1952), sec. 266)

The invention described herein, if patented, may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes, without the payment to us of any royalty thereon.

The invention relates to camouflage covers for protective helmets, particularly military helmets. Such covers are necessary in combat to disquise the characteristic profile of the helmet when seen against a contrasting background. In the past, such covers have relied upon camouflage coloring and/or a close fitting cover with openings therethrough, through which natural foliage may be extended to break up the symmetrical profile of the helmet. Such covers have the disadvantage that the user must take considerable time plucking the natural foliage and applying it to the cover. Also, it is inevitable that certain terrain will fail to provide any natural foliage whereby such covers are virtually useless when seen in silhouette.

With the foregoing in view, it is an object of the invention to provide an improved camouflage cover for a protective helmet.

A further object is to provide such a cover which includes means integral therewith for providing an irregular profile at all angles.

Other objects and advantages reside in the particular structure of the invention, the structure of the several elements thereof, combinations and subcombinations of such elements with each other and/or with a protective helmet, all of which will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon reference to the attached drawing illustrating one species of the invention and to the following specification wherein the invention is described and claimed.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a frontal elevational view showing the cover applied to a protective helmet;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view thereof;

FIGURE 3 is a rear view thereof;

FIGURE 4 is a bottom plan view of the cover according to the invention apart from the protective helmet; and

FIGURE 5 is a diagrammatic plan view of an acceptable pattern for an element of the invention.

Referring specifically to the drawing, wherein like reference characters represent like parts in all views, **10** designates generally a preferred form of the cover according to the invention. Such cover, as best seen in FIGURE 4 comprises an inner ply **11** of any suitable flexible material preferably textile material, which is of a size and shape to have a substantially close fit over a protective helmet **9**, FIGURE 1. The inner ply **11** is covered by an outer ply **12** which is substantially larger than the inner ply and includes an outer or lower edge **13** which extends substantially beyond the corresponding edge **14** of the inner ply **11**. Plies **11** and **12** are secured together in any suitable manner as by being sewed to each other along the edge **14** of the inner ply. The lower edge **13** of the outer ply **12** is of irregular configuration and may be roughly star-shaped to provide a plurality of points **15** and notches **16**. The inner ply **11** need not be centered on the outer ply **12** as shown. Instead, the front edge **8** of the outer ply **12** may project beyond the inner ply **11** less than does the rear edge **7** to increase the forward field of vision of the wearer.

As best seen in FIGURES 1, 2, 3 and 5 the outer ply **12**

is formed of a plurality of sections **17**, **18**, **19** and **20**. Obviously, more or fewer sections could be utilized. Such sections **17** to **20** inclusive have free lower edges which when assembled comprise the lower edge **13** of the outer ply. Likewise, each section **17** to **20** includes side edge portions **21**. The adjacent side edge portions **21** of adjacent sections are secured together in face-to-face relation by any suitable stitches or the like **22** so that the side edge portions **21** extend radially outwardly of the outer ply **12** substantial distances. Likewise, such side portions **21** terminate in free edges **23** which are defined by ragged lines to provide helmet profile disguising means in the nature of coarse coxcombs. In the species shown, the sections **17—20** are substantially identical and FIGURE 5 illustrates an acceptable pattern for section **19**. There the broken lines **22***a* designate the lines of connection with the adjacent sections by means of the stitching **22**; **13***a* designates a portion of the lower edge **13**; and the edge portions **23***a* designate the free irregular edges **23**. Obviously, each section need not be identical and patterns other than that illustrated in FIGURE 5 are contemplated.

Preferably the outer ply **12** is formed of rough, coarse fabric such as burlap to avoid reflections. Also, if desired, an elastic band **24** may be applied to the outer ply **12** to secure an intermediate portion of the same closely to the helmet **9**. This is important if flexible member **25** (to be described) is omitted. Elastic band **24** is secured to the cover **10** by relatively widely spaced means such as the tacking **26** to permit the stems of live foliage to be inserted thereunder to increase the effectiveness of the cover. This band **24** may be omitted if suitable other means are provided to secure cover **10** in place.

The cover **10** is provided with any suitable means for attaching the same to the helmet **9**. In the embodiment illustrated, such means comprise a flexible member **25** which is secured to opposite ends or sides of the lower edge **14** of the inner ply **11**, FIGURE 4. As shown in full lines in FIGURE 4, the member **25** may be secured to opposite sides or the cover **10**. The broken lines show it secured to the front and rear of the inner ply **11**. This last is the preferred arrangement when the cover is used with a helmet having a chin strap **6** to avoid interference therewith. Such flexible member **25** is adapted to extend across the inner surface of the helmet **9** and to be secured therein by the outer surface of the usual helmet liner, not shown, if one is used or by the head of the wearer if there is no helmet liner. Obviously, any other suitable means such as hooks, snap fasteners, buttons or other separable fasteners could be utilized to secure the cover **10** to the helmet **9**.

It is obvious that the provision of a plurality of serrated coxcombs projecting outwardly of the cover **10** in a plurality of radial directions provides an irregular profile for the helmet irrespective of the angle from which it is viewed. By extending the free edge portions **21** outwardly substantial distances and by forming their free edges **23** as coarse coxcombs, the profile remains irregular even when viewed from a distance. Likewise, it is obvious that the cover is readily adaptable to the use of additional camouflage materials such as natural foliage by inserting the stems thereof underneath the elastic band **24** between tacking stitches **26**. Thus, the cover is utilizable as camouflage under all conditions irrespective whether or not natural foliage or other camouflage material is available. It is understood, that the outer ply **12** may be dyed or painted with a mottled effect typical of conventional camouflage, if desired.

While there has been shown and described what is now thought to be a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that the same is susceptible of other forms and expressions. Consequently, the invention is not considered to be limited to the precise structure shown

and described hereinabove but only as hereinafter claimed.

We claim:

1. A camouflage cover for a protective helmet, comprising four similar sections of flexible material having bottom edges and side edge portions, means connecting said side edge portions together in face-to-face relation to provide a generally helmet shaped assembly, said connected side edge portions having substantially long outwardly projecting free edges defined by ragged lines to comprise helmet-profile disguising means in the nature of coarse coxcombs, there being coxcombs extending generally transversely and generally longitudinally of said helmet when said cover is applied thereto, said bottom edges being likewise defined by ragged lines in the nature of coarse coxcombs and extending below said helmet when said cover is applied thereto to provide additional profile-disguising means, and means for securing said cover to said helmet.

2. A camouflage cover for a protective helmet, comprising a plurality of sections of coarse flexible fabric material on the order of burlap having bottom and side edge portions, means connecting said side edge portions together in face-to-face relation to provide a generally

helmet-shaped cover, said connected side edge portions having radially outwardly directed free edges of substantial length defined by ragged lines to provide helmet profile disguising means in the nature of coarse coxcombs, said bottom edges of said sections being defined by ragged lines, likewise in the nature of coarse coxcombs, said bottom edges extending below said helmet when said cover is applied thereover, and means for securing said cover over said helmet.

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