J. S. PEROTTI.

LIFE BELT.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 26, 1916.

1,209,200. Patented Dec. 19, 1916.

Fig. 1.

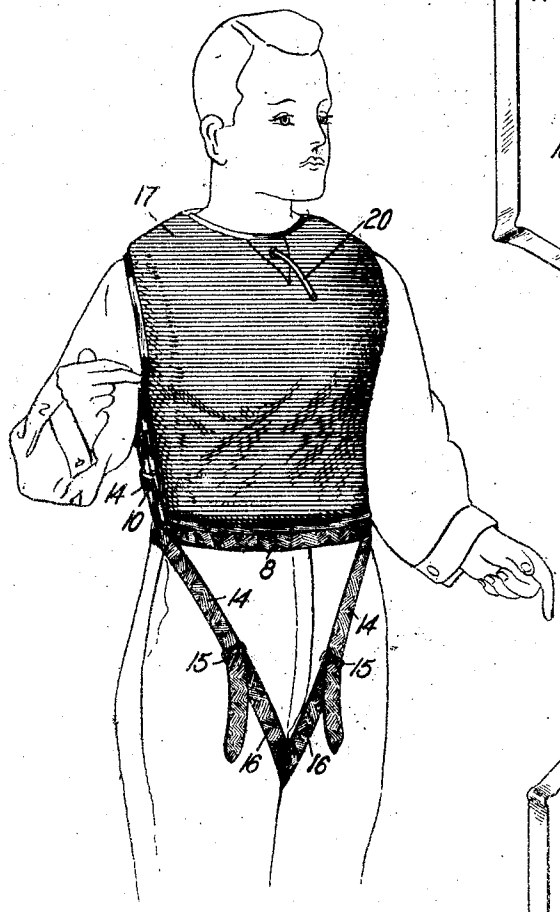


Fig. 2.

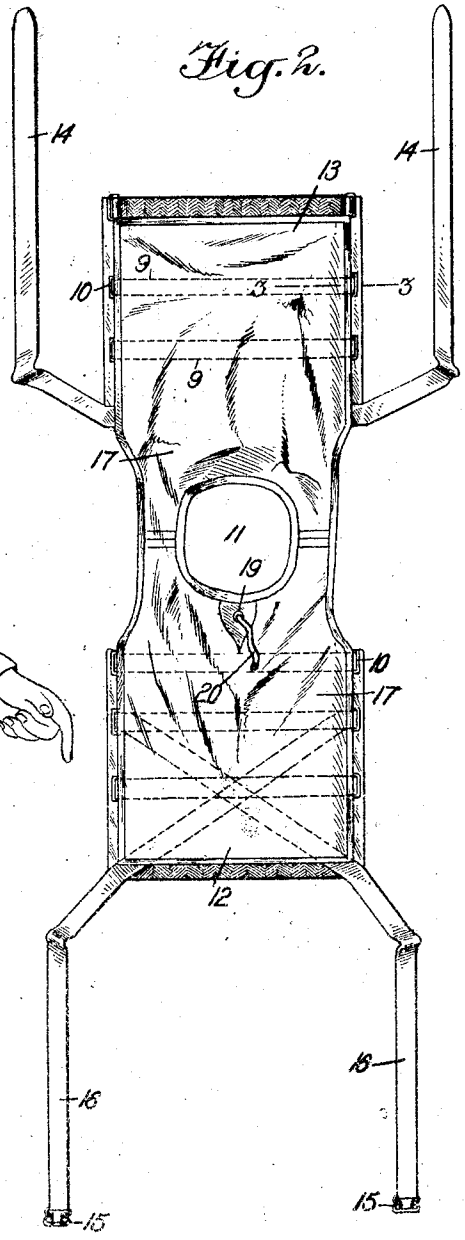
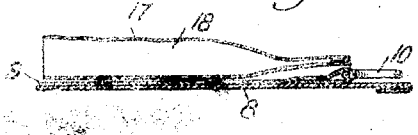


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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LIFE-BELT.

1,209,200. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 19, 1916.

Application filed January 26, 1916. Serial No. 74,302.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. PEROTTI, a subject of the King of Italy, and a resident of West New York, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Life-Belt, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

Among the principal objects which the present invention has in view are: to provide an article of the character mentioned adapted for rapid and easy installation in service; to store said article in a small compass; and to provide means for holding the article in service position.

Drawings.—Figure 1 is a pictorial view of a belt constructed and arranged in accordance with the present invention, showing the same as installed in service; Fig. 2 is a view of the belt spread out in its inactive position and condition; Fig. 3 is a section on an enlarged scale of a fragment of the belt, the section being taken as on the line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

Description.—As seen on the drawings, the belt is constructed as a modified form of poncho, wherein a rectangular base piece 8 is formed from non-elastic material, such as canvas, on which are primarily mounted belt sections 9, the ends whereof are looped through to hold in service position, metal eyelets 10. The center of the base piece 8 is cut away to form a hole or head opening 11. The portion of the belt of which the base piece 8 forms a part, extending, when in service, in front of the wearer, is the breast-piece 12, while the portion of the belt which covers the back of the wearer, is designated as the back 13.

The belt sections 9 are disposed in parallel relation, as seen best in Fig. 2. The belt sections on the front and back pieces are somewhat differently arranged to accommodate the lacing of the strap ends 14, the variation in the arrangement consisting in the disposition of the sections 9 on the back piece from the waist upward, while on the front piece, the said belt sections are disposed from the neck downward. This arrangement results in the disposition of the top eyelets 10 on the breast-piece at a level in service with the connection of the strap ends 14 on the back piece 13.

As hereinafter described, when the strap ends 14 are laced through the eyelets 10, the last eyelets through which the ends pass are at the bottom of the back piece 13. It is from these eyelets that the strap ends 14 extend around the body of the wearer for engagement by buckles 15 on straps 16. The straps 16, as shown best in Fig. 2 of the drawings, are securely mounted and extended from the lower end corners of the breast-piece 12.

Securely mounted on the breast-piece 8, is the bag 17. The bag is constructed from any material which is air tight, to form a hollow chamber 18. The bag 17 is coextensive and shaped to conform with the strip or base piece 8. The chamber 18 is filled with air by employing a valve of conventional form. A small tube 20 is attached thereto, the end of which may be placed in the mouth of the wearer of the belt after the belt is installed in service relation, so that the bag 17 may be inflated, and in order that the inflation may be maintained when the person is in the water, and thus provide for the possibility of an undiscovered leak developing when the belt is in service.

Operation.—To adjust the belt to the human body, the operation is as follows: Preferably when the belt is deflated, it is placed on the body, the head of the person being passed through the opening 11, the breast-piece 12 extending in front of the person, while the back-piece 13 covers the back of the person. The strap ends 14 are now at the back of the person and are brought forward to be passed through the eyelets 10 at the top of the breast-piece 12. The strap ends are then carried back, to be passed through the uppermost of the eyelets 10 on the back-piece 13, from whence they are extended forwardly and passed through the eyelets 10 of the second series on the breast-piece 12. From here the strap ends are passed through the second series of eyelets 10 on the back-piece 13 and are

brought forward and passed through the eyelets of the third or lowermost of the series on the breast-piece 12. From this position, the strap ends are carried through the third or lowermost eyelets 10 of the series on the back-piece, and are from here brought forward to the front of the person. The strap ends 14 are engaged at the front of the person substantially as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, with the buckles 15 of the straps 16. To accomplish this, the straps 16 are passed forward from the rear between the legs of the wearer, the buckle-provided ends of the straps extending in front of the abdomen, so as to conveniently engage the strap ends 14. When the strap ends and straps 16 are tightened, it will be found that the belt is securely held to the person, and is prevented from riding upward on the person by reason of the extension of the straps 16 below the crotch of the wearer. Having adjusted the belt to service position, the wearer places the end of the tube 20 in his mouth and proceeds to inflate the bag 17. When the bag 17 is completely inflated, the belt is in condition for use. It will be understood that the valve 19 is of conventional type having an automatic check valve for preventing the exhaust of air therethrough.

As shown in the drawings, when making the bag 17 and when mounting the same on the strip 8, care is exercised to full the material of which the bag is constructed, to form a normally enlarged chest portion, and thereby raise the center of flotation above the center of gravity of the person wearing the belt.

Where the narrowed sections of the bag cross the shoulder-forming portions of the strip 8, the material is somewhat contracted to prevent an undue enlargement of the relatively soft body sections formed by the back and at these points.

I claim:

1. A life belt comprising a substantially rectangular envelop member having at the center thereof a head opening; a plurality of eyelets disposed at the lateral edges of the end sections of said member; a plurality of strap ends, each permanently connected with one of said sections and adapted for being threaded through said eyelets for lacing said sections in service relation to the body of a wearer; a plurality of flexible members permanently attached to one of the sections of said member for extension below the crotch of said wearer; and means for connecting in service the terminals of said strap ends and said flexible members.

2. A life belt comprising a substantially rectangular envelop member having at the center thereof a head opening; a plurality of eyelets disposed at the lateral edges of the end sections of said member; a plurality of strap ends, each permanently connected with one of said sections and adapted for being threaded through said eyelets for lacing said sections in service relation to the body of the wearer; a plurality of flexible members permanently attached to one of the sections of said member for extension below the crotch of said wearer; means for connecting in service the terminals of said strap ends and said flexible members; and a plurality of reinforcing belt end sections operatively connected with said eyelets for relieving the strain from said rectangular member.

3. A life belt comprising a substantially rectangular envelop member having at the center thereof a head opening; a plurality of eyelets disposed at the lateral edges of the end sections of said member; a plurality of strap ends, each permanently connected with one of said sections and adapted for being threaded through said eyelets for lacing said sections in service relation to the body of a wearer; a plurality of flexible members permanently attached to one of the sections of said member for extension below the crotch of said wearer; means for connecting in service the terminals of said strap ends and said flexible members; a plurality of reinforcing belt end sections operatively connected with said eyelets for relieving the strain from said rectangular member; and means conveniently located to the mouth of the wearer for at will inflating said member.

4. A life belt comprising an elongated approximately rectangular non-elastic base strip; a plurality of belt sections permanently mounted thereon; a plurality of eyelets permanently mounted in the ends of said belt sections; a plurality of flexible strap ends permanently mounted on said base strip adjacent the upper end thereof; and a plurality of straps permanently connected with said strip at the lower end thereof, said straps being provided with fastening devices for engagement with said strap ends when the same are laced through said eyelets, said straps being adapted for passage below and through the crotch of the wearer.

5. A life belt comprising an elongated approximately rectangular non-elastic base strip; a plurality of belt sections permanently mounted thereon; a plurality of eyelets permanently mounted in the ends of said belt sections; a plurality of flexible strap ends permanently mounted on said base strip adjacent the upper end thereof; a plurality of straps permanently connected with said strip at the lower end thereof, said straps being provided with fastening devices for engagement with said strap ends when the same are laced through said eyelets, said straps being adapted for passage below and

through the crotch of the wearer; a pneumatically inflatable bag member mounted on said base strip; and means for at will inflating said bag, said means embodying a tube, the end whereof may be placed in the mouth of the wearer when said belt is in service.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN S. PEROTTI.

Witnesses:
OTTO A. GRIESBACH,
MICHAEL WIRTH.