Jan. 15, 1924. 1,480,890

L. C. MILBURN

GUNNER'S CHAIR

Filed June 7, 1923 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

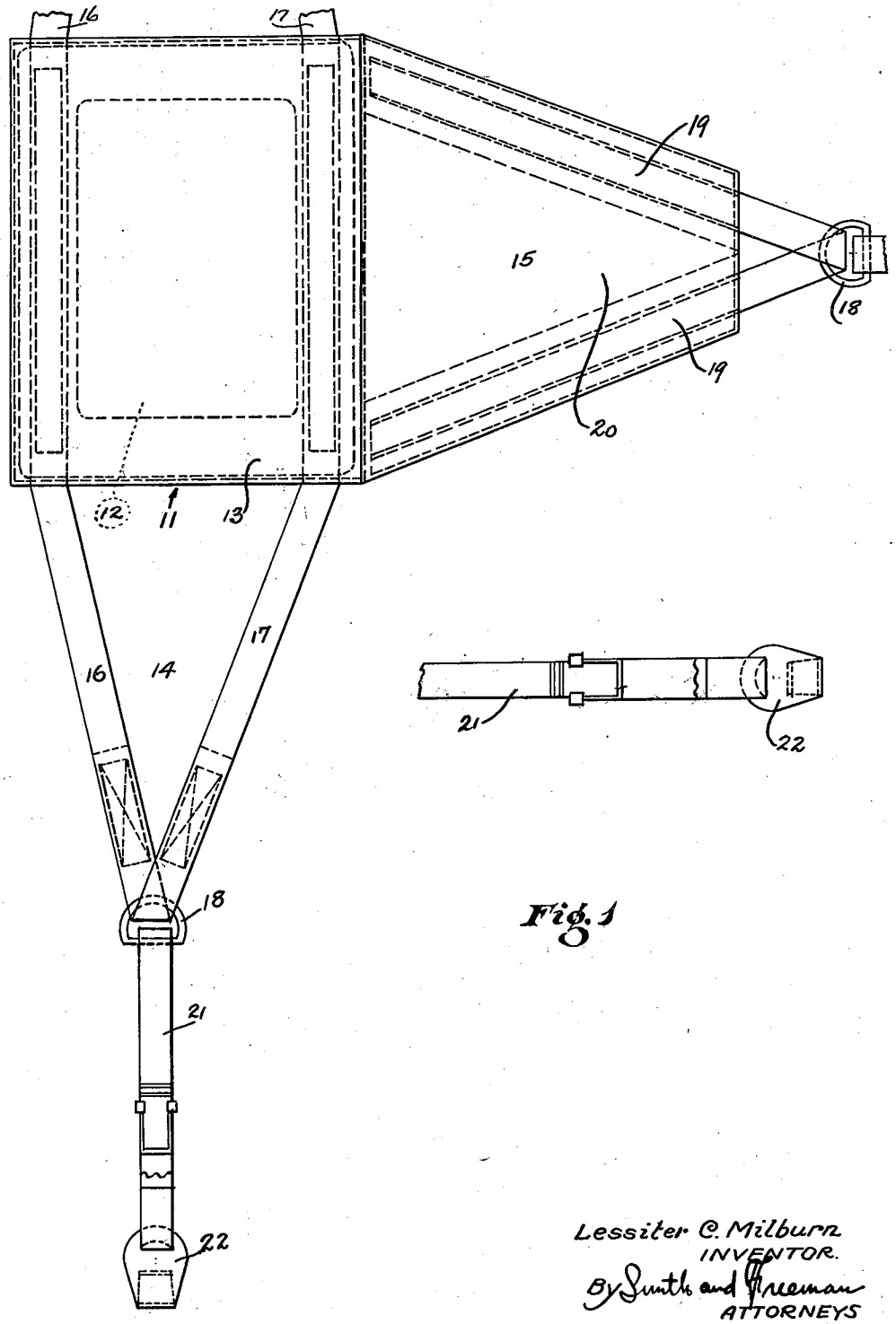


Fig. 1

Lessiter C. Milburn
INVENTOR.
By Smith and Freeman
ATTORNEYS

Jan. 15, 1924. 1,480,890

L. C. MILBURN

GUNNER'S CHAIR

Filed June 7, 1923 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

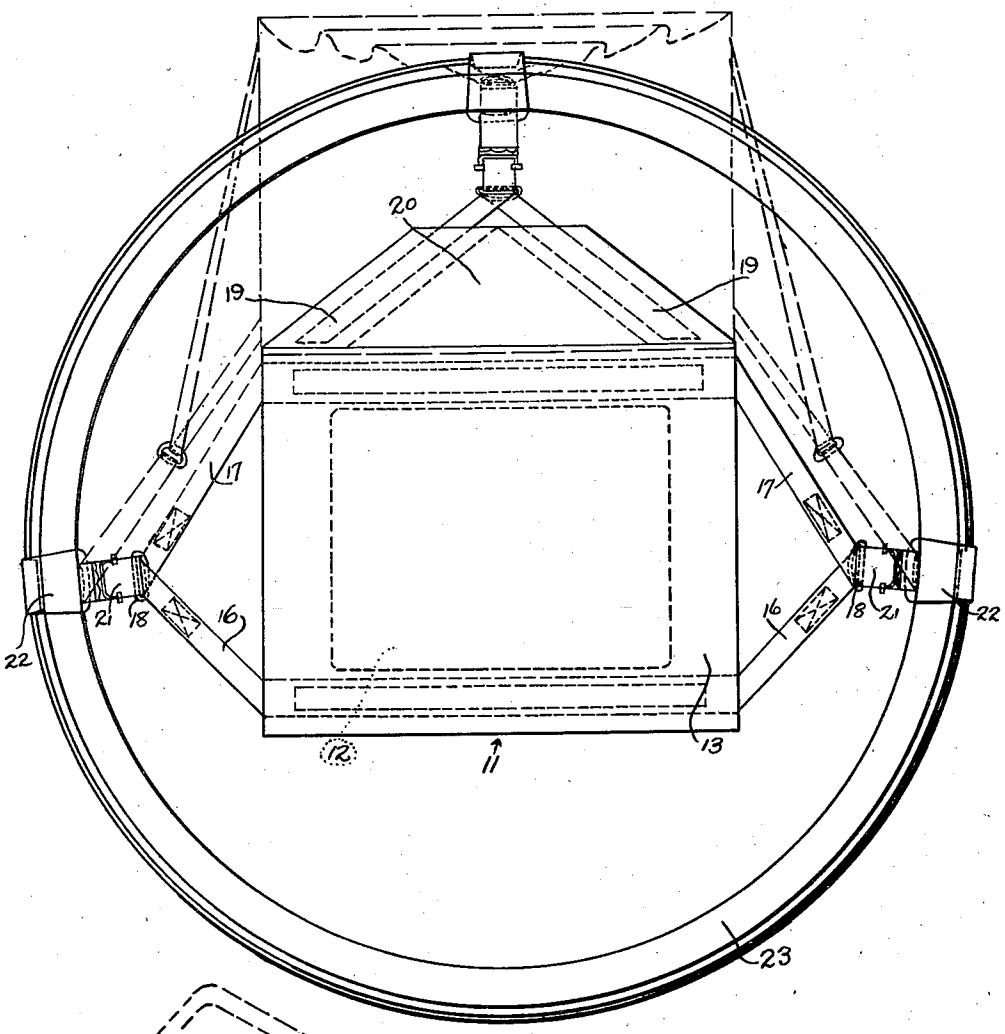


Fig. 2

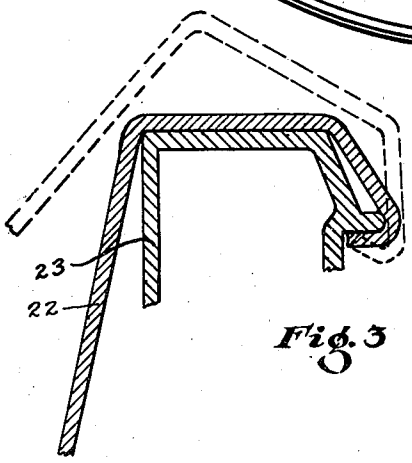


Fig. 3

Lessiter C. Milburn
INVENTOR
By Smith and Freeman
ATTORNEYS

Patented Jan. 15, 1924.

1,480,890

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LESSITER C. MILBURN, OF EAST CLEVELAND, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE GLENN L. MARTIN COMPANY, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, A CORPORATION OF OHIO.

GUNNER'S CHAIR.

Application filed June 7, 1923. Serial No. 643,885.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LESSITER C. MILBURN, a citizen of the United States, residing at East Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Gunners' Chairs, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

It is customary at the present time to mount the machine gun of a battle plane by means of a ring carried upon the body of the plane and rotatable in its own plane and a frame pivoted on the ring and movable in a plane at right angles to the plane of the ring, the two pivotal movements cooperating to permit the gun mount to be pointed in any desired direction. With this construction the deck of the plane within the periphery of the gun-mount is usually cut away so that during operation of the gun the gunner may stand within the body of the plane with the upper part of his body projecting through the aperture. In order to rest the gunner whenever possible a chair is usually provided within the plane on which the gunner may sit when the gun is not in action. Various types of chair have been proposed for this purpose but so far as I am aware no chair heretofore used has been satisfactory principally because no chair has been properly supported, has rotated with the gun ring, or has readily moved into position where it will not interfere with the operator while the gun is in action. I have designed a chair which overcomes the difficulties apparently inherent in the chairs heretofore proposed for this use.

In the drawings accompanying this specification and forming a part thereof I have shown, for purposes of illustration, one physical embodiment which my inventive concept may assume and have illustrated this embodiment in its application to a battle plane of the type herein referred to. In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the chair herein shown,

Figure 2 is a plan view showing this chair applied to a battle plane, while

Figure 3 is a detail showing a means in which the chair herein shown may be supported from the gun ring.

The chair herein shown comprises a seat 11 which may be of any suitable construction but preferably consists of a rectangular ply-wood frame 12 encased in a canvas covering 13. The chair herein illustrated also comprises means for supporting this seat 11 and these means are herein shown as comprising the two sides 14 and the back 15, each of the sides 14 consisting of a front strap 16 and a rear strap 17 leading from the side of the seat 11 at the front and rear respectively and both secured to a single ring 18 and the back 15 consisting of a pair of straps 19 carrying the canvas chair back 20 and leading from the rear of the seat 11 at its two sides to a third ring 18 similar to the ring 18 to which the side straps 16 and 17 are connected. Each of these rings 18 is in turn carried by an adjustable strap 21 leading from a clip 22 preferably of metal and formed to firmly lock in position upon the gun ring 23 yet to be readily detachable therefrom as shown in dotted lines in Figure 3.

With the battle plane equipped with a chair of the type herein described the gunner may rest comfortably within the plane until he sights an object of attack and even then, because of the suspension of the chair from the gun ring and the resultant rotation of the chair with the gun ring, the gunner, after pointing the gun mount in the general direction of the object of attack, may again seat himself in the chair and conserve his energy until the moment of actual conflict. On the other hand, during the actual hostilities when the gunner must stand and has no use for a chair but on the contrary requires the maximum space for operating, the chair herein shown will readily swing back out of position and, because of its lightness and its method of support, will prove no embarrassment to the gunner and particularly because of its suspension from the gun ring and consequent rotation with the gun ring will be maintained in the rear of the gunner and out of any position in which it could be of hindrance to him. After the hostilities are concluded the chair will immediately swing back into position ready for use.

It will be apparent to those skilled in this particular art that the seat herein illustrated is adapted for uses in this particular art other than on battle planes of the type here-

in referred to and that for all such uses and particularly for the use herein specifically described the chair herein illustrated is eminently satisfactory. It will be apparent to those in other arts that the seat herein illustrated may be used for other purposes either existing now or which may hereafter arise. In addition it will be readily apparent that the particular chair herein illustrated can be variously modified without departing from the spirit of my invention, that such modifications are therefor within my invention, and that my invention is not limited to the specific embodiment herein illustrated.

I claim:

1. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage rotatably carried thereby, a gunner's seat, hooks detachably engaging said carriage, and flexible strips suspending said seat from said hooks in such manner that said seat rotates with said carriage and may be readily pushed aside.

2. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage rotatably carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and means detachably suspending said seat from said carriage in such manner that said seat rotates with said carriage.

3. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and flexible means suspending said seat from said carriage in such manner as to permit said seat being readily pushed aside.

4. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage rotatably carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and means detachably suspending said seat from said carriage in such manner that said seat rotates with said carriage and may be readily pushed aside.

5. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage carried thereby, a gunner's seat, hooks detachably engaging said carriage, and flexible strips suspending said seat from said hooks in such manner as to permit said seat being readily pushed aside.

6. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage rotatably carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and flexible means suspending said seat from said carriage in such manner that said seat rotates with said carriage and may be readily pushed aside.

7. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and means detachably suspending said seat from said carriage in such manner as to permit said seat being readily pushed aside.

8. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage rotatably carried thereby, a gunner's seat, hooks detachably engaging said carriage, and flexible strips suspending said seat from said hooks in such manner that said seat rotates with said carriage.

9. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and means detachably suspending said seat from said carriage.

10. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage rotatably carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and flexible strips suspending said seat from said carriage in such manner that said seat rotates with said carriage and may be readily pushed aside.

11. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage carried thereby, a gunner's seat, hooks detachably engaging said carriage, and flexible strips suspending said seat from said hooks.

12. In combination, an airship, a gun carriage carried thereby, a gunner's seat, and flexible strips suspending said seat from said carriage in such manner as to permit said seat being readily pushed aside.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

LESSITER C. MILLBURN