J. C. MERRITT.

Shoulder-Straps.

No. 140,061 Patented June 17, 1873.

Fig. 1.

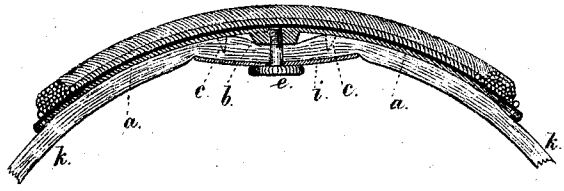
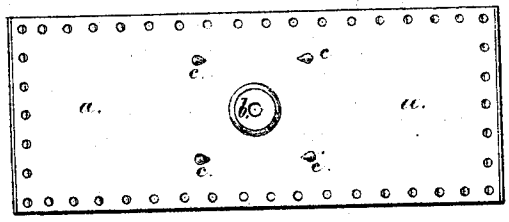


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

Chas. H. Smith.

Harold Serrell

Inventor

James C. Merritt

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atty.

AM. PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHIC CO. N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS)

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES C. MERRITT, OF WEST POINT, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JOSEPH J. WALTON, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHOULDER-STRAPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **140,061**, dated June 17, 1873; application filed October 22, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES C. MERRITT, of West Point, in the county of Orange and State of New York, have invented an Improved Attachment for Shoulder-Straps and Shoulder-Knots, of which the following is a specification:

Shoulder straps and knots are usually attached to coats, jackets, &c., by sewing, and sometimes by means of hooks and eyes, and at others by strings, in either of which cases it requires much time and trouble to remove and replace them, and they are liable from the constant change and removal of the coat or jacket to become loose, soiled, and broken.

My invention, to be used in connection with a shoulder strap or knot, consists in a frame or plate of suitable material made with a nut to receive a screw, and with points to penetrate and prevent the strap or knot from turning; there is an eyelet through the coat or jacket, and a washer of metal or other suitable material at the under side.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a section of the shoulder-strap in place, and Fig. 2 is the under side of the plate of the shoulder-strap.

The plate or frame *a* can be of a size and shape adapted to the shoulder strap or knot, and a row of holes is provided around the edge so that the cloth covering and ornaments can be attached. Near the center of the plate *a* is a nut, *b*, and on the under surface of said plate there are pins *c c* projecting downward; four of such pins are shown. The screw *e* has a flat head, and the body of the screw passes through the washer *i* and the cloth *k* of the coat or jacket into the nut *b*. The hole in the cloth for the screw *e* may have a metallic eyelet, or be worked with silk or thread, and it will be understood that the shoulder strap or knot may be removed by unscrewing the screw *e*, or securely held by replacing the screw, and that the washer *i* clamps the cloth against the pins *c* sufficiently to prevent the shoulder strap or knot turning.

I am aware that epaulets have been attached by means of metallic loops sliding upon pins in the epaulet and passing through eyelets in the coat. In this case two openings with metallic eyelets were required, the same being more costly and also disfiguring the coat when the epaulet is removed. By my improvement the shoulder strap, knot, or epaulet, is very firmly secured by one screw, and a considerable extent of cloth is clamped between the washer and frame so as not to injure the cloth by strain thereupon.

I claim as my invention—

The nut *b* and pins *c* upon the plate or frame of a shoulder-strap or shoulder-knot, in combination with the washer *i* and screw *e*, as and for the purposes set forth.

Signed by me this 16th day of October, 1872.

JAMES C. MERRITT.

Witnesses:

SILAS W. HAIGHT,

CHARLES A. PURDY.