July 19, 1932. A. LEHMANN 1,868,210

LIFE SAVING VEST

Filed Nov. 20, 1929

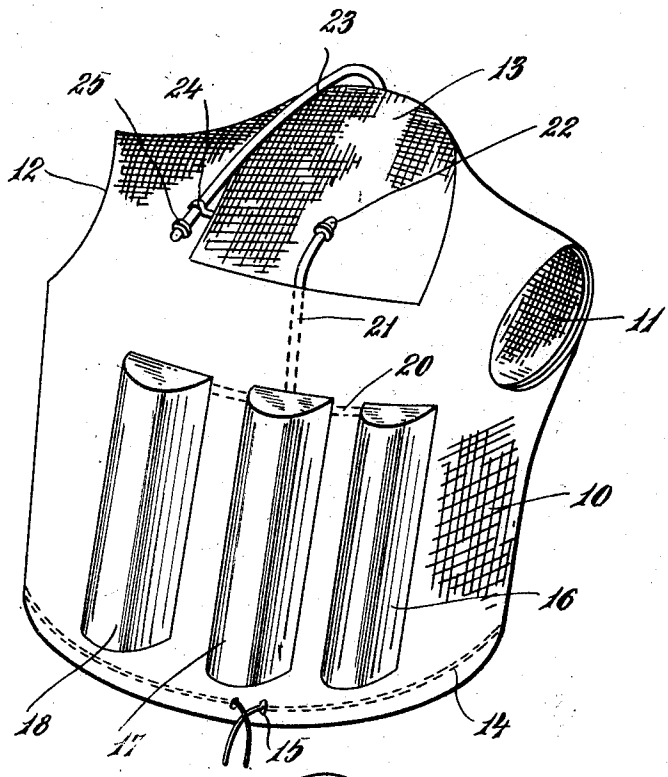


FIG. 1

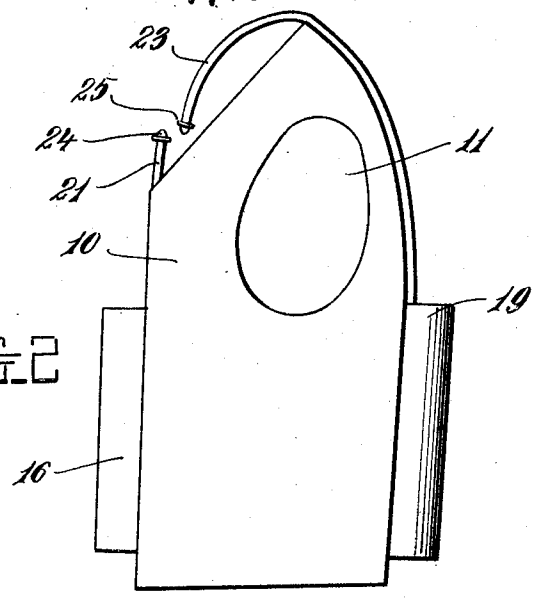


FIG. 2

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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LIFE SAVING VEST

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The main object of this invention is to provide a vest which is to be worn at sea for the purpose of adding buoyancy to a person to keep the person floating in the sea.

Another object of the invention is to provide a life saving vest equipped with air bags which may be inflated or deflated by the person using the vest and is adapted to be donned when danger becomes imminent at sea.

The above and other objects will become apparent in the description below in which characters of reference refer to like-named parts in the drawing.

Referring briefly to the drawing, Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view of the vest with the air bags in inflated condition.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the vest illustrating the locations of the several gas bags of the vest.

Referring in detail to the drawing, the numeral 10 indicates the vest proper, which is adapted to be slipped over the upper portion of the body by inserting the head through the neck opening 13. This vest body is formed unitary and is composed of two layers of material, an inner layer of duck or similar tough textile material and an outer layer of durable rubber or cat-gut having long preservative qualities. The upper corners of the vest body 10 are provided with armlet openings 11 and 12 through which the arms are slipped. The lower portion of the vest body encircles the waist line and a girdle string 14 is embedded in the laminated layers of material in loose condition. The ends of this girdle string pass through perforations 15 in front of the vest body and are adapted to be tautened and knotted when worn so that the lower portion of the vest body will not flex nor fold upwardly. On the front area of the vest which covers the breast portion of the body a plurality of enclosed semi-circular, longitudinal bags 16, 17, and 18 are formed. The same number of bags arranged in the same manner and indicated by the numeral 19 are provided on the rear surface of the vest in the region of the back of the wearer. Each set of air bags is inter-communicating and are joined at their upper ends by branch pipes 20. The central gas bag 17 of the front set of bags has an inflation tube 21 communicating therewith, said inflation tube extending upwardly beyond the marginal edge of the neck opening a sufficient distance to permit the trip valve 22 at the termination of the tube 21 to be inserted into the mouth when it is desired to inflate the bags in the front of the vest. The central bag of the rear set of bags 19 is inflated through a tube 23 whose end is retained in convenient position beneath a resilient clamp 24, and at its end is sealed by an ordinary type of valve 25, which is adapted to be inserted into the mouth.

This type of vest is adapted to be worn during periods when danger exists upon board a ship at sea or under conditions where it might be necessary for persons to risk their lives in the sea at a time when a vessel upon which they are passengers flounders or in other ways becomes lost. At such times and at the time when danger becomes imminent these life saving vests are adapted to be donned by the passengers and crew of the vessel. The bags, until the danger becomes actual, are deflated and the persons wearing these life saving devices may continue with their labor or their pleasure until a few minutes before the person actually launches himself in the sea. At this time the user of the life saving vest will insert the valve 25 or the valve 22, or both, into the mouth and will thereby inflate the sets of air bags simultaneously or successively. After these bags are filled with air, a simple and quick operation, the life saving vest is ready for duty and will retain a person in buoyant condition for an intermediate period of time, or until such time as means of rescue have arrived.

It is to be noted that certain changes in form and construction may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

A device of the class described comprising a vest covering the upper portion of the body, a girdle string on said vest for tautening the open end of said vest about the waist of the wearer, longitudinal gas bags semi-cylindrical in cross-section arranged in sets at the

front and rear of the vest projecting from the surface of said vest, said gas bags extending vertically on said vest, branch tubes connecting the individual gas bags of each set, an inflator tube communicating with one bag of said front set, a second inflator tube communicating with one bag of said rear set, means on said vest for retaining the open end of said rear inflator tube adjacent the shoulder of the vest when not in use, and closure valves on said inflator tubes.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ALBERT LEHMANN.