

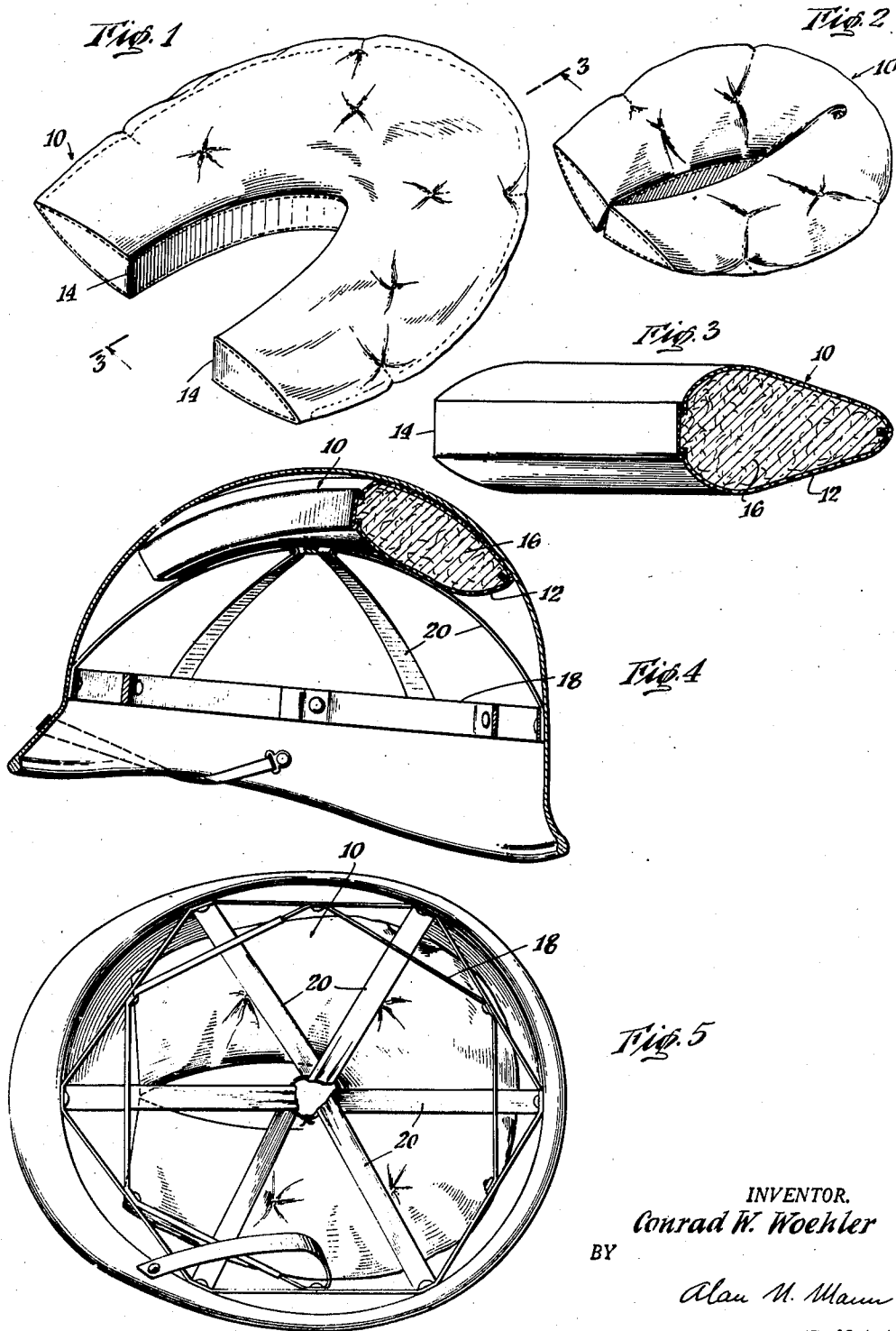
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CUSHION

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CUSHION

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1 Claim. (Cl. 5—337)

This invention relates to a cushion for use of the armed forces in the field.

Generally speaking, the cushion is made in the form of a horseshoe with an over-all width of approximately 9 inches and a length (from the bottom of the curve to the tips of the legs) of about 8 inches. It is, of course, understood that these dimensions are only approximate, but they are given in order to indicate that the cushion is very small.

The opening in the horseshoe is approximately 2 inches to 3 inches wide. This opening serves three functions. If the user wants to sleep on his back, the opening can be sprung around his neck so that the points lie on each side of his neck and his head will rest on the middle of the cushion. If the user wants to sleep on his side, his ear can go into the slot. The third function of the opening in the middle is to permit the legs of the cushion to be pushed together to reduce the overall width.

One of the essential features of this cushion is that it is made with substantial thickness adjacent the central opening and tapers down toward the outer edges. This construction coupled with the fact that the ends can be pushed together to narrow the hole makes it possible for this cushion to be inserted in the ordinary helmet lining now employed by our Army. If the cushion is constructed in the ordinary manner with the thickness running out to the edges, this is not practicable.

Advantageously the cushioning is tufted in various points and preferably some of this tufting is adjacent the outer edge to keep the outer edge thin.

This invention can be readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawing in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a cushion embodying the invention. Fig. 2 shows the cushion (but drawn on a smaller scale) with the ends compressed together. Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a section through the helmet lining showing the cushion in place, and Fig. 5 is a view looking into the helmet also showing the cushion in place.

The cushion is shown as made of three pieces of cloth. There is a top piece 10, a bottom piece

12, of the same shape as the top piece, and a piece 14 which runs across the ends and around the central opening. The use of this third piece gives thickness near the central opening. The cushion is filled with compressible material 16 which may be hair or a mixture of hair and other types of upholstering material. The three pieces of material are stitched together in conventional manner and an advantageous arrangement of tufting is illustrated in Fig. 1.

The regular helmet lining as used by our Army is provided with a series of straps 16 which hold in place a headband 18 and also carry the weight when the metal helmet is worn. Due to the small size of the cushion and the fact that it has thin outer edges, this cushion can be worked in under the straps without removing them. To do this, one end is inserted under a strap and then the cushion is rotated until it is all in place with the legs compressed together. When in place, it not only is out of the way, but also may serve to carry some of the weight or cushion the wearer's head if the helmet is struck by flying missiles.

It will be noted that even when in place, although the cushion is compressed laterally, it retains a central opening as indicated at 20 in Fig. 5. This means that the ventilation to the wearer's head is not interfered with.

In view of the fact that the device is light weight and actually is a benefit instead of an impediment during fighting and is always ready in case of emergency, it is of great value to the men in the field.

What I claim is:

A cushion adapted for use by soldiers in the field consisting of a pad of resilient material of horseshoe shape having a maximum thickness adjacent the central opening and tapering towards the outer edges, said cushion being of such size that when the legs are drawn together such thin edges permit it to be inserted and worn in the user's helmet to assist in protecting the head against the shock of flying missiles, but adapted, when removed from the helmet and returned to normal size, to be used as a pillow for sleeping.

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