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XR 1,291,809

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MILITARY DRESS.

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Patented Jan. 21, 1919.

Fig. 1.

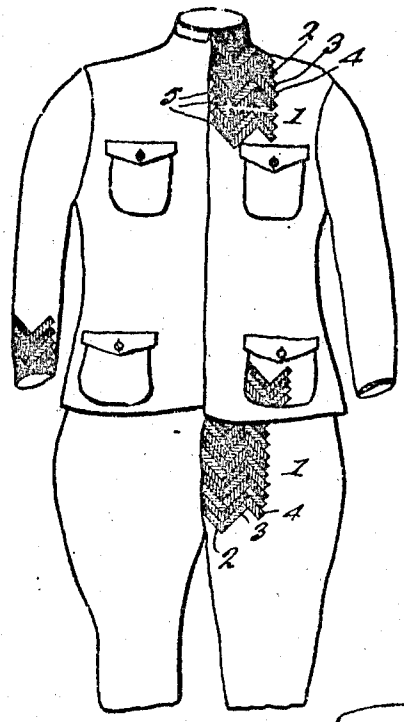


Fig. 2.

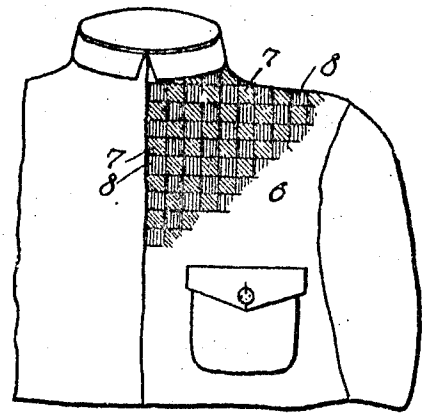


Fig. 3.

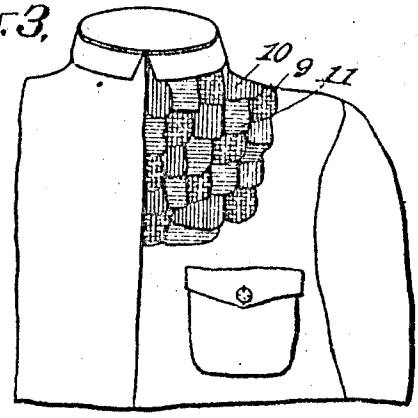
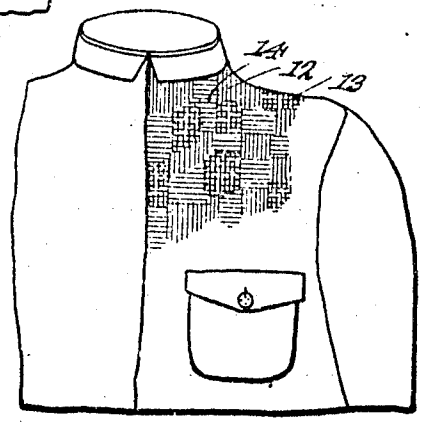


Fig. 4.



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MILITARY DRESS.

1,291,809. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 21, 1919.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EVERT CORNELIS EKKER, residing at The Hague, Netherlands, a subject of the Queen of the Netherlands, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Military Dress, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to military dress. The modern art of fighting obliges the soldier to be as little visible as possible in the battlefield. By encroaching upon this requirement the risk to be hit is considerably increased. Accordingly the outward appearance of the military has suffered an imperceptible, though strong transition from the former gaudy-colored uniform and glittering accoutrements into the gray-green dress and dead-colored accoutrements of the present. Yet by this transition the purpose aimed at has not been attained sufficiently; the gray-green cloth, which is preferred as the material from which the modern uniforms are made, is still visible during the day-time at a rather great distance, whereas at night, in the glare of searchlights, it even contrasts more with the surroundings than the cloths formerly in use. Moreover the military dress, in use nowadays, made out of the gray-green or other greyish cloths, has yet another important disadvantage: Practice has taught that these cloths lose all their freshness after a short use and communicate a dowdy and unsightly appearance to the wearer.

As it is quite certain that the appearance of the soldier influences his morale, the disadvantage of the retrogradation of his outward should not be underrated. That the French military government for instance admits the value of this factor is proved by the circumstance that it did not eliminate the red trousers, notwithstanding the greater risk to be hit.

Now this invention intends to provide a military dress, which, better than those now in use, identifies the wearer with his surroundings and which does not possess the disadvantage of unsightly appearance adhering to wearing apparel of a gray-green, brown-gray or a corresponding plain color.

According to this invention the dress is made out of cloths, which show a pattern, which may for instance be composed of differently colored stripes, strips, dots, squares, ornaments or the like, the colors of which are chosen and combined in such a way that, if seen at a moderate distance, the different colors may be clearly discerned so that the dress has a many colored appearance, while on the contrary, when the distance augments, these colors melt into a single hue, which as much as possible corresponds with the color of those surroundings, in which the dresses are chiefly to be used. For this purpose the hues of the various parts of the pattern, as stripes, strips, squares, ornaments or the like, existing on the cloth, of which the dresses are made, are chosen of such a kind and in such mutual proportion that, if seen together at some distance, the dresses assume a grayish green or brownish gray or other neutral hue.

To satisfy this requirement, it is necessary that in the cloth used the three primary colors (viz.: red, yellow and blue) are present in such mutual proportion that they neutralize each other and melt together into the desired neutral hue. Accordingly the cloth may show a pattern in red, blue and yellow, for instance composed of red, yellow and blue stripes, strips, dots, squares, ornaments or the like in such mutual proportion, that, seen at a certain distance, the colors neutralize each other and melt together into a grayish green, brownish gray or another neutral hue. The colors may be either sharply defined from each other or they may pass into each other at the borders of the differently colored figures, which compose the pattern. The colors may also be applied (woven, printed, etc.) on a grayish or otherwise neutrally colored background.

It is evident that instead of the three primary colors red, yellow and blue, there may also be used colors which are combinations of two of those primary colors or of all the three; the colors of the pattern may be either only such combined colors, or besides these one or more of the pure primary colors may be present as well, provided only that the condition has been satisfied that, if the combined colors are thought reduced into the primary colors of which they are combinations these primary colors be present in a mutual proportion, which suits the purpose. In this manner the follow-

ing combinations may for instance be used: red and green; yellow and violet; blue and orange; orange, violet and green.

In using combined colors either alone, or together with the primary ones, the colors may again be sharply defined or pass into each other at the borders of the figures, or be applied on a neutrally colored background, as stated heretofore in the case of the primary colors being used alone.

The accompanying drawings illustrate by way of example various embodiments of the invention.

Figure 1 shows a military uniform in which the three primary colors are arranged according to a strip pattern.

Fig. 2 shows part of a uniform with pattern of squares in two colors.

Fig. 3 shows part of a uniform in which the three colors are represented in irregular designs.

Fig. 4 shows part of a uniform with designs in three colors shading into each other.

In the embodiment of my invention shown in Fig. 1 of the accompanying drawings, a conventional form of military uniform is disclosed made from cloth wherein three primary colors are shown in zig-zag stripes as shown at 1. The different primary colors indicated as 2, 3 and 4 in the drawings may be arranged in rectangular blocks 5, said blocks being preferably of the same width as the desired stripe and elongated in form. They may be arranged at right angles to one another so as to form a zig-zag stripe, as above set forth. It is to be noted further that the blocks of color are alternately arranged in the stripes, and that the adjacent stripes have the order of alternation advanced or retarded one color so as to cause no two like colors to lie side by side either longitudinally or transversely of the stripes.

Fig. 2 shows a military uniform as contemplated by the invention wherein the colors are arranged in squares as shown at 6. In this arrangement, two colors may be used, as indicated at 7 and 8, which colors may be red and green, yellow and violet, blue and orange, etc., as hereinbefore explained. The colors are shown disposed in regular vertical and horizontal stripes, said stripes being composed of alternating small rectangles of different colors, thus giving transverse and longitudinal alternation of colors. It is to be noted that in this arrangement of colors the separate blocks are preferably in the form of small squares.

If desired, the colors may be arranged in irregular patches as shown in Fig. 3. This figure sets forth irregular patches of three colors, 9, 10 and 11, said colors being preferably the primary colors arranged in an irregular manner and alternated so as to have patches of like color always separated by one or more patches of different colors.

Still another manner of arranging the colors to give the desired results is shown in Fig. 4, wherein the three primary colors 12, 13 and 14 are arranged in an alternating irregular and intermerging manner. In this arrangement, the individual colors are shaded or interwoven into each other along their adjacent edges so as to give a more intimate intermingling of colors when viewed from a distance.

The colors to be used may have all the shades from soft to hard, provided only that their mutual value be equal; when applying for instance a soft blue color, the red and yellow color should be soft as well; on the other hand when using for instance a hard red, the blue and yellow should possess a corresponding hardness, so that the three colors may neutalize each other.

By applying this invention the uniform keeps the character, for which it was destined originally, namely to improve the morale of the wearer, by communicating a fresh and neat outward appearance, whereas the uniform when used in the field, protects better against being observed at some distance by causing the wearer to disappear among his surroundings.

There are known cloths which show many colored stripes, or the like, for instance for ladies dress; with these cloths, however, the aim was always to choose the colors such, that, seen at a distance, they keep as much as possible the same appearance as in the proximity, in contradistinction with the cloths according to this invention, where is aimed at producing a fresh, gaudy impression, while at some distance the colors melt together into a grayish hue, corresponding as much as possible with that of the surroundings.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A military dress comprising cloth having woven therein a plurality of colors, said colors being arranged in separate and alternating patches and of a character as to retain their true shade when viewed from a predetermined distance, but which when viewed from beyond said distance will merge into a uniform neutral hue.

2. A military dress comprising cloth having woven therein a plurality of colors, said colors being disposed in adjacent and alternating patches, the individual colors being arranged in separate patches and being separated by one or more patches of different colors, all of said colors being of a character as to retain their true shade when viewed from a short distance, but which when viewed from a greater distance will merge into a uniform neutral hue.

3. A military dress comprising cloth having woven therein a plurality of colors, the

individual colors being arranged in separate patches and like colors being separated by one or more patches of different colors, said adjacent colors being interwoven adjacent their coinciding edges and being of a character as to merge into a neutral hue when viewed from a distance.

4. A military dress comprising cloth having disposed therein in separate adjacent and alternating patches three primary colors, said colors being present in mutual proportion and uniformly distributed.

5. A military dress comprising cloth having disposed therein a plurality of colors forming adjacent patches, the patches of any color adjoining patches of a different color on all their sides, said colors being present in mutual proportion and uniformly distributed.

6. A military dress comprising cloth having disposed therein complementary colors forming adjacent patches, the patches of any color adjoining patches of a different color on all their sides, said colors being present in mutual proportion and uniformly distributed.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EVERT CORNELIS EKKER.

Witnesses:
H. J. Koor,
A. C. Gebhard.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."