April 10, 1945. E. E. LANGFORD ET AL 2,373,573

HOLDALL, SUIT CASE, OR THE LIKE

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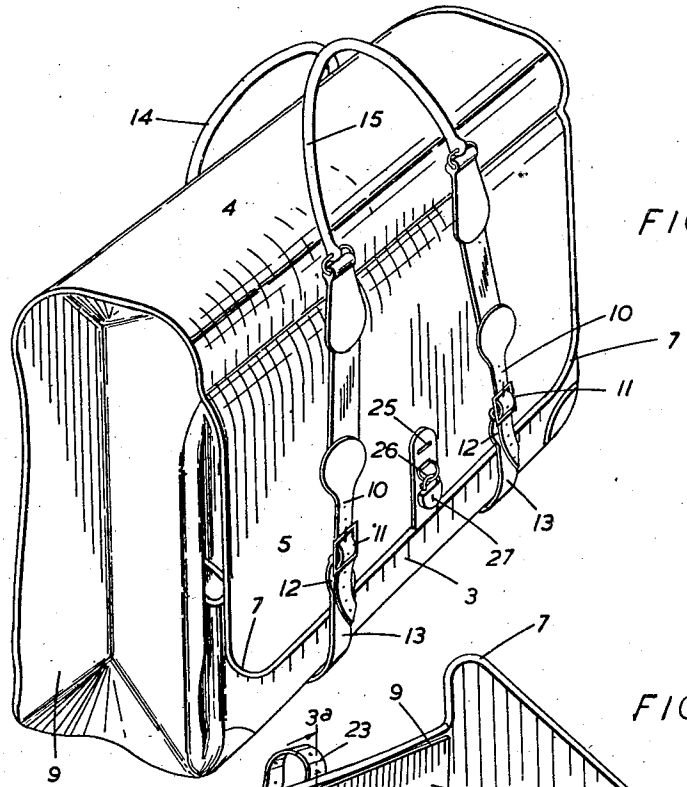


FIG. 4.

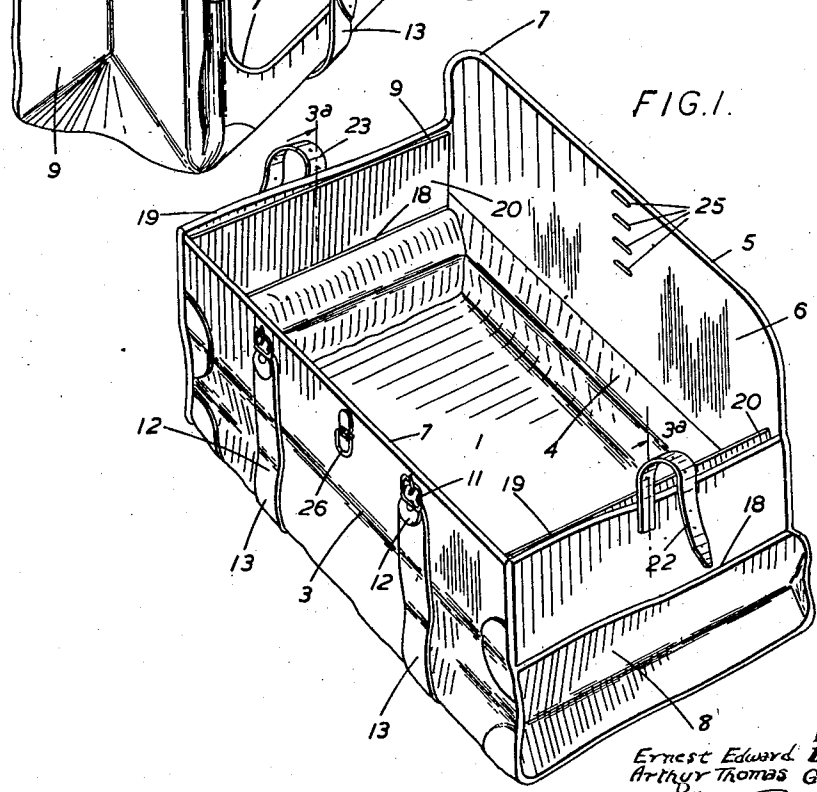


FIG. 1.

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FIG. 3.

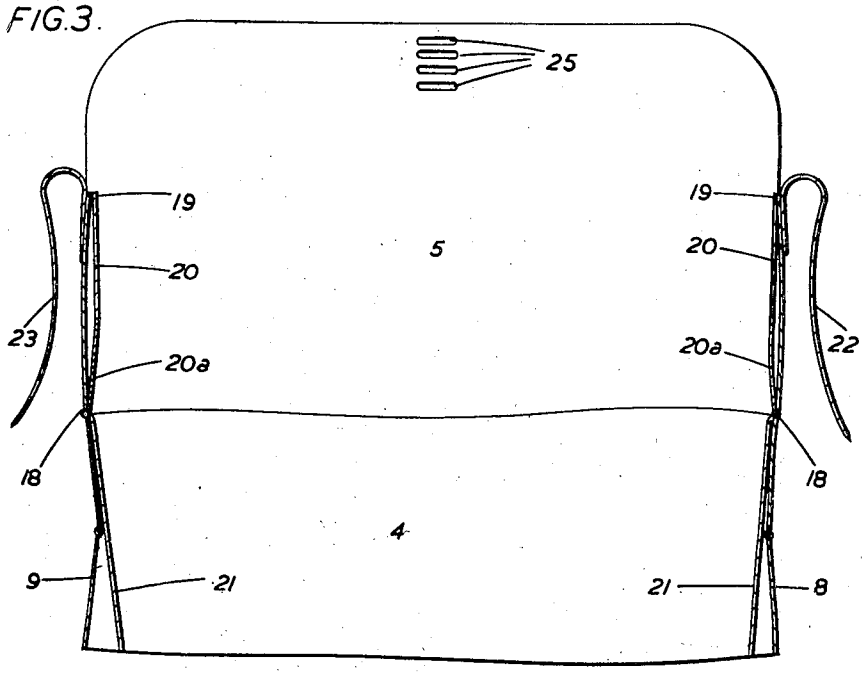
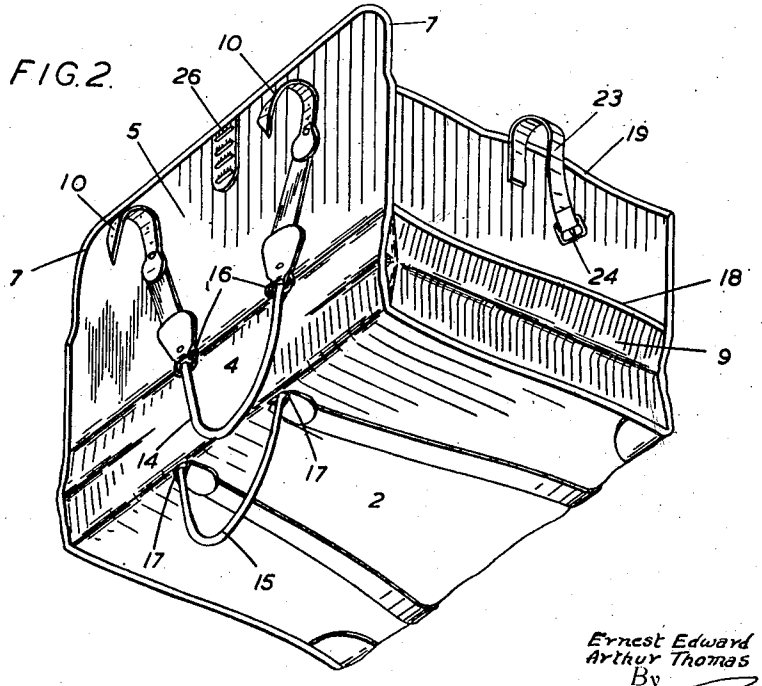


FIG. 2.



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HOLDALL, SUITCASE, OR THE LIKE

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Application November 30, 1943, Serial No. 512,310
In Great Britain July 8, 1943

5 Claims. (Cl. 190—43)

This invention relates to travelling holdalls, week-end suit cases, dress cases and the like of the expansible or collapsible type having walls of a flexible nature, such as e. g. composed of stout webbing or soft leather. Such containers usually open at the top and are sometimes provided with a closure flap or lid so that they have to be packed by holding open the mouth and placing the articles upon the base of the container. Packing such containers neatly without unduly creasing the articles therein is difficult and when the container is closed the handles are located on opposite sides of the mouth and this arrangement is found to throw excessive strain on the container and packed articles. The more usual suit case has a rigid lid, or a lid of soft material in a rigid frame, and a rigid body part and the handle is located in the centre of one side wall. The latter rigid type is more convenient to pack but is heavy to carry and expensive to produce if it is a good quality durable article, and when empty is undesirably bulky even if its walls incorporate concertina-like collapsible parts. An object of this invention is to provide a holdall, suit case or the like which has the advantages of both of these types of containers and none of the said disadvantages.

Another object of this invention is to provide a travelling case, holdall or the like (hereinafter referred to as a travelling case) which is in the form of two longitudinal foldable side walls, two collapsible end walls adapted to be folded towards each other, a base and a flap-like prolongation of the upper part of one of the side walls, said side walls being adapted to fold between their upper and lower edges inwards towards each other so that the upper edges of such end walls are folded close to each other and to the upper edge of one of the side walls and obscured by the said flap-like prolongation of the other wall, a handle on the latter wall and a co-operating handle on the beforesaid base for carrying the bag whereby said base becomes a substantially upright side of the bag when closed and being carried by said handles.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figs. 1 and 2 are prospective views of the case open, looking at the top and base respectively.

Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation on the line 3*a*—3*a* of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the case closed.

Referring to the drawings the travelling case, which preferably is slightly larger in dimensions than the customary brief bag preferably comprises a single panel 1 of suitable flexible material such as webbing or leather, forming when the bag is fully opened for packing, a base 2, a longitudinal wall 3 the full depth of the bag and a longitudinal wall 4 which, for a purpose hereinafter explained, is prolonged above the mouth of the open bag to form a flap 5 which is preferably stiffened by a lining 6 of cardboard or other suitable material covered with linen, or stiff leather in addition to two narrow stiffening strips 7 applied to the upper parts of the walls 3 and 4. Two rectangular end walls 8 and 9 are secured by their appropriate edges to the end edges of the panel 1 to complete the collapsible substantially rectangular case.

The flap 5 is narrower than the full transverse dimension across the open mouth of the bag, and the bag is closed by collapsing the end walls 8 and 9 substantially concertina fashion and folding the longitudinal walls 3 and 4 towards each other so that practically the full width of the flap 5 overlaps the upper portion of the side wall 3 and is secured thereto to maintain the bag closed, e. g. by a pair of leather or like tongues 10 on the flap 5 and buckles 11 on the free ends of tabs 12 (which may be terminals of re-inforcing straps 13.) This upper folded-in portion of the side wall 3 and the corresponding part of the side wall 4 now combine to make one longitudinal substantially vertical side of the bag when the bag is being carried by two handles 14 and 15, the other vertical side of the bag now comprising what was originally the base 2 (of the open bag) and the balance of the side wall 4. For this purpose the handle 14 is anchored to Ds 16 (or other suitable members) on the side wall 4 (of the fully opened bag) and the handle 15 is likewise anchored to Ds 17 to the base 2 (of the fully opened bag), this latter anchorage being near the junction of such base 2 and side wall 4, and consequently the lower part of the side wall 3 (of the fully opened bag) now becomes the base of the bag.

By reason of the foregoing it will be appreciated that the case or bag is chiefly characterised in that a substantially vertical side of the closed bag when in the normal carrying position is adapted to be substantially fully opened to provide in combination with the normal base of the closed bag or case one vertical side wall of the opened bag or case and with the normal top of the closed bag the other vertical side wall of the opened bag having a depth equal to the full depth of the extended end walls, and that the remaining vertical side of the closed bag comprises the

base of the opened bag, so that the depth of the opened bag is appreciably greater than the width of the base part of the closed bag.

Each collapsible end wall has a seam **18** formed across it about midway between its free edge **19** and its junction to the base **2** of the opened bag, to divide each such end well into a top portion which collapses concertina fashion when the corresponding upper part of the wall **3** is folded inwards when closing the bag, and although the parts of the end walls of the open bag which lie beneath these two horizontal seams **18** are free to collapse they normally maintain substantially their full distension to afford neat end walls of the closed bag.

To facilitate packing, means is provided to temporarily stiffen or brace up the walls of the open bag or case, and for this purpose at each end of the bag two oblong stiff flaps or panels **20** and **21** are secured each along one edge to the appropriate seam **18** so that one panel can fold downwards and the other upwards to lie in substantially the same vertical plane flush against the full width of the end walls of the opened bag. When the bag is empty and collapsed these two pairs of flaps can lie close together lengthwise of the bag. The lower panels **21** can be stiff for their full dimensions, but it is preferred to include flexible or non-stiffened parts **20a** with the upper flaps, these non-stiffened parts being joined to the seams **18** and facilitating folding of the flaps **20** when the bag or case is fully packed, in which event the lower flaps or panels **21** can remain in contact with the appropriate parts of the end walls **8** and **9**.

To prevent the collapsible upper parts of the end walls of the open bag from opening outwards when the bag is closed and to safely secure the packed articles in the bag, the centres of the tops of the end walls **8** and **9** are provided with straps **22** and **23**, one of which carries a buckle **24** to receive the other.

The flap **5** can be provided with a series of slots **25** to receive a D **26** on the wall **3** to enable the bag or case to be locked by a padlock **27** passed through such D.

It will be seen that when the case is closed it is carried by the two handles **14** and **15** in the same manner as the usual holdall type of bag, but instead of the mouth being at the top of the bag it is at one side thereof.

We claim:

1. A suit case or the like comprising, when open, a base, flexible end walls and flexible side walls attached to said base, one of said side walls having a prolongation of the upper part in the form of a flap, all of said walls being pre-creased and foldable along a line spaced from, but parallel to, their upper edges, said end walls being adapted to fold inwards toward each other, one of said side walls being adapted to fold over the folded end walls, said flap being adapted to fold over and cover the folded section of the other walls, a downwardly extending handle on said flap, and a cooperating handle on said base for carrying the case, whereby the side wall between said handles becomes the top and said base becomes a side wall of the case when the case is closed and when it is carried by said handles.

2. A suit case or the like as recited in claim 1, comprising means to fasten said flap to said other side wall.

3. A suit case or the like as recited in claim 1, comprising foldable means inside case adapted to maintain the case against collapse when it is fully opened.

4. A suit case or the like as recited in claim 1 comprising a strip of stiff sheet material fastened along one edge to each of said end walls along said fold line and adapted to be folded with the upper part of said end walls to sustain them against collapse when said case is fully opened.

5. A suit case or the like as recited in claim 1 comprising a strap secured to the upper edge of each of said end walls and means to secure said straps together to maintain said end walls in said inwardly folded position when said case is closed.

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