Aug. 14, 1951 H. C. COOKMAN 2,564,564

SAM BROWNE BELT

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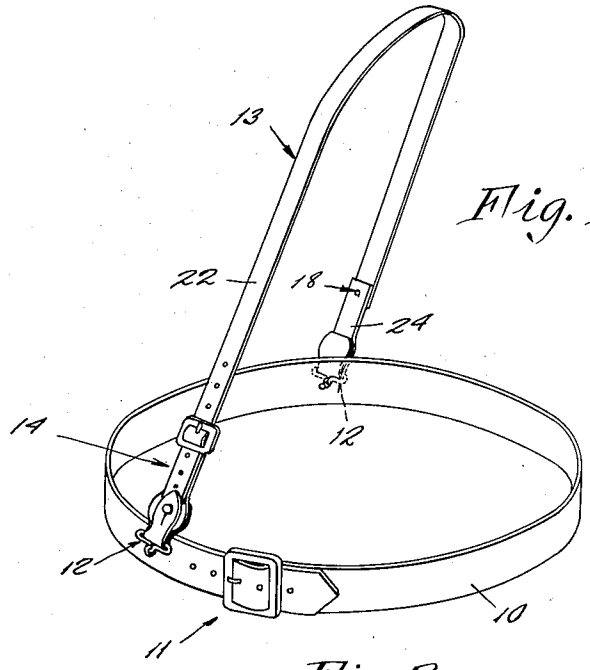


Fig. 1

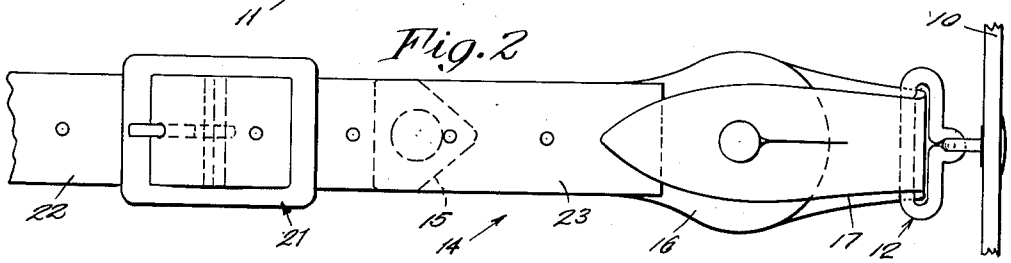


Fig. 2

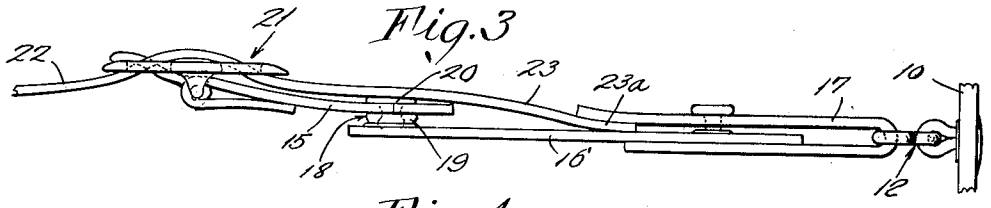


Fig. 3

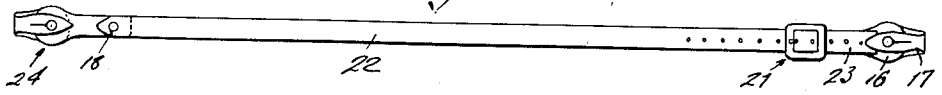


Fig. 4

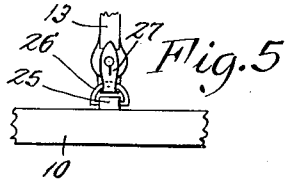


Fig. 5

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SAM BROWNE BELT

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This invention relates to Sam Browne belts.

An object of the invention is to provide an improved safety Sam Browne belt which is so organized that the person wearing it is not made especially vulnerable to attack by an assailant, through the latter being able to grip and pull the belt.

Heretofore, a serious objection to the use of Sam Browne belts by personnel of police forces and the like has been the possibility of an assailant obtaining an advantage over the wearer of the belt by grasping and pulling the shoulder strap portion thereof, and by this action throwing or maneuvering the said wearer into a vulnerable position. Where no belt having a supporting shoulder strap is worn about the exterior of a person, the possibility of quickly obtaining a firm grasp of the body of the person is quite remote, since it is extremely difficult to securely grip articles or apparel, or to grasp a tight-fitting waist belt.

Several proposals have been made in the past to overcome this objection to Sam Browne belts, but these proposals have not been generally successful. One proposal involved the use of fastening means which became separated when the Sam Browne belt was subjected to any considerable longitudinal pull. It was found difficult, however, to properly adjust the fastening means so that these would not inadvertently be released in response to strains to which the belt was subjected during normal activity of the wearer. The fastening means employed was so constituted that it would be released in response to pulls on the belt in the same direction as the load which the belt is supposed to carry or sustain. Thus, if the pull on the belt during normal use were to reach a certain critical value, the fastening means would inadvertently be released.

The difficulties and disadvantages of the prior devices as listed above are overcome by the present invention. In accordance with the invention, a Sam Browne belt is provided which has separable fasteners so constituted that the pulls on the belt occasioned by loading or met with in normal use cannot cause separation of the fasteners, whereas pulls on the belt in a direction broadside to it, such as would occur if an assailant grasped the belt, will cause the fasteners to be readily released.

In the specific embodiments of the invention illustrated herein the fastening means comprise snap fasteners of the type commercially known as Carr fasteners. The said fasteners are secured to end portions of the shoulder strap of

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the belt to fasten the portions to the remainder of the shoulder strap with broadsides juxtaposed. When the belt is being worn, the load which the shoulder strap carries causes longitudinal pull or stress which has no effect upon the snap fasteners in so far as causing separation of the fasteners is concerned. However, if the shoulder strap is subjected to a broadside horizontal pull such as would be experienced if an assailant grasped and pulled the belt, the snap fastener adjacent that portion of the shoulder strap which is pulled will readily be released, so that the shoulder strap will come loose and break the effect of the grip of the assailant.

Another object of the invention is to provide a Sam Browne belt as above which is simple in construction and economical to manufacture.

A feature of the invention is the provision of an organization whereby the separable fastener at the front of the belt is concealed from view and yet is readily accessible and operative.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a Sam Browne belt made in accordance with the invention.

Fig. 2 is a broadside, front elevation of the front end portion of the shoulder strap,

Fig. 3 is an edge elevation of the front end portion of the shoulder strap of the belt,

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the shoulder strap laid out in full length, and

Fig. 5 is a detail showing an alternative type of fastening between the shoulder strap and waist band.

Referring to Fig. 1, the Sam Browne belt of this invention comprises a waist band 10 which may be of the usual construction having an adjustable buckle-type fastener 11 at the front to enable the band to be adjusted to the size of a wearer.

At the front and rear of the waist band 10 the usual connector fittings 12 are provided, by means of which a shoulder strap 13 is secured to the waist band.

According to the present invention separable fastener means are provided for the shoulder strap 13, the organization being such that the fastener means are normally inseparable in response to longitudinal pulls or strains of the shoulder straps as occurring during the normal use of the belt, but are readily separable in response to the shoulder strap being subjected to a broadside pull such as would be occasioned by an assailant grasping and pulling the strap in a

horizontal direction away from the wearer's body.

Preferably the separable fasteners are located adjacent the front and rear end portions of the shoulder strap 13. Accordingly, referring to Fig. 2, the front end portion 14 of the shoulder strap comprises separate elements 15 and 16, the latter being secured by a folded web 17 to the connector fitting 12 on the waist band 10.

The elements 15 and 16 of the shoulder strap are secured together with broadsides juxtaposed by a separable fastener 18 which is preferably a snap fastener of the type known commercially as a Carr fastener. The element 16 of the shoulder strap may carry the female part 19 of the fastener, and the element 15 may carry the male part 20.

For purposes of adjusting the length of the shoulder strap 13, the element 15 thereof is secured to an adjustment buckle 21 which receives the main portion 22 of the strap, the tongue 23 of the latter extending from the buckle 21 and being located to overlie the snap fastener 18 and conceal the same. Preferably the length of the tongue 23 is sufficient so that the extreme tip 23a thereof may be interposed between the element 16 of the shoulder strap and the folded web 17 as shown in Fig. 2.

The back end portion of the shoulder strap 13 includes a separate element 24 which is secured to the connector fitting 12. The element 24 is fastened broadside to the main portion 22 of the shoulder strap by a second separable fastener 18 of the type such as the Carr fastener.

The fasteners 18 at the end portions of the shoulder strap 13 are so organized that they normally do not separate in response to longitudinal pulls on the shoulder strap. However, if a horizontal broadside pull generally away from the wearer's body should be applied to the shoulder strap 13 above and generally in the vicinity of one of the separable fasteners 18, as would occur for instance in conflict with an assailant, the fastener will quickly and easily separate, thereby loosening the shoulder strap on the wearer and breaking the grip of the assailant upon the wearer.

Since the fasteners 18 are so arranged as to go together or separate in a horizontal direction only, when the belt is in normal position on the wearer, they will be referred to herein as "horizontally acting" fasteners, which term will be understood as designating the described condition.

It will be understood that the safety Sam Browne belt as provided by this invention is extremely simple in construction and economical to manufacture, and is fool proof in operation, since it is entirely automatic and does not require any action on the part of a wearer. The separable, horizontally acting fasteners 18 are so organized as to withstand considerable longitudinal pulling of the shoulder strap 13, greatly in excess of that experienced during normal use of the belt, without likelihood of separating.

However, the fasteners readily separate in response to substantially moderate broadside pulls in the direction to which the shoulder straps would normally be subjected during an encounter, and therefore a wearer is adequately protected against being put at a disadvantage.

Referring to Fig. 5, an alternative type of fastening is illustrated, for connecting the shoulder strap 13 to the waist band 10. This fastening comprises a loop 25 secured to the band 10, the said loop carrying a ring 26 through which the connector tongue 27 of the shoulder strap 13 is looped.

While the portions 16 and 24 have been described as being the end portions of the shoulder strap, it will be readily understood that they may be quite as accurately considered as portions of a waist band assembly 10, 16, 24, to the outer surface of which the ends of a shoulder strap 15, 21, 22 are secured by horizontally acting fasteners 18.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of this invention and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. A Sam Browne belt comprising a waist band; and a shoulder strap connected to said waist band, said shoulder strap consisting of at least three separate portions, two of said portions constituting short terminal elements firmly connected to said waist band at spaced points and each having an outside surface disposed away from the wearer's body, the remainder of said shoulder strap constituting the main portion thereof having each of its ends overlapping the outside surface of one of said terminal elements and being connected to the corresponding element in face to face relation by a horizontally acting snap fastener having two parts, one of which has its fastening means accessible from the outside surface of the terminal element and the other of which has its fastening means accessible from the inner surface of the corresponding overlapping end, whereby the shoulder strap is normally inseparable in response to longitudinal pulls thereon, but is readily separable at either of said snap fasteners by a pull on the main portion of said strap adjacent either of its ends and in a direction away from the wearer's body.

2. A Sam Browne belt comprising a waist band; and a shoulder strap connected to said waist band, said shoulder strap consisting of at least two separate portions, one of said portions constituting a short terminal element firmly connected to said waist band and having an outside surface disposed away from the wearer's body, the remainder of said shoulder strap constituting the main portion thereof being connected at one end to said waist band at a point spaced from the waist band connection of said terminal element, and having its other end overlapping the outside surface of said terminal element and being connected to said element in face-to-face relation by a horizontally acting snap fastener having two parts, one of which has its fastening means accessible from the outside surface of the terminal element and the other of which has its fastening means accessible from the inner surface of said overlapping end, whereby the shoulder strap is normally inseparable in response to longitudinal pulls thereon, but is readily separable at said snap fastener by a pull on the main portion of the shoulder strap adjacent said other end and in a direction away from the wearer's body.

3. A Sam Browne belt comprising a waist band assembly; and a shoulder strap connected to said assembly, said waist band having an outside surface disposed away from the wearer's body, said shoulder strap being connected at its ends to spaced points on said waist band assembly and, at least one of said ends overlapping the outside surface of said assembly and being releasably connected thereto in face-to-face relation by a horizontally acting snap fastener having two

parts, one of which has its fastening means accessible from the outside surface of said assembly, and the other of which has its fastening means accessible from the inner surface of said overlapping end, whereby the shoulder strap is normally proof against release from the assembly in response to longitudinal pulls along the shoulder strap, but is readily releasable therefrom at said snap fastener by a pull on the shoulder strap adjacent said one end and in a direction away from the wearer's body.

4. A Sam Browne belt comprising a waist band; and a sectional shoulder strap secured at its ends to separated points on the waist band and comprising a plurality of sections secured together intermediate the ends thereof, one of said last-named securing means consisting of a horizontally-acting snap fastener normally inseparable in response to longitudinal pulls on the strap, and which is readily separable in response to a broadside pull on the strap in a direction horizontally away from the wearer's body.

5. A Sam Browne belt comprising a waist band; a shoulder strap comprising at least three sections, said strap having the ends thereof secured

to said waist band, one pair of said sections being connected by a buckle on the first section cooperating with a tongue portion on the other section, and a horizontally-acting snap fastener connecting the first section with a third section, the said horizontally-acting fastener being normally inseparable in response to longitudinal pulls on the strap, and being readily separable in response to a broadside pull on the strap in a direction horizontally away from the wearer's body, the said tongue portion of the strap overlying and concealing the said horizontally-acting fastener when the belt is being worn.

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