J. H. TAYLOR.

IDENTIFICATION TAG.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 23, 1917.

1,246,753. **Patented Nov. 13, 1917.**

Fig. 1.

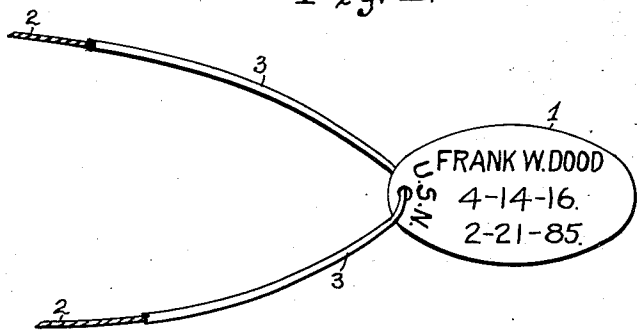
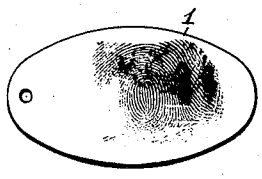


Fig. 2



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IDENTIFICATION-TAG.

1,246,753. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 13, 1917.

Application filed July 23, 1917. Serial No. 182,331.

(DEDICATED TO THE PUBLIC.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. TAYLOR, an officer of the Government of the United States employed in and by the Navy Department, and a resident of Alexandria, Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Identification-Tags; and in order that those skilled in the art may understand and practice my invention I give the following description and specification thereof.

My invention relates to identification means for individuals, and has for its object the provision of a certain and ready means of insuring the identification of the individual; and as a further object, the provision of such means that may be readily and inexpensively manufactured in large quantities, that may be conveniently worn or carried on the person, and that will resist destruction and obliteration.

One of the main purposes of my invention is to provide a certain, simple and inexpensive means of identification to be used by the enlisted men, officers and others connected with the military, naval, police and other forces of the Government. Heretofore, so far as I am aware, identification tags have borne only the name or number of the wearer or organization to which he belonged and in destructive disasters such as shipwrecks, explosions, collisions, fires and the like, resulting in extensive destruction or dismemberment of the remains, the tag or badge has become separated from the wearer and there has thus been no means of identifying the individual remains with the individual designated by the tag or badge. It is one of the purposes of my invention to provide means for insuring, so far as possible, that in disasters, such as indicated, the means of identification shall be assured.

Accordingly, my invention consists in indelibly forming on an indestructible tag a fac-simile of the finger-print of the individual. As is well known, finger-prints are a natural and personal mark of the individual and form a positive and certain means of identification, and I therefore provide that the identification tag, badge or the like shall bear in permanent, indelible form such finger-print. My invention also consists in combining on the same tag with such finger-print arbitrary identification marks such as the name, initials, rating, organization and other data of the individual. In order that my identification tag may be as indestructible as possible I make the same of a metal that will resist a high degree of temperature, such as occurs in fires and explosions, and will be also inert to the action of moisture, sea-water and other corrosive and obliterating influences.

I have illustrated my invention in the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 shows a tag with its attaching wire, or the like, for securing the same around the neck or other portion of the body, and showing one side of the tag. Fig. 2 represents the opposite side of the tag bearing the finger-print.

As before indicated, I construct the badge 1 and also the attaching wire 2 of heat-resisting and non-corrosive metal. The metal I prefer to use for this purpose is that known as Monel metal. This metal will not melt or fuse below 2847 degrees F. and salt-water and other corrosive influences do not affect it. The attaching wire 2 is also made of this metal and is preferably incased in a cotton sleeve 3.

The tag 1 is made according to the following procedure: The surfaces of the tag should first be carefully cleaned from grease and the like, which may be accomplished by washing in gasolene. Then make a "rolled" finger-print on one face thereof by rolling the finger on a surface of printer's ink, taking care to lightly and evenly coat the finger with the ink. The finger-print impression is then imposed upon the tag by rolling the finger, so coated, lightly upon the surface of the tag. The tag is then turned over, taking care to handle it by its edges, and on the other face thereof is written with a pen the desired data concerning the individual, such as the name, rating, organization, etc. For this purpose I prefer printer's ink, thinned to the proper consistency by the addition of gasolene, turpentine, or the like; and the pen to be used should preferably be a clean blunt-pointed pen. While the ink is still fresh on both surfaces sprinkle thereover finely powdered gilsonite or asphaltum. This powder should be fine enough to pass

through a 100-mesh sieve. The powder should be sprinkled thickly on both surfaces and that which does not adhere to the inked design or impression should be removed by tapping and blowing. The powder will mix with the ink lines on the surfaces of the tag and adhere thereto. The tag so prepared is next heated over a flame or in an oven to a temperature somewhat above the boiling point of water. This melts the asphaltum and the ink together, leaving the design in sharp, glossy black lines. The tag is next placed in a solution of nitric acid, preferably of a strength of one part by volume of concentrated acid to two parts by volume of water. Preferably, the tag is placed in this diluted acid with the finger-print side down as I have found that this favors deeper etching on the name side. If the action of the acid be too vigorous it may be moderated by the addition of more water. Usually the process of etching requires about one hour. If the action of the acid be too slow in commencing a slight addition of muriatic acid may be made *e. g.*, one part muriatic acid to thirty parts of the nitric acid solution. After removal from the diluted acid the tags may be washed in water and dried and are then completed. It will be found that the lines of the design on both sides of the tag stand out in clear relief.

It will be understood that other acid resists and acids may be used without departing from the invention, though I prefer to employ those above stated.

As the finger-print forms positive means of identification and as the finger-print markings can be discerned even where injuries to the individual have been very extensive, the combination of such natural identifying means on the same tag with the name and other arbitrary data forms a practically positive and sure means of identification even in cases where extreme mutilation, injury and dismemberment have occurred.

What I claim as my invention and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. An identification tag constructed of substantially indestructible and non-corrosive material and bearing indelibly thereon the finger-print of the individual.

2. An identification tag of substantially indestructible and non-corrosive material and bearing indelibly thereon the finger-print of the individual, together with the name and other arbitrary identifying data.

3. An identification tag of fire-resistant and non-corrosive metal and bearing etched therein a facsimile of the finger-print of the individual.

4. An identification tag of fire-resistant and non-corrosive metal and bearing etched therein a facsimile of the finger-print of the individual, together with the name and other arbitrary identifying data.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES H. TAYLOR.

Witnesses:
SAM PERLSTEIN,
JULIA G. BOSWELL.