Nov. 27, 1945. E. F. SCHEPPLER 2,389,689

UNIFORM CAP

Filed May 20, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

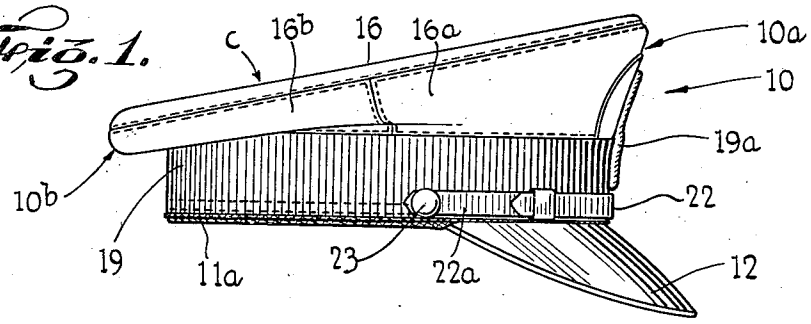


Fig. 2.

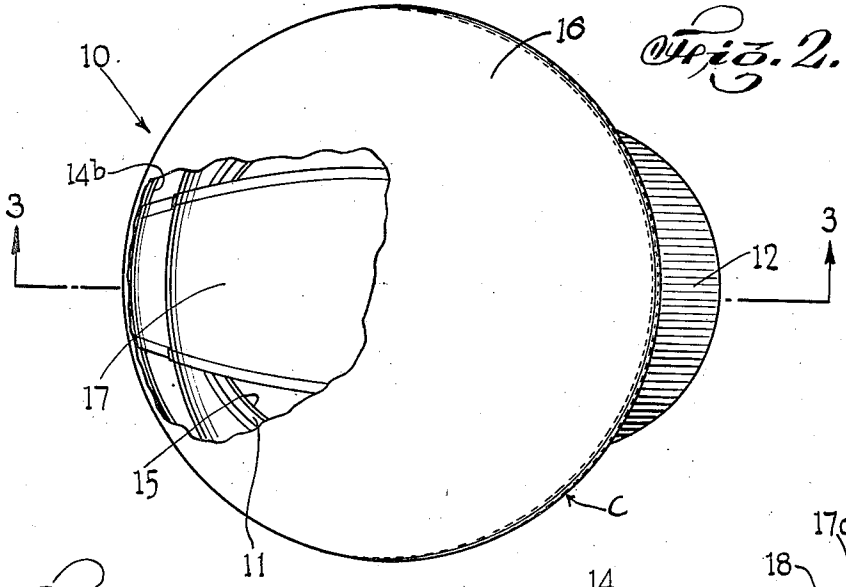
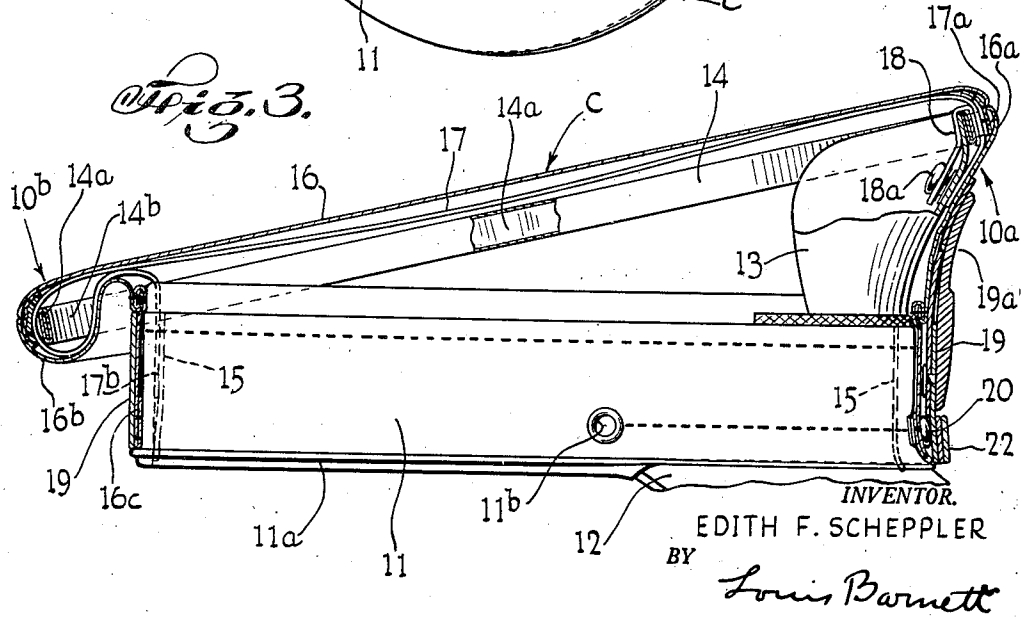


Fig. 3.



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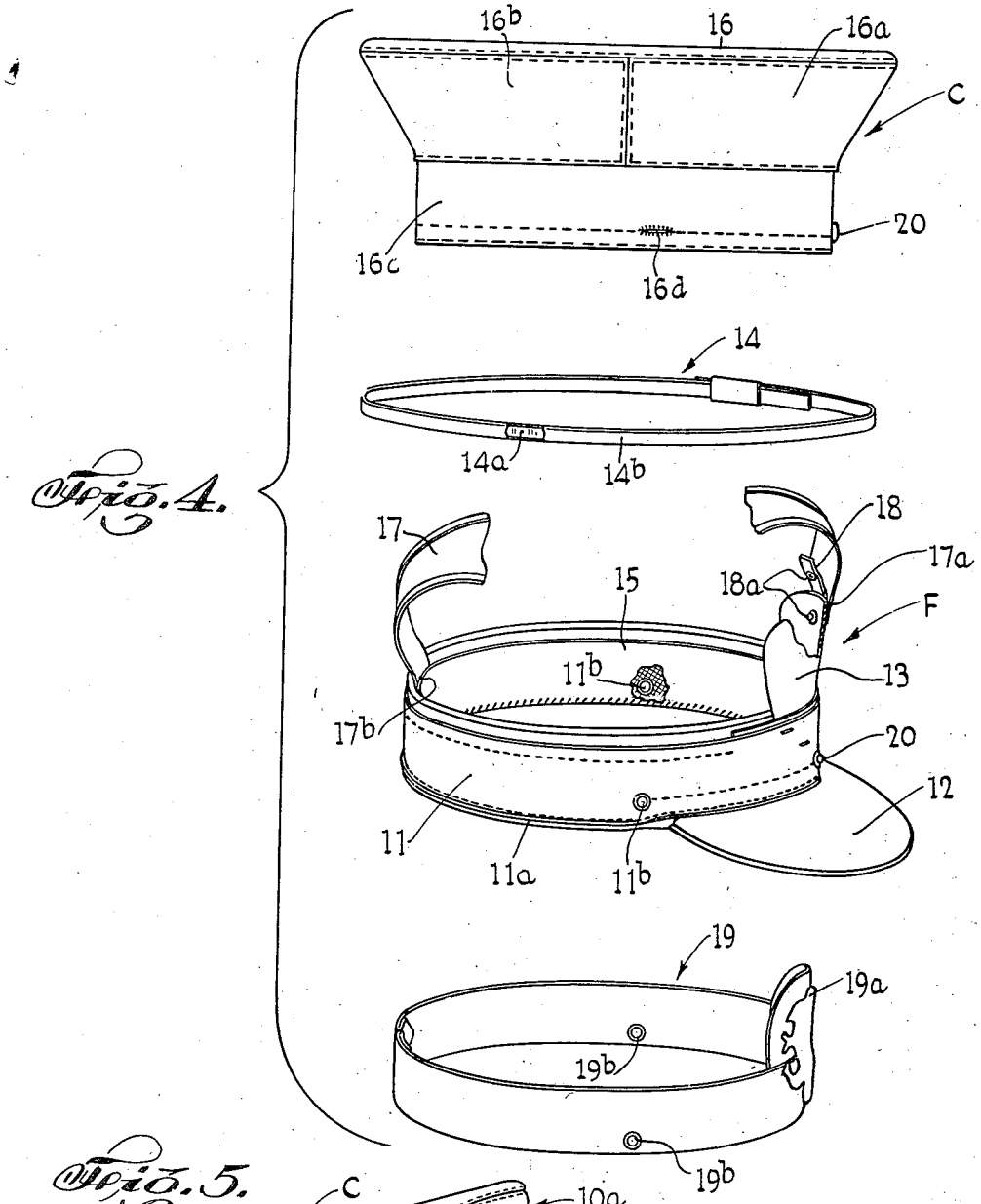


Fig. 4.

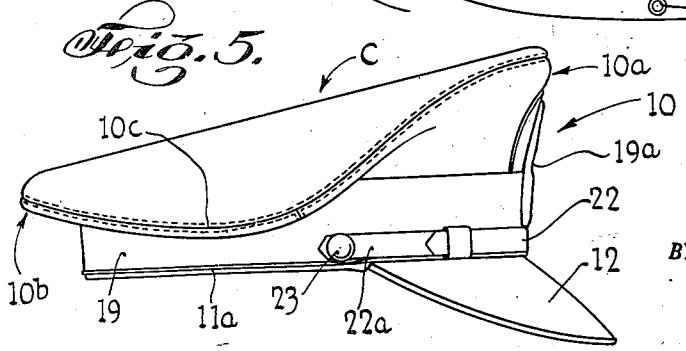


Fig. 5.

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UNIFORM CAP

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Application May 20, 1944, Serial No. 536,529

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—195)

This invention relates to head dress and more particularly is directed to a cap of improved construction having an interchangeable and convertible crown portion adapted to be used as part of a naval or military uniform and other like purposes in a variety of styles.

Among the objects of the invention is to generally improve uniform caps of the character described which shall comprise few and simple parts that are readily assembled to provide a comfortable wearing head covering of neat and attractive appearance, which shall be easily converted to conform to uniform dress for various desired occasions, which shall be readily fashioned to provide different styles with a minimum requirement of disassembly, and which shall be practical and efficient to a high degree in use.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction combinations of elements and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described and of which the scope of application will be indicated in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawings, in which is shown an illustrative embodiment of this invention.

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a uniform cap completely assembled with an interchangeable and convertible crown portion constructed to embody the invention.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the improved cap shown in Fig. 1, partly broken away to expose the interior construction of the rear portion of the cap.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged side elevational view showing the interchangeable crown cover in cross section mounted on the cap frame, taken on line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 illustrates separated portions of the improved cap shown in Fig. 1 before assembly, the crown cover being shown in a side elevation, and the grommet, cap frame and braided band with the insignia in perspective, and

Fig. 5 is a side elevational view showing the improved cap with the grommet removed therefrom for fashioning the crown cover to give a desired draping style as distinguished from the outstretched crown cover style shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3.

Referring in detail to the drawings, 10 denotes a naval or military cap having an interchangeable and convertible crown portion or cover C constructed to embody the invention. Said cap 10 may comprise a frame portion F having a stiffened head band 11 provided with an outwardly projecting peripherally extending bead 11*a* and a suitable visor or peak 12 positioned to extend over the cap front or eye region of the wearer. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, said head band 11 of frame portion F carries an upwardly extending crown bracing member or stayer 13 centrally positioned over said visor 12. Said crown bracing member on stayer 13 provides the interior supporting means for the front upstanding face of the crown cover C in the well understood manner.

The frame portion F of the cap 10 besides having a usual sweat band 15 extending about the interior side of said head band 11 is also provided with a cross lining or head shield 17 which is secured to extend along the interior surface, that is against the under side of the top or tip 16 of the removable crown cover C, as shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. Said cross lining or head shield 17 may be permanently attached in the frame structure, one end 17*a* thereof being secured by stitches or other permanent suitable fastening means to a mid portion of the bracing member or stayer 13, and the other end 17*b* being secured by stitches or other suitable fastening means to the rear interior of the stiffened head band 11, diametrical opposite to said stayer 13 as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

The cap 10 is styled to present a straight upstanding front 10*a* over the visor 12 and to have a rearward overhang or droop 10*b*, the top or tip 16 of the cover C preferably being circular shaped and of greater diameter than the size of the head opening in head band 11 so as also to extend beyond the sides of said band 11.

Said crown cover C preferably is made with the one piece circular tip 16 sewn to a double quarter or front side section 16*a*, that is, to extend continuously a distance half way around the tip 16, and two single quarters or rear side sections 16*b* that is, each section 16*b* to extend one quarter the distance around the tip 16. The quarter sections 16*a* and 16*b* are sewn to a frame mounting band 16*c* and form with said tip 16, the crown cover C. Said band 16*c* is sized so as to permit snugly fitting said band 16*c* over the exterior surface of the head band 11 and against the bead 11*a* as shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

Disposed to retain the tip 16 of the cover C outstretched and located to extend over the upper edge of the stayer 13 to the rear cap overhang at 10*b*, there is provided a circular grommet 14 which may be formed of an annular strip

or ring of metal or other resilient material. When made of a steel strip 14a said grommet 14 preferably is covered by a suitable textile sleeve 14b. The grommet 14 is releasably retained in position by a tab 18 and snap fastener means 18a, a fixed end of said tab 18 being secured between an end of lining 17 and the upper edge of the stayer 13 and when said tab 18 is effective to embrace a portion of said grommet 14, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, said grommet 14 normally lies in a plane in angular relation to the head opening of the cap head band 11. Said grommet 14 has the portion thereof diametrical opposite that retained by the tab 18 and snap fastener 18a, lodged within said overhang or droop 10b.

The head band 11 may be provided with spaced through eyelets 11b located adjacent to and just over the ends of the visor 12, the cover band 16c being provided with suitable button hole openings 16d formed therein arranged and positioned to register with said eyelets 11b when the cover C is assembled in place on the frame portion F. It has been found to be quite troublesome to get the cover C assembled on the frame portion F with the alignment of the openings 16d in register with said eyelets 11b. One feature of the invention is to facilitate such proper assembly. To this end the head band 11 and the cover band 16c are provided with releasable interconnecting fastener means, such as snap fastener parts 20. The cover band 16c is retained in proper relation while it can be readily and conveniently slipped over the head band 11. The cover band openings 16d will then positively be aligned and register with said eyelets 11b.

As a necessary trimming for cap 10, a braid band 19 having eyelets or openings 19b spaced to register with said eyelets 11b and openings 16d with an upstanding insignia 19a is provided. The braid band 19 is fitted to superimpose over the cover mounting band 16c with the insignia 19a extending over the front 10a of the cap 10 as shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 5.

As another usual necessary trimming, an ornamental front strap 22 is provided to extend over the braid band 19 just above the visor 12. The opposite ends 22a of said strap 22 are secured by removable button members 23 which extend successively through said strap ends 22a, spaced openings 19b of the braid band 19, opening 16d of the cover band 16c, and said eyelets 11b of the head band 11 which are all in registered alignment.

The utility of the invention will now be apparent. After the head frame F with the stayer 13, head shield 17 and visor 12 are made as one unit of the improved cap 10, one or more crown covers C may be interchanged for laundering or for various dress requirement when made of different materials, and assembled on the frame portion F in the manner described above with the appropriate braid band 19, insignia 19a and the front strap 22 mounted in place on the cover C making the cap 10 ready to wear. The cap 10, without the grommet 14, permits sides 10c and rear portion 10b of the cap cover C to drape down over the frame head band 11 thus permitting the head dress as shown in Fig. 5 to have a less rigid appearance than with the grommet 14 in place as shown in Fig. 1.

To apply the grommet 14 for stretching the cover C taut it is simply inserted into the frame head opening and secured in proper position by the tab 18 and snap fastener 18a as shown in Fig. 3.

To remove said grommet 14, the snap fastener 18a is released and tab 18 merely disengaged from the grommet 14 after which the latter can be removed through said frame head opening. Thus the improved cap 10 may be selectively given a rigid or draped effect as desired with the minimum adjustment, and various suitable covers C may be readily interchanged with the least fuss or bother by utilizing said front snap fasteners 20 to adjust and align openings 19b, 16d and eyelets 11b for receiving the buttons 23 and securing the strap ends 22a in position.

It will thus be seen that there is provided an improved cap in which the several objects of this invention are achieved and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiment above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A convertible uniform cap of the character described comprising a reinforced head band formed with spaced eyelets, a bracing stayer upstanding from a front portion of said head band, a flexible head shield permanently secured to loosely extend from said stayer to a rear portion of the head band, a circular stretching grommet movably attached to said head shield and stayer at a spaced distance from the head band, means for detchably securing the grommet to said head shield and stayer, an interchangeable crown cover fitted over the stayer and grommet and having a band snugly fitted to the head band, said grommet extending peripherial portions of the cover beyond the rear and sides of the head band for stretching said cover to have a greater cross sectional area than the opening of the head band so that when the grommet is detached and removed from within the cap cover the latter is permitted to assume a draped effect at the rear and sides of the cap, said cover band having spaced openings corresponding to the location of said head band eyelets, a strap extending partially about the cover over the front of said head band, button members securing the ends of said strap in position and having portions thereof inserted through the cover band openings and through said eyelets, and a snap fastener means for securing the crown cover in proper position on the head band aligning said cover band openings with the eyelets and for securing said cover against peripherial movement while assembling thereof on the head band.

2. The convertible uniform cap defined in claim 1 having a braid band to overlie said snap fastener means formed with spaced openings corresponding to said eyelets and cover band openings, said braid band being fitted over said cover band and under said strap with said button members extending through the braid band openings, and an insignia carried by the braid band to extend over a front portion of the cap cover supported by said stayer.

3. A convertible uniform cap of the character described comprising a reinforced head band formed with a head opening and a bead extending peripherially about said head opening, a visor mounted to project from a front portion

of said head band over the region of the wearer's eyes, spaced eyelets extending through said head band over the ends of the visor, a bracing stayer upstanding from said front portion of the head band above the visor, a flexible head shield permanently secured to loosely extend from said stayer to a rear portion of the head band, an interchangeable crown cover having a band portion snugly fitted over the head band against said bead and having a tip portion of greater area than the opening of the head band, a grommet removably attached to said head shield and stayer at a spaced distance from the head band, said grommet being positioned within said cover for stretching peripherial portions of the cover beyond the rear end sides of the head band so that when the grommet is removed from within the cap cover the latter is permitted to assume a draped effect at the rear and sides of the cap, said cover band having spaced openings registering with said eyelets, a snap fastener means for securing the cover in proper position on the head band to align said cover band openings with the eyelets and for securing said cover against peripherial movement while assembling thereof on the head band, a braid band fitted over the cover band having spaced openings aligning with the cover band openings and said eyelets, said braid band formed with an insignia extending over the front portion of the cover band supported by said stayer, a strap extending partially about the braid band, and button members securing said strap ends formed with portions inserted through the braid band and cover openings and the eyelets.

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