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PLEATED GARMENT

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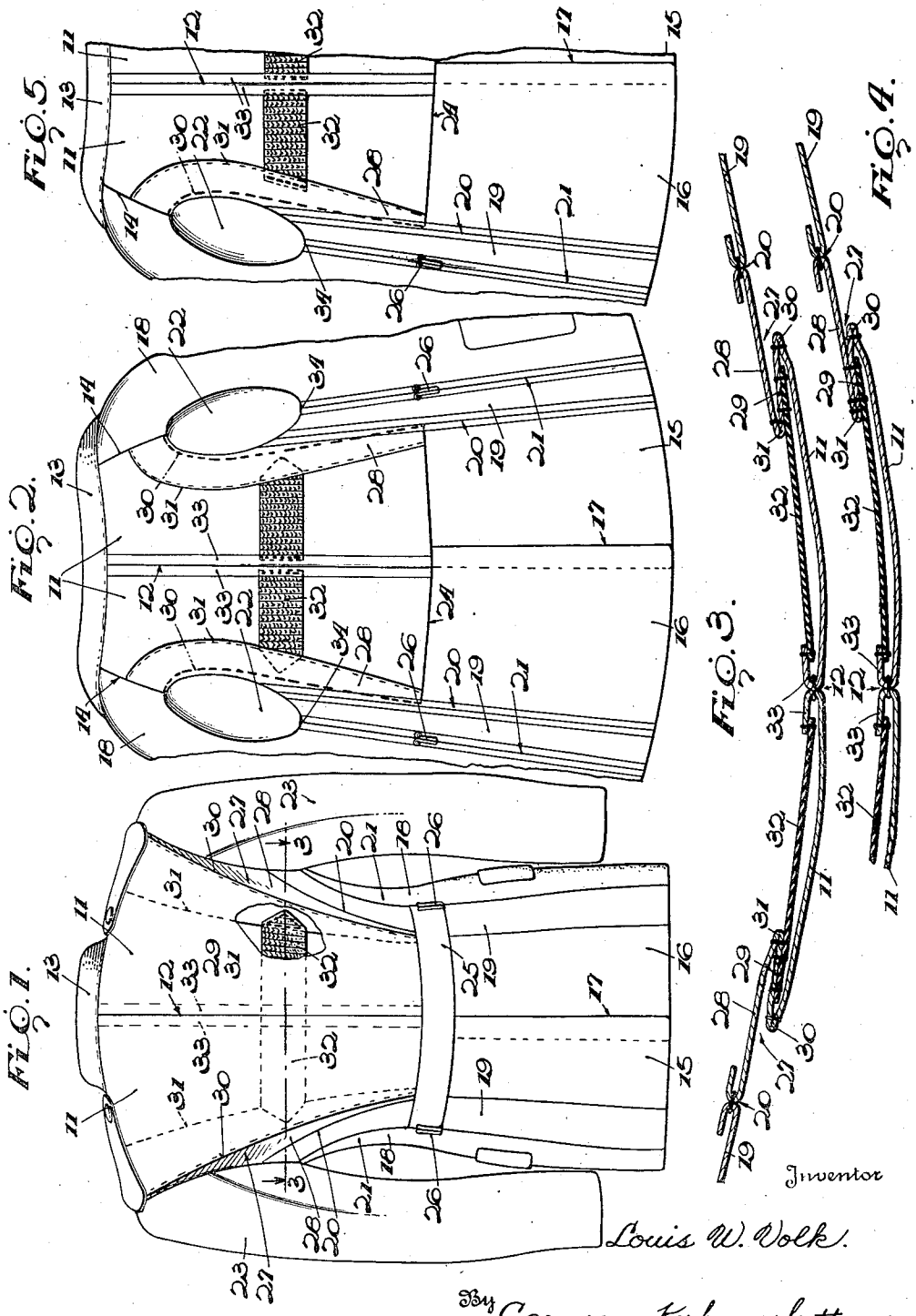


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

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PLAITED GARMENT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—93)

This invention relates to garments of plaited construction, and is of particular application to coats or blouses of the so-called swing back or bi-swing style.

Taking as an example of the type of garment to which the invention is especially directed the present U. S. Army blouse which is provided with a side-plaited back, it is a common fault of such garments that the plaits do not readily return to a closed, flat-lying position after extension thereof due to movements of the arms of the wearer, but often remain in bulged or puckered condition until manually readjusted. The unsightliness, discomfiture and annoyance to the wearer caused by this defect in the conventional form of plaited back coat or blouse have materially detracted from the popularity and utility of this otherwise meritorious form of garment, and are particularly objectionable in a military uniform. While various expedients have been tried for the purpose of curing this defect, each of those heretofore known is subject to objection on one or more grounds, and none of them has proven entirely satisfactory both from the standpoint of continued effectiveness for the intended purpose, and as a matter of economy.

It is therefore one of the objects of the present invention to provide a novel means for insuring that the plaits of a plaited garment are normally maintained in neatly closed, smoothly fitting position, and are automatically returned to that position after having been opened or extended by body movements of the wearer.

Another object is to provide a plait closing construction of new and improved design which can be quickly and inexpensively incorporated in any garment of the character described, whether new or old, lined or unlined, and can be replaced with equal facility whenever necessary.

A further object is to provide a structure of the character described which is especially well adapted for embodiment in coats or blouses of the swing back type, and which is so devised as to adjust the plait at each side of the back independently of the other.

Still another object is to provide a novel arrangement for maintaining the proper fit and neat appearance of a plaited garment which, although extremely simple in construction, is more effective in operation than the more complicated, expensive constructions previously suggested.

These and other objects, including that of generally improving the fit and appearance of plaited garments of various types, will appear more fully upon consideration of the detailed description of the specifically disclosed embodiments of the invention which follows. In this connection, although only one particular form of garment is described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, it is to be expressly understood that this drawing is for the purpose of illustration only, and is not to be construed as defining the scope of the invention, for which latter purpose reference should be had to the appended claim.

Referring now to the drawing, wherein like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the several views:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the back of one form of garment embodying the present invention (partially broken away at one point to better illustrate the manner of connecting the plait closing means to the plaited portion of the garment), this view showing a military coat or blouse of the bi-swing type as it would normally appear on the body of the wearer when the latter is standing erect, as in the position of attention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view of the inside of the coat shown in Fig. 1 as it might appear if turned inside out;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view, on an enlarged and exaggerated scale, through the back of the coat shown in Fig. 1, taken substantially on the line 3—3 in the latter figure;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3 showing a slight modification in the manner of connecting the plait closing means to the plaited portions of the garment; and

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view similar to Fig. 2 illustrating a further modification of the structure of the invention.

Referring now to Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the invention is there shown, solely by way of example, as applied to a military coat of the bi-swing type at present used by the U. S. Army, a form of garment in which the invention has already been embodied with substantial success.

As illustrated, the coat comprises a pair of like back sections 11 sewn together to form a central back seam 12 and extending vertically from the collar 13 and shoulder seams 14 downwardly to the region of the waist, the lower portion of the back of the coat being formed by a pair of rear skirt sections 15 and 16 which are secured to the lower edges of the back sections 11 but are unconnected to one another, their adjacent edges overlapping slightly to form a vent 17. At the shoulder seams 14, the back sections 11 are sewn to the front sections 18 (of which only fragmentary portions are illustrated in the draw-

ing), a pair of relatively narrow tapered side sections 19 being interposed between the lower portions of the front sections, on the one hand, and the lower portions of the back sections and the side edges of the skirt sections, on the other hand, and being joined thereto along the side seams 20 and underarm seams 21. The back sections 11, front sections 18 and side sections 19 are suitably cut to form armholes 22 to the edges of which are sewn the sleeves 23. Extending across the back of the coat, on the outside, from one underarm seam 21 to the other, and overlying the waist seam 24 between the back sections 11 and skirt sections 15 and 16, is a belt 25. At the extremities of the belt 25 are positioned belt hooks 26, sewn to the coat on the interior thereof and extending outwardly through the underarm seams 21.

In order to provide the known advantages of the bi-swing type of back, each of the back sections 11 is so cut and shaped as to produce an inwardly extending side plait 27 which preferably runs all the way from the shoulder seam 14 to the waist seam 24. In the embodiment illustrated, both the inner side 28 and outer side 29 of each plait are formed out of the same piece of fabric as the associated back section 11, the outer and inner corners 30 and 31 of the plait being stitched to assist in maintaining the creased edges desired at these points, and the outer edge of the inner side 28 being sewn to the sleeve 23 and side section 19 at the edge of the armhole 22 and side seam 20. If desired, each plait may, of course, be formed by a separate plait section sewn to the back section 11 along the outer corner 30 of the plait.

The coat construction thus far described is, as above mentioned, old and well known, and is subject to the equally well known defect that, when the wearer of the coat moves about and extends his arms so as to open the plaits, the inner corners 31 or outlets of the plaits frequently do not return to their proper, normal positions as indicated in Fig. 1, but remain in a bulged, unsightly condition until manually tucked back into place. To remedy this defect, the present invention provides an extremely simple construction for insuring that each plait is yieldably maintained in a properly closed, smooth-lying and neatly fitting position at all times other than when actually extended by body movements of the wearer.

In the embodiment illustrated, the novel plait closing means comprises a pair of elastic strap members 32 made of any suitable material, such as elastic webbing, each of which members is sewn at its inner end to the inwardly folded edge 33 of one of back sections 11 adjacent the back seam 12, extends laterally across the back section in a substantially horizontal direction, and has its outer end secured to the plait. As indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, the elastic strap members 32 have a vertical width which is only a minor fraction of the length of the back sections 11, and are so located as to lie opposite the lower portions of the armholes 22. One construction which has proven quite satisfactory in actual practice embodies strips of elastic webbing approximately 2½ inches wide, so positioned that their lower edges lie in substantially the same plane as the armpits 34.

As will be seen best from Fig. 3, the inner end of each elastic strap member 32 is cut square and is sewn to the folded edge 33 of the back section 11 in such a manner that it lies between the fold and the overlapping portion of the back section, while the outer end is cut triangularly and sewn only to the outer side 29 of the plait with the apex of the pointed end spaced sufficiently from the outer corner 30 to avoid bulkiness at this point. Since both ends of each elastic strap member 32 are thus covered when the coat is viewed from the inside, as in Fig. 2, the smooth fit of the coat is not adversely affected, nor are there any exposed edges formed on which things might become caught and thereby tend to tear the members away from the parts to which they are secured, as when the coat is being cleaned or pressed.

If desired, the stitching by which the outer ends of the elastic strap members 32 are sewn to the plaits may extend through both thicknesses of the plait-forming material, as shown in Fig. 4. This construction has the advantage of restricting somewhat, depending upon the length of the pointed end of the elastic strap member, the extent to which each plait is permitted to open at that point where the bulge most often occurs in the conventional bi-swing garment. Sewing the strap members to the inner sides 28, as well as the outer sides 29, of the plaits also provides a more positive plait closing action and a somewhat flatter, closer fitting construction.

In the modification illustrated in Fig. 5, the outer end of each elastic strap member 32 is cut approximately square, instead of triangularly, and is sewn to both thicknesses of the plait along a line closely paralleling the inner corner 31 or outlet thereof.

There is thus provided by the present invention a new, extremely simple device for improving the appearance and fit of pleated garments, particularly coats or blouses of the bi-swing type. By using individual elastic strap members for the plaits lying at opposite sides of the garment, each plait is adjusted independently of the other, and should one strap wear out or lose its elasticity before the other, it can be separately replaced. By virtue of the simplicity of the present construction and the positioning of the strap members in the manner illustrated, it is obvious that the invention may be incorporated in either new or old garments by any tailor in a relatively few minutes, and, when necessary, may be replaced with equal facility. The strap members are so positioned as to present a minimum of interference with normal use and care of the garment, and may be embodied in lined, as well as unlined, garments without alteration or removal of any of the parts of the garment itself. When installed in the manner disclosed, the construction of the present invention will function in a highly effective manner to cure what has long been recognized as an objectionable defect in plaited garments.

While only one particular form of garment embodying the invention, and three variations in the specific structure thereof, have been described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, it will be obvious that the invention is not limited to the exact structures shown but is capable of a variety of mechanical embodiments. In this connection, it should be clearly understood that the inventive concept is not only adapted for embodiment in all styles of men's, women's and children's coats of the bi-swing type, but may also find utility in other garments wherein there is need for plait closing means of the character herein disclosed. It will also be obvious that the precise size and

shape of the elastic strap members and the particular material from which they are formed, may be varied within reasonable limits without impairing the ability of said members to function for their intended purpose.

Various other changes, which will now suggest themselves to those skilled in the art, may be made in the form, details of construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the inventive concept. Reference is therefore to be had to the appended claim for a definition of the limits of the invention.

What is claimed is:

A coat or like garment of the type wherein the back of the garment is provided between the shoulders and the waist with inwardly extending side plaits, means for yieldably maintaining said plaits in normally closed position comprising a pair of laterally and oppositely extending elastic strap members each secured at one end to one of said plaits adjacent the inner corner thereof and at its other end to the inside of the back of the garment adjacent the longitudinal center line thereof.

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