June 2, 1925. 1,539,907

J. F. McGILL

ATTACHMENT FOR TENTS

Filed April 8, 1924

Fig. 1.

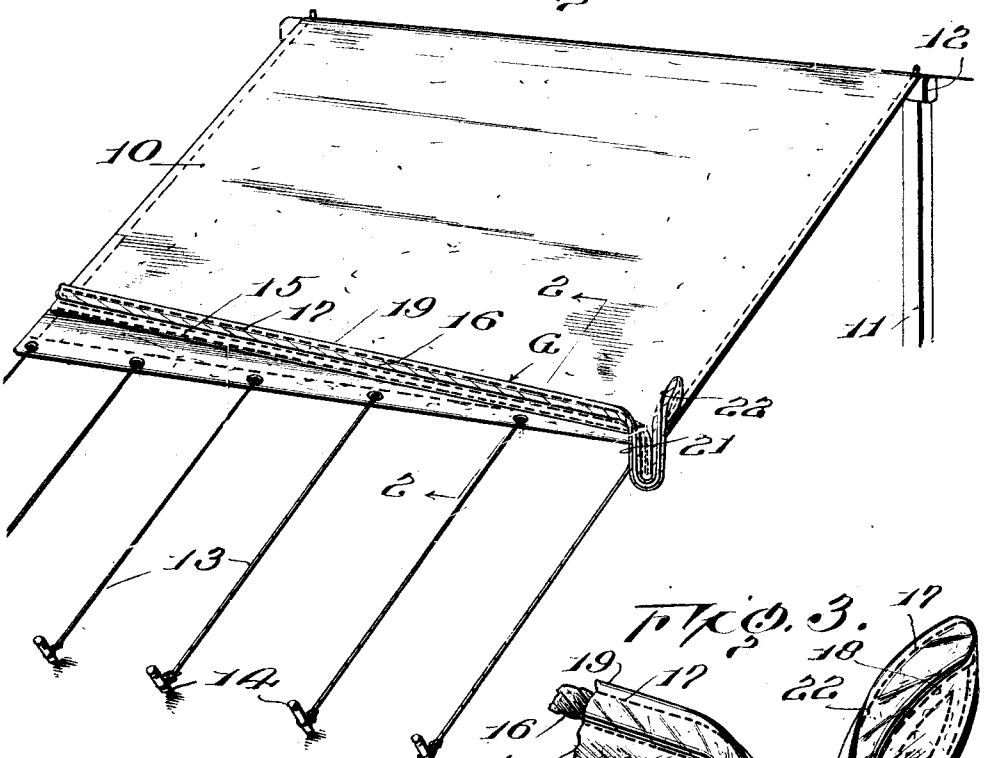


Fig. 3.

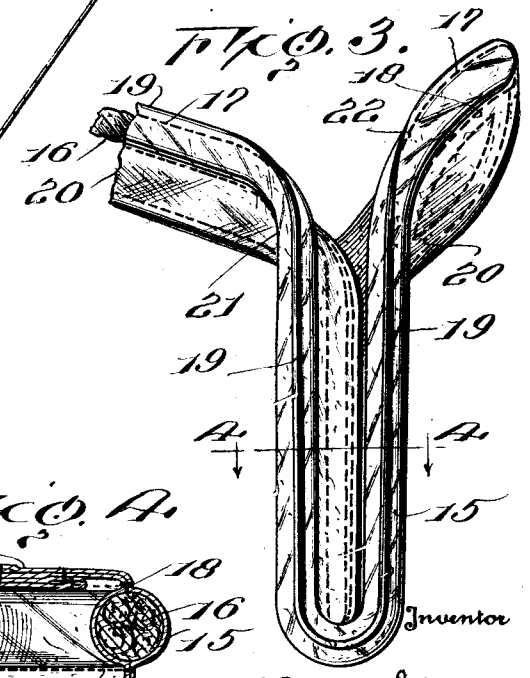


Fig. 2.

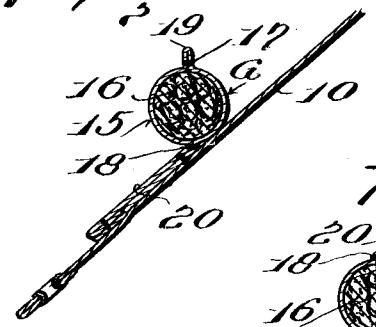
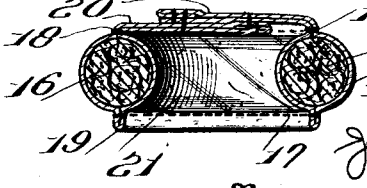


Fig. 4.



Inventor

John F. McGill

By

Attorney

Patented June 2, 1925. 1,539,907

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. McGILL, OF QUANTICO, VIRGINIA.

ATTACHMENT FOR TENTS.

Application filed April 8, 1924. Serial No. 704,923.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. McGILL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Quantico, in the county of Prince William and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Attachment for Tents, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is an attachment for protecting the sides and aprons of tents from the rotting action of rain water, draining from the tent fly or the tent roof, and spilling or blowing on these parts.

It is common experience in military encampments, that even where tents are carefully surrounded by ditches, the ground frequently becomes water soaked, and water will splash from the contiguous ditches to the aprons of a tent, and also will seep in under the tent floor. In course of time the fabric, subjected to such exposure rots, becomes mildewed or otherwise so affected that it becomes useless, and the tent must then be put out of service until proper repairs may be made. It requires time and considerable labor to properly ditch a camp. The main ditches are usually dug on the outboard sides and are parallel with the company streets; the feeders or ditches to drain the water from each tent are dug under the edges of the fly and lead to the main ditch or drain. Care has to be exercised in the construction of these drains, because if they are too deep they form puddles, and if not deep enough, water will drain into the tent on the floor thereof, or into the company streets.

In the Tropics, and especially in camps where the water supply is limited, it is common practice to rig every conceivable sort of device on the lower edges of the tent roof or fly, as the case may be, in order to catch the rain water for washing, etc. Banana leaves, bamboo and even gutters made of lumber are some of the common expedients resorted to for catching rain water and diverting it into buckets.

One of the objects of the invention is to protect the canvas sides and aprons of a tent against rotting action of the elements, by providing simple means for catching water, as it flows down the inclination of the tent fly or tent roof, and to divert it to a convenient point of discharge. A further object is to produce a device of the character mentioned, which when in operation, will greatly simplify the question of ditching a military camp. A further object is to provide a device which will serve to divert rain water for washing, etc., to a point where it may be conveniently discharged into a bucket or like receptacle.

The invention will be hereinafter fully set forth and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a portion of a tent fly with the invention applied thereto. Figure 2 is a detail sectional view on the line 2—2, Figure 1. Figure 3 is an enlarged detail front view illustrating the discharge spout. Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view on the line 4—4, Figure 3.

Referring to the drawing, 10 designates a tent fly of the type commonly used by the military and naval forces of the United States, the same being supported by the usual upright poles 11, a ridge pole 12, and guy ropes 13, the latter engaging tent pegs 14. The fly may be supported independently in the manner illustrated, or it may be placed over the roof of a tent, and supported by the tent poles in a manner well understood in the art.

G designates a gutter which consists of a canvas strip 15, doubled over upon itself to provide a pocket which encloses a strand of rope 16. The rope is spaced from the fold and secured in place by stitches 17 and 18, extending through the layers of canvas, as clearly shown in Figure 2. The portion of canvas between the fold and the rope forms a rib or extension 19. The portion 20 of the canvas forms a flange which is sewed directly to the tent fly by suitable stitching.

It will be noted that the gutter G is illustrated as inclined along the fly to obtain direct flow of water to the front. Any desired inclination may be adopted, but experience has demonstrated that on the fly of a standard tent (9 feet by 9 feet), a total inclination of 18 inches is very effective.

The delivery end of the gutter G is turned back upon itself as indicated at 21, to form a spout which is so disposed so as to depend in a position over the forward corner of the tent fly, the terminal of the canvas being extended, as indicated at 22, to form a supporting ear secured to the fly.

In operation, water flowing down over the surface of the tent fly (or the tent roof) is arrested by the gutter G, the rope 16 and the rib 19 serving to provide a ridge of substantial capacity. By reason of the inclination of the gutter the water is caused to flow forwardly to the spout 21, which is so disposed that a bucket placed beneath it will receive all of the water discharged by the gutter. It is apparent that any ditch placed around the tent may be so placed as to directly receive the water discharged from the spout.

The advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art. It will be particularly noted that by catching the water on the roof of a tent or tent fly, and diverting its flow so as to discharge it at a fixed point, the usual splashing and soaking of the sides and aprons will be greatly reduced, and therefore the life of the tent will be considerably increased. It will also be clearly understood that by means of the invention, the ditching of a military camp may be greatly simplified over present day practice. By securing a gutter of the type described to a tent or tent fly, and providing it with a discharge spout, temporary gutters are rendered unnecessary and simple means are provided by which the rain water may be readily collected and stored if desired. An important advantage is that while the device is capable of diverting the normal flow of rain water, it will not interfere with the folding of the tent or tent fly when not in use.

It will be understood that although the invention has been specifically illustrated and described as applied to a tent fly, it is not limited to this particular, but is equally applicable to the roof of a tent and the like.

Having thus explained the nature of the invention and described an operative manner of constructing and using the same, although without attempting to set forth all of the forms in which it may be made, or all of the forms of its use, what is claimed is:—

1. The combination with a tent fly or the like, of a strip of material secured thereto near one edge, said material having a longitudinally disposed raised portion to intercept any water which may flow down said fly.

2. The combination with a tent fly or the like, of a strip of material secured thereto near one edge, said material having a longitudinally disposed raised portion to intercept any water which may flow down said fly, said strip of material having a spout at its delivery end.

3. The combination with a tent fly or the like, of a strip of material secured thereto near one edge, said material having a longitudinally disposed raised portion to intercept any water which may flow down said fly, said strip of material being inclined from front to back.

4. The combination with a tent fly or the like, of a strip of material secured thereto near one edge, said material having a longitudinally disposed raised portion to intercept any water which may flow down said fly, said strip of material being inclined from front to back, the lower end of the strip having a depending spout overhanging the front edge of the fly.

5. The combination with a tent fly or the like, of a gutter of flexible material secured contiguous to one edge thereof and foldable with the fly.

6. A tent attachment of the character described comprising a longitudinal rib-like portion, and a lateral extension adapted to be secured to a tent or a tent fly.

7. A tent attachment of the character described comprising a strip of flexible material having a longitudinally disposed length of rope enclosed therein, said strip having a laterally disposed portion by means of which it may be secured to a tent or tent fly.

8. A tent attachment of the character described comprising a strip of flexible material, a length of longitudinally disposed rope enclosed therein, said strip having a lateral extension by which it may be secured to a tent or tent fly, said strip also having a rib extending parallel with said rope.

9. A tent attachment of the character described comprising a longitudinal rib-like portion and a lateral extension adapted to be secured to a tent or tent fly, the forward end of the attachment having a depending spout.

10. A tent attachment of the character described comprising a strip of flexible material having an enlarged rib, and a lateral extension adapted to be secured to a tent or tent fly, the forward end of said canvas strip and rib being folded back upon itself and the parts united to form a spout.

11. A tent attachment of the character described comprising a strip of flexible material having an enlarged rib and a lateral extension adapted to be secured to a tent

or tent fly, the forward end of said canvas strip and rib being folded back upon itself and the parts united to form a spout, the contiguous terminal of the canvas strip being extended to provide an attaching ear.

12. A tent attachment of the character described comprising a strip of flexible material having a longitudinally disposed length of rope enclosed therein, said strip having a laterally disposed portion by means of which it may be secured to a tent or tent fly, said rope being bent back at one end to form a loop, the continguous portions of the laterally disposed portions of the strip being united, whereby a spout is formed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN F. McGILL.