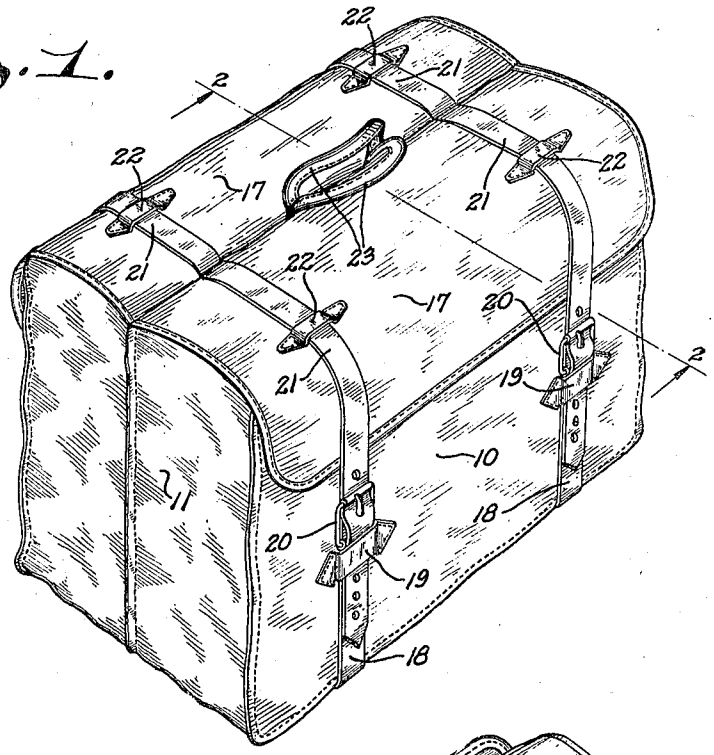
Nov. 23, 1943. W. H. BRACKEN 2,334,895

HAND LUGGAGE BAG

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Fig. 1.



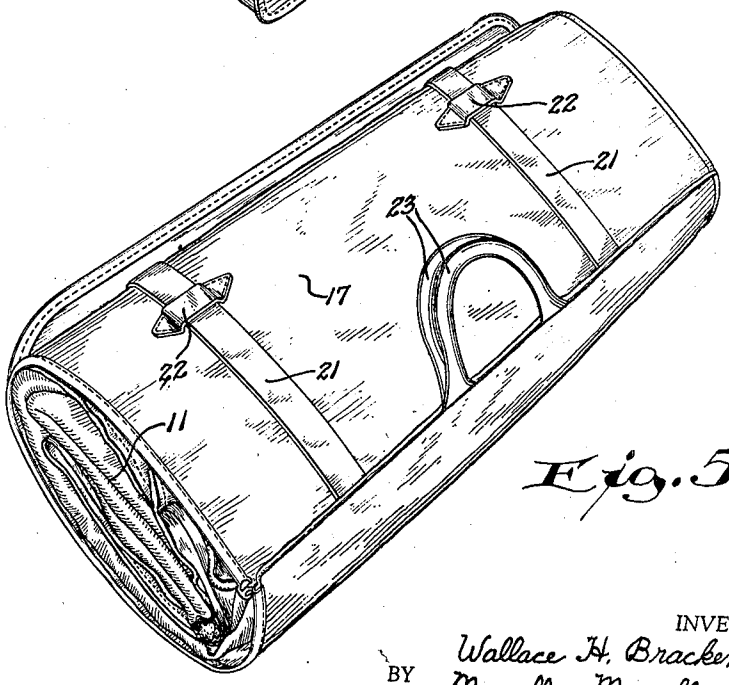


Fig. 5.

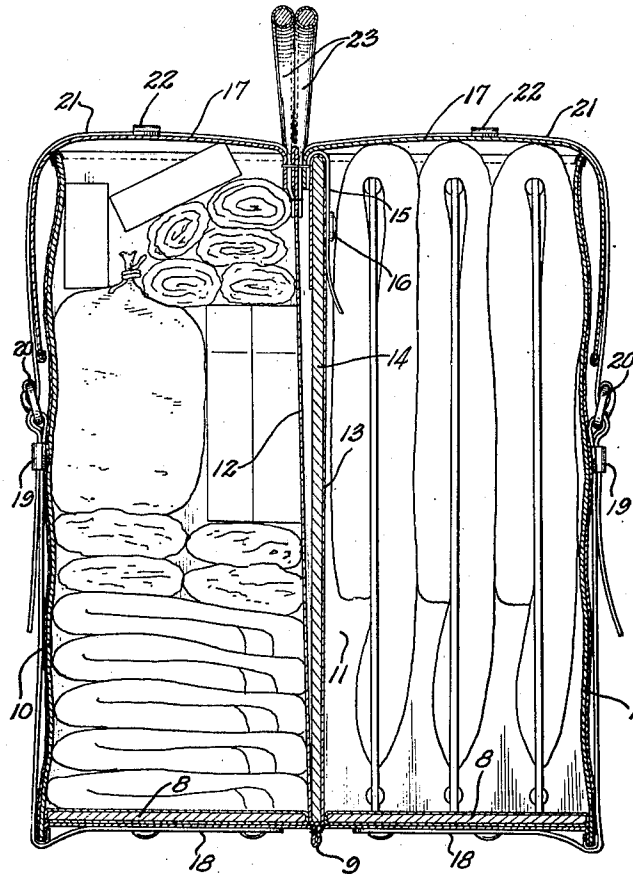
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Fig. 2.



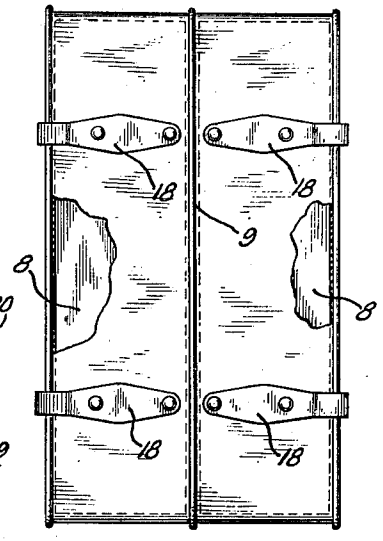


Fig. 3.

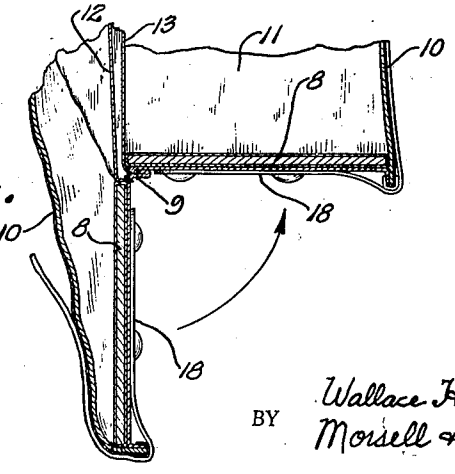


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HAND LUGGAGE BAG

Wallace H. Bracken, Rye, N. Y.

Application July 27, 1942, Serial No. 452,439

4 Claims. (Cl. 190—43)

This invention relates to improvements in hand luggage bags.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide an extremely light and commodious hand luggage bag susceptible, when empty, of being collapsed and rolled into a relatively small, compact bundle, thereby particularly adapting the hand luggage bag for the use of service men and officers in the armed forces.

Although not limited thereto the present invention is particularly useful for transportation of uniforms and traveling paraphernalia of naval officers and aviators. These service men are frequently transferred to different stations or ships requiring more or less garments as part of their standard equipment. For instance, an officer aboard an aircraft carrier must transport a large number of garments and uniforms. It is highly desirable that a hand luggage bag be provided for such garments and equipment which will, among other things, house during traveling a desired number of uniforms on suitable hanger-equipped garment carrying frames, with the garment carrying frames being removable from the luggage bag for hanging the garments thereon on a closet or locker wall, and with the luggage bag when emptied being susceptible of being collapsed and rolled into a compact bundle of minimum size for storage in any convenient limited space. The improved hand luggage bag of the present invention fulfills all of these specific requirements.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hand luggage bag of relatively great capacity but in which the weight and bulkiness has been reduced to a minimum, the bag also being adapted to effectively conceal and confine suits and uniforms without crushing and wrinkling the same.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hand luggage bag which, when utilized for the reception of suits and uniforms, permits ready access to and removal of a selected suit without disturbing the others packed within the bag.

Another specific object of the invention is to provide a hand luggage bag which has flexible external walls and which can, therefore, be readily compressed, squeezed, or distorted, in order to fit the bag into very limited spaces, without damaging the bag or its contents.

A further object of the invention is to provide a flexible walled hand luggage bag having a rigid bottom formed by a pair of panels foldable upon themselves along the longitudinal median of the bag, to thus facilitate complete and compact collapsing of the bag when it is empty.

A further object of the invention is to provide a flexible walled hand luggage bag having a two-section rigid but foldable bottom, the bag also having a central, vertical, removable panel to give form and reenforcing to the upper portion of the bag when it is in use, said vertical panel, when in position, cooperating with the sectional bottom to maintain the latter in its unfolded condition.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hand luggage bag which is neat and attractive and unique in appearance, which is light but strong and durable, which is inexpensive to manufacture, and which is well adapted for the purposes described.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists of the improved hand luggage bag, and its parts and combinations, as set forth in the claims, and all equivalents thereof.

In the accompanying drawings in which the same reference characters indicate the same parts in all of the views:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved hand luggage bag in its packed and closed condition;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse vertical sectional view through the packed hand luggage bag and taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the hand luggage bag in its unfolded condition, and with portions broken away and in section to show structural details, said view being on a smaller scale;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary, detail, sectional view of the bottom portion of the bag showing the folding of the sectional bottom members after the vertical, rigid panel of the bag has been removed; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the bag in its collapsed and rolled condition, said view being on an enlarged scale.

While the invention has been shown herein as being specifically applied to a hand luggage bag of certain proportions and of a certain shape, it will be apparent that some of the novel features are capable of more general application, and that the specific disclosure should not therefore be construed as an intent to limit the scope.

The hand luggage bag illustrated is of rectangular form. All external wall portions of the bag are formed of flexible material. For this purpose it may be practical to use different types of tenacious fabrics, canvas, and light materials.

The bottom of the bag, of rectangular contour,

is exteriorly of the class of flexible materials previously mentioned. Interiorly, however, the bottom is reenforced to give it rigidity. The bottom reenforcements comprise a pair of complementary boards or veneer panels 8 having their adjacent inner longitudinal edges slightly spaced from each other along the longitudinal median of the bottom of the bag. The inner faces of the complementary boards or panels 8 are covered by a suitable lining material or fabric. On the outer face of the bottom the fabric is formed with a welt 9 on which the complementary boards or panels 8 are foldable relative to each other, as will hereinafter appear.

The sides of the bag are formed of rectangular sheets of flexible material 10 which, in normal packed condition of the bag rise vertically upwardly from the outer longitudinal side edges of the bottom sections 8. Similarly the ends of the bag are formed by flexible walls 11 rising upwardly from the end edges of the bottom members 8. Intermediate their side edges the end walls 11 are gathered to form vertical folds or pockets into which the end edges of an interior, central, longitudinal, flexible partition 12 extend and are secured. It will thus be seen that the improved bag in its outstretched and erect condition for use provides a pair of compartments or pockets of relatively large size, of rectangular form in horizontal section, and open at the upper ends.

There is also secured within the bag in slightly spaced relation relative to the flexible partition 12 a pocket forming partition 13 whose upper edge portion is somewhat extended and is free. The central longitudinal pocket between the flexible partitions 12 and 13 is adapted, under certain conditions, to receive a rectangular, rigid pane board 14. When the panel board is in the pocket, as in Fig. 2 the upper free and extended edge of the partition 13 may be folded over the upper portion of the panel board and the upper open end of the pocket may be closed to prevent accidental removal of the rigid panel by means of straps 15 and snap fasteners 16. The bottom edges of the partitions 12 and 13 are secured directly to the fabric forming the bottom of the bag adjacent the welt 9.

The adjacent inner, longitudinal edges of a pair of top closure flaps 17 are stitched or otherwise secured to top edge portions of the central longitudinal partition 12. These top closure flaps are proportioned so as to completely cover the open upper ends of the compartments of the bag and to drape down the outer side walls 10 thereof.

To retain the bag in its closed condition when packed, and to maintain the closure flaps 17 in their proper positions, the bag is provided with suitably spaced pairs of encircling straps. Pairs of buckle-carrying strap sections 18 have their adjacent ends riveted onto the rigid bottom members of the bag, as in Fig. 3. These strap sections extend loosely up opposite sides 10 of the bag and are freely held thereto by loops 19. The free ends of said strap sections 18 carry buckles 20. Coacting with the strap sections 18 are pairs of complementary strap sections 21. The inner ends of the latter strap sections 21 are secured to upper edge portions of the partition 12 with the secured inner edge portions of the closure flaps 17. Said strap sections 21 extend freely and adjustably through top loops 22 and the free apertured ends of said strap sections 21 hang down the side walls of the bag so as to adjustably engage with the buckles 20.

For the convenient carrying of the hand luggage bag a pair of handle members 23 are provided. These handle members are somewhat flexible and swingable and have their ends secured directly to the partition 12 within the seam formed on the top of the bag at the junction of the meeting edges of the top closure flaps 17. All exposed free and projecting edges of the bag walls and flaps are provided with suitable edging strips or welts. In carrying the packed bag the strain imposed on the carrying handles 23 is taken by the partition 12 and transmitted to the bag bottom. This relieves the sides and top of the bag of weight and strains.

When the improved hand luggage bag is to be used it is arranged in its set-up condition with the central, vertical panel 14 within the pocket provided therefore to give the bag some rigidity and form and maintaining the bottom boards 8 in their unfolded relationship, as in Fig. 2. The encircling straps are released and either or both of the top closure flaps 17 may be folded back to expose the large compartments or pockets of the bag. Either or both of the bag compartments may have disposed therein special garment carrying frames on which suits, uniforms, and coats are neatly folded and draped. Unfilled portions of the bag compartments may then be packed with miscellaneous articles of wearing apparel and traveling paraphernalia. The flexible nature of the walls of the bag permit bulging and expansion of the same so that the bag pockets may be packed to their fullest capacities, if needed. When the bag is packed the closure flaps are secured in closing relationship in the manner previously described, and as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The packed bag may then be easily carried by hand and, although it may contain a relatively large amount of wearing apparel and equipment, it is nevertheless extremely light and easy to handle, and the side walls are relieved of carrying strain and stresses.

When the owner of the improved hand luggage bag which is packed with his garments and possessions arrives at his destination which may be on board a battle ship or air-craft carrier the matter of compacting and storing the bag in a most limited available space is simplified. The bag is of course first unpacked and the garment frames which carry the suits and uniforms may be used in a closet or locker for the hanging means for said garments. The narrow central pocket closed by the straps 15 is opened and the central, vertical panel 14 is removed bodily from the bag. The flexible walls of the bag will then collapse against the bag bottom member and the bag may be compacted and rolled into a very small and neat bundle. For the latter purpose it has been found convenient to stretch the bag out flatly on a side wall with one of the top flaps outstretched and with the bottom boards 8 overlying the same. Then, as in Fig. 4, one bottom board may be folded onto the other, whereupon the bag is rolled into a flat, compact bundle of minimum bulk, as shown in Fig. 5. Storage space on a vessel is most limited and the compact bundle illustrated in Fig. 5 may be readily stored in any convenient crevice or locality. If necessary, the removable panel 14 may be thrown away as it can ultimately be replaced when the bag is to be repacked.

It is also possible, within the contemplation of the invention to have the central longitudinal panel non-removable, or to dispense with the rigid panel insert. In the latter case a single member

12 or 13 would divide the interior of the bag and carry the handle 23.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that the improved hand luggage bag is ideally suited for the special requirements of service men due to the flexible nature of the bag, its lightness, its large capacity, and its ability to house all classes of uniforms and other articles and paraphernalia. Ordinary types of hand luggage present storage problems but this is overcome in the present invention due to the ability to fold and compact the bag into a fraction of its normal bulk when it is empty. The improved hand luggage bag is furthermore of simple and novel construction and is well adapted for the purposes set forth.

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. A luggage bag, comprising a rectangular, horizontal, rigid bottom, flexible walls surrounding said bottom extending upwardly therefrom, said bottom and flexible walls cooperating to form a bag-like enclosure with an open upper end, a vertical, rigid solid partition secured within the bag and dividing it longitudinally into a pair of compartments, the lower edge of said partition being secured to said bottom, a pair of top closure flaps connected at their inner ends to the upper portion of the partition and extending in opposite directions therefrom to close the upper ends of the bag compartments and to drape over opposite under side wall portions of the bag, and a carrying handle secured to an upper portion of the partition whereby the partition transmits carrying strains and stresses imposed on the handle directly to the rigid bottom.

2. A luggage bag, comprising a rectangular, horizontal bottom formed of a pair of foldably connected, rigid sections, the line of foldable connection between said sections being along the longitudinal median of the bottom, flexible walls surrounding said bottom and extending upwardly therefrom, said bottom and flexible walls cooperating to form a bag-like enclosure with an open upper end, a pair of adjacent vertical partitions secured within the bag and dividing it longitudinally into a pair of compartments, a narrow pocket being formed between said partitions, a panel removably positioned within said pocket, the lower edges of said partitions being secured to said bottom along the line of fold of said bottom sections, a pair of top closure flaps connected at their inner ends to the upper portion of one of the partitions and extending in opposite directions therefrom to close the upper ends of the bag compartments and to drape over opposite upper side wall portions of the bag, and a carrying handle secured to an upper portion of one of the partitions.

3. A luggage bag, comprising a rectangular, horizontal bottom formed of a pair of foldably connected, rigid sections, the line of foldable connection between said sections being along the longitudinal median of the bottom, flexible walls surrounding said bottom and extending upwardly therefrom, said bottom and flexible walls cooperating to form a bag-like enclosure with an open upper end, a vertical partition secured within the bag and dividing it longitudinally into a pair of compartments, the lower edge of said partition being secured to said bottom along the line of fold of said bottom sections, a pair of top closure flaps connected at their inner ends to the upper portion of the partition and extending in opposite directions therefrom to close the upper ends of the bag compartments and to drape over opposite upper side wall portions of the bag, adjustable cooperating straps releasably encircling the bag and engaging said flaps to hold the same in closing position, some of said straps having their end portions secured to upper portions of the partition, and a carrying handle secured to an upper portion of the partition.

4. A luggage bag, comprising a horizontal bottom formed of a pair of foldably connected rigid sections, the line of foldable connection between said sections being along the longitudinal median of the bottom, flexible walls surrounding said bottom and extending upwardly therefrom, said bottom and flexible walls cooperating to form a bag-like enclosure with an open upper end, a vertical, rigid, solid partition secured within the bag and dividing it longitudinally into a pair of compartments, the lower edge of said partition registering with the line of fold of said bottom sections and secured thereto, a pair of flexible top closure flaps connected at their inner ends to the upper portion of the partition and extending in opposite directions therefrom to close the upper ends of the bag compartments and to freely drape over opposite upper side wall portions of the bag, and a carrying handle secured to an upper portion of the partition whereby the partition transmits carrying strains and stresses imposed on the handle directly to the rigid bottom sections.

WALLACE H. BRACKEN.