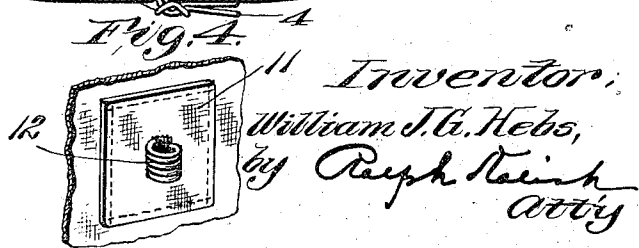
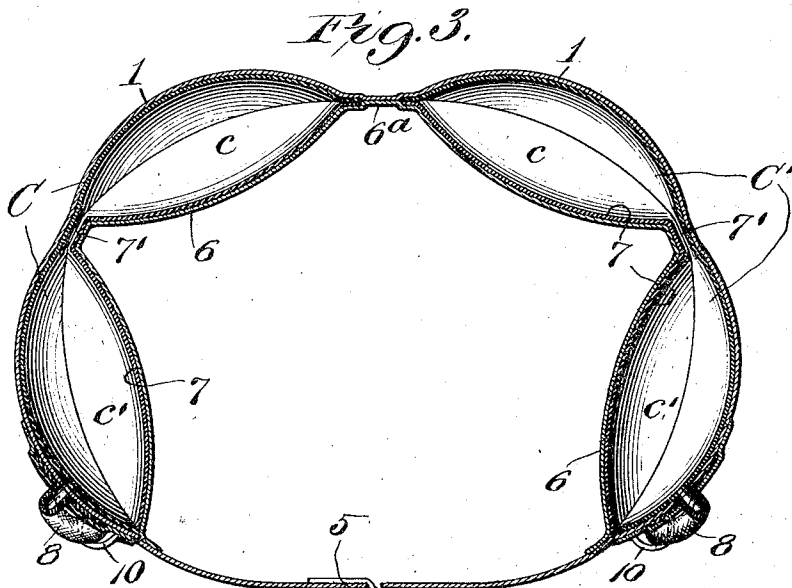
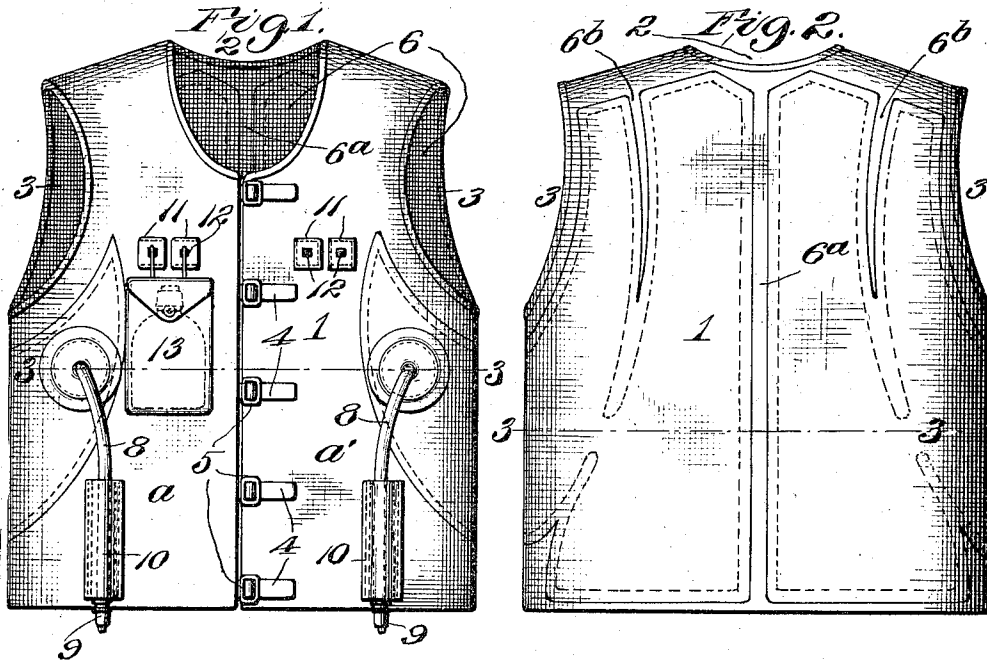


W. J. G. HEBS.
LIFE PRESERVER.
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1,046,068.

Patented Dec. 3, 1912.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. G. HEBS, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

LIFE-PRESERVER.

1,046,068.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 3, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. G. HEBS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of St. Louis, State of Missouri, am the inventor of a certain new and useful Improvement in Life-Preservers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a life-saving garment or life-preserver of my improved construction; Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view of the same; Fig. 3 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view taken approximately on the lines 3—3, Figs. 1 and 2; and Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of one of the spring-coils utilized on my improved life saving garment for removably holding and supporting stimulant-receptacles or containers.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in life preservers, and more particularly to a certain new and useful life-preserver in the form of a garment adapted to fit a wearer, the garment being provided with a plurality of air-tight and water-proof compartments, which, when inflated, render the garment buoyant and sustain the wearer upon the surface of the water, the objects of my invention being to provide a simple, easily applied, and comparatively light-weight garment of the kind stated preferably in the form of a vest or sleeveless coat or jacket and thus enable the wearer, while sustained thereby on the surface of the water, to have free, easy, and full use of his limbs—both arms and legs; to provide a garment of the kind stated having a plurality of separate air-tight and water-proof compartments, preferably in pairs, adapted to be independently or separately inflated and whereby also a puncture of one of said compartments will not destroy the buoyancy of the garment or materially affect its efficiency or sustaining properties; to provide a garment of the kind stated having a plurality of independent elongated flexible tubes provided with suitable valves and each communicating with one of said pairs of compartments, whereby air may be readily forced or blown into said compartments while the garment is upon the wearer and the same rendered buoyant and capable of supporting or sustaining the wearer upon the surface of the water; to provide a garment of the kind stated having a series or a

plurality of attaching devices, preferably in the form of spring coils, whereby suitable containers for food or liquid stimulant may be quickly applied to and afterward carried by the garment for the use of the wearer thereof while in the water; and to improve generally upon life preservers of the class described.

With these objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction, arrangement, and combination of parts hereinafter more fully described and afterward pointed out in the claim.

As shown in the accompanying drawings, my new garment is preferably in the form of a vest or sleeveless coat or jacket and comprises an outer or main section 1 of suitable strong flexible fabric, such as canvas, having a preferably collarless neck-opening 2 and arm-holes 3, adapted to fit around the upper portion of a person's body, the vertically-disposed edges of front portions *a* and *a'* of section 1 being adapted to come together or meet at the front of the wearer and being provided with suitable fastening devices, such as cooperating straps 4 and buckles 5, whereby the garment may be firmly held upon the wearer.

An inner section 6 of suitable material, preferably flexible fabric, such as canvas, is arranged upon, and suitably secured at its edges to, the inner face of section 1, this section 6 having preferably the shape shown particularly in Figs. 1 and 2 and being adapted to extend longitudinally along the back portion of section 1 and forwardly around under or beneath arm-holes 3, as shown. A narrow vertically-disposed strip 6^a of inner section 6 at the center of the back of the garment is attached directly to the corresponding portion of outer section 1, and thus two separate non-communicating chambers or compartments C and C' are formed between sections 1 and 6, each chamber or compartment C and C' preferably comprising, and being sub-divided by attaching narrow strips, as at 6^b, of inner section 6 directly to the inner face of section 1 into, a portion *c* extending longitudinally along the back of the garment and a portion *c'* extending forwardly therefrom under or beneath an arm-hole 3. By such arrangement, undue bulging of the garment when inflated is avoided. Applied to the inner face of sections 1 and 6, or otherwise suitably arranged, within each of said por-

tions *c* and *c'* of each of said compartments C and C', are sheets or sections of rubber or rubberized fabric 7 connected together at their edges and providing air-tight and water-proof pockets. As shown particularly in Fig. 3, the connected sheets of fabric or pockets 7 in portions *c* and *c'* of each of said large compartments communicate with each other by means of a hollow connecting portion 7', whereby, as will be seen, I thus provide my new garment with two pairs of air-tight and water-proof pockets, the pockets of each pair communicating with each other, but the pockets of one pair not communicating with the pockets of the other pair. Attached in any suitable manner and preferably on the front face of portions *a* and *a'* of outer section 1 and each communicating with a pair of said pockets, are elongated flexible tubes 8 provided at their outer ends with suitable, preferably check, valves 9, said tubes and their said valves being adapted to provide means whereby the wearer of the garment may quickly blow air into, or inflate, said pockets and thereby render the garment amply buoyant to support and sustain said wearer upon the surface of the water. Normally the free ends of said tubes 8 are positioned in suitable pockets or keepers 10 arranged on the outer face of front portions *a* and *a'* of section 1, as shown particularly in Fig. 1. And also located on the outer face of said portions *a* and *a'* of section 1 is a series or a plurality of small reinforcing sections 11, and secured thereto in any suitable manner are spring-coils or other suitable fastening devices 12, these coils 12 being adapted to serve as means for removably securing and holding receptacles, such as the pocket 13 shown, in which may be carried food and liquid stimulant containers or the like.

Life-saving garments of my improved construction are particularly adapted to be carried on shipboard, one garment for each person. The garment can be quickly positioned on the body and then inflated; by blowing air into the compartments, thereby insuring the necessary buoyancy to sustain or support the wearer upon the surface of the water. It will be seen that I have provided two separate air compartments in my garment and arranged a filling tube for each compartment, so that in case either compartment is punctured, the buoyancy of the gar-

ment will not be destroyed or materially affected.

A life saving garment of my improved construction is efficient, comparatively simple, can be quickly and easily applied for use, in no wise interferes with or hinders the free use of the arms or legs of the wearer, has a plurality of independent air-tight and water-proof compartments, and, when collapsed and folded and not in use, occupies little area, whereby a number thereof may be carried or stored on a ship without taking up too much room or floor space.

It will be understood that minor changes in the size, form, and construction of my new garment may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

The herein described life-preserver comprising an outer section of flexible fabric 1 having a neck portion 2 and arm-holes 3 and being adapted to fit around the upper portion of a person's body, an inner section of flexible fabric secured at its edges to said outer section 1 and having a shape adapted to extend longitudinally along the back of section 1 and forwardly around and under said arm-holes 3, a pair of non-communicating compartments C and C' between said inner and outer sections formed by securing said sections together throughout their height on a line 6^a substantially centrally of the backs thereof, a pair of communicating chambers *c* and *c'* in each of said compartments formed by securing said inner and outer sections together at points within said compartments, connected sheets of water-proof material in each of said chambers, the sheets in one of said chambers of one of said compartments communicating with the connected sheets in the other chamber of said pair, and independent inflating tubes for said pairs of connected sheets; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM J. G. HEBS.

Witnesses:

RUTH PETERSON,
ZELMA PINCUS.