Nov. 1, 1955 R. J. GAZELLE 2,722,020

SPORTSMAN'S JACKET AND RAINCOAT

Filed Jan. 25, 1954 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

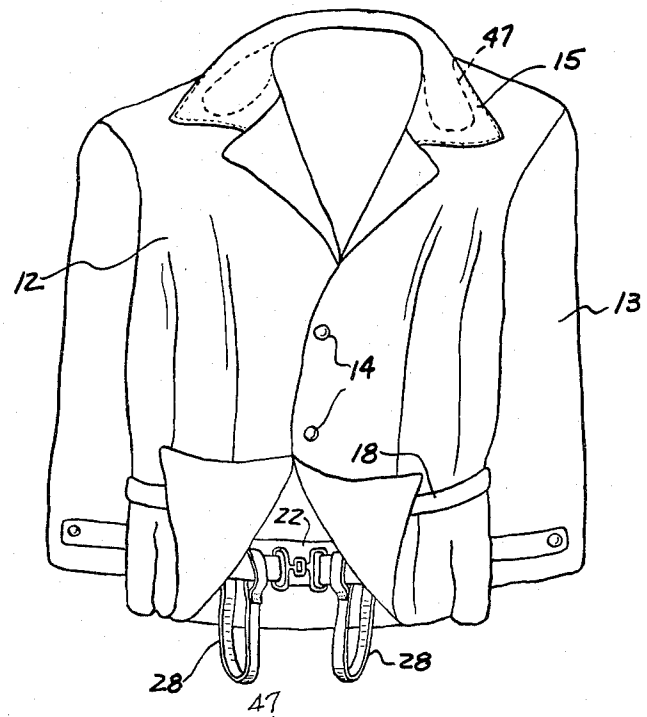


Fig. 1

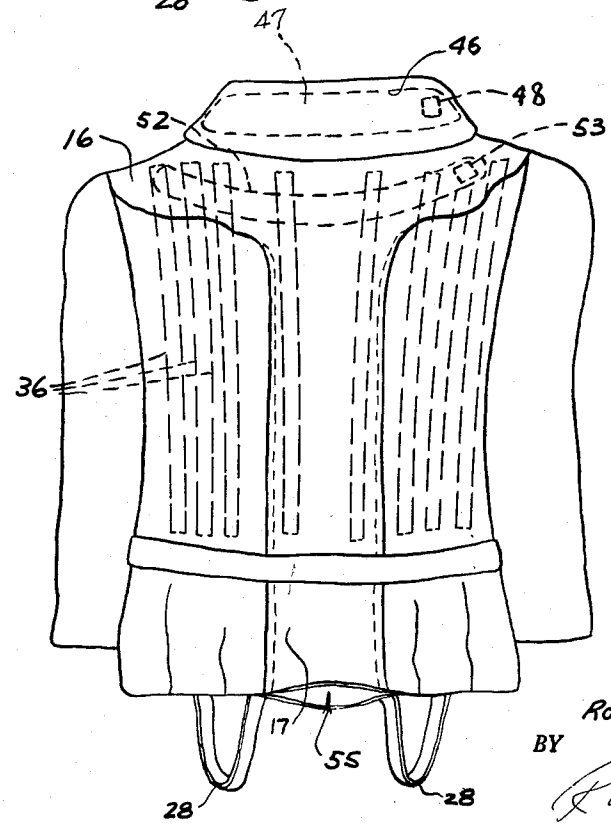


Fig. 2

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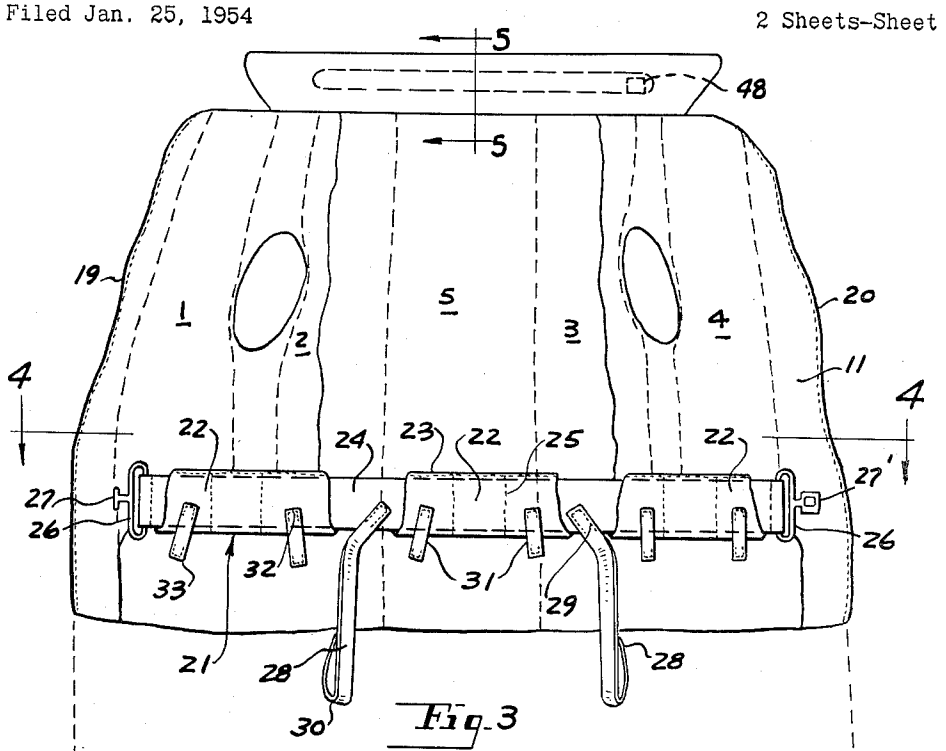


Fig. 3

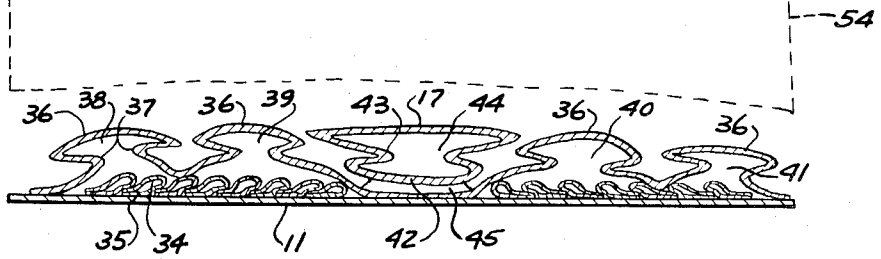


Fig. 4

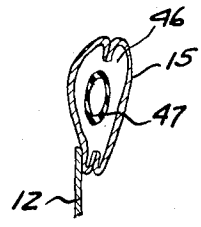


Fig. 5

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SPORTSMAN'S JACKET AND RAINCOAT

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Application January 25, 1954, Serial No. 405,860

9 Claims. (Cl. 9—20)

This invention relates to a sportsman's jacket, and raincoat, and more particularly to a jacket or raincoat which will have certain buoyant characteristic if the user falls into the water.

It is the object of the present invention to provide a novel jacket or raincoat construction which has formed therein a series of elongated passageways between the lining and jacket which are open at their lower ends and into which water may flow for entrapping at the upper ends of said passageways a quantity of air.

It is the further object of the present invention to provide a novel jacket construction, together with means for snugly maintaining a lining against the user's body, together with a jacket construction having a series of collapsible folds defining said passageways.

It is the further object of the present invention to provide additional upright elongated air passages which tend to stabilize the jacket when the user is partially submerged for maintaining such user in a substantially upright position.

It is the further object of the present invention to provide a novel collar with cape formation, which are hollow and contain expansible tubular elements into which a capsule of compressed gas may be released for increasing the buoyancy of the jacket.

It is the further object of the present invention to provide a safety jacket or raincoat which will support the user for several days, if necessary, within the water.

These and other objects will be seen from the following specification and claims in conjunction with the appended drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of the jacket.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of the jacket fully opened, exposing the lining thereof.

Fig. 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a section taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

It will be understood that the above drawings illustrate merely a preferred embodiment of the invention, and that other embodiments are contemplated within the scope of the claims hereafter set forth.

The present construction includes a substantially plain jacket lining **11** and a jacket formation **12**, including sleeves **13** and the front fastening buttons **14**, together with a formed collar **15**, which is hollow for the purposes hereafter described.

The jacket includes an exterior hollow cape formation **16** with a hollow tubular depending portion **17**, which extends along the rear of the jacket loosely and is secured thereto at the lower end as at **45**, Fig. 4, said tubular portion being open at its lower end as at **55**. A suitable belt **18** is employed.

The lining **11** at its opposite marginal edges is secured to the corresponding marginal edges of the jacket as at points **19** and **20**.

As viewed in Fig. 3, the jacket lining is adapted to extend around the upper part of the body and downwardly to a point adjacent the hips as indicated at **21**, Fig. 3;

whereas the jacket proper extends therebelow as shown or may be of a full length as indicated at **54** in dotted lines, for use as a raincoat.

The lining at its lower edge terminates in a plurality of upturned tabs **22** which are suitably secured, by vulcanization or by heat and pressure as at **23** to the inner portion of said lining, to thereby support the elastic belt **24** which is furthermore secured to said tabs and to the lining, as at the points **25**.

Said belt terminates at its opposite ends in the buckles **26**, which have cooperating fasteners **27** and **27'** adapted for interlocking engagement whereby the belt ends may be secured together for snugly maining the lower periphery of the lining around the user's body.

There are provided in spaced relation a pair of depending straps **28** secured to said belt at **29** and having looped free ends **30**, which are adapted to extend under the user's crotch, and upwardly so that said looped portions **30** are received by the free ends of the belt before the same are buckled together.

By this construction, the lower portion of the lining **11** is snugly maintained against the user's body and is held down at all times.

There are provided a plurality of hold-down tabs **31** arranged throughout the length of belt **24** and secured thereto either by stitching or by a pressure welding process at points **32**. The depending ends of said tabs are respectively secured to interior portions of the jacket as at points **32**. The purpose of these tabs is to effect a distribution of forces when the user of the jacket or raincoat falls into the water to prevent tearing of the lining, inasmuch as a portion of the thrust will be transmitted from the belt to portions of the jacket.

As shown in Fig. 4, as well as Fig. 2, there is provided upon the outer surface of lining **11** a series of reverse folded strips **35**, each of which define an elongated air passage **34** running substantially the length of said lining. These passages will be closed at their opposite ends or only at the upper ends and will appreciably increase the buoyancy of the jacket combination, and will also have a tendency to stabilize the jacket or raincoat when used for maintaining the user in a substantially upright position regardless of the movement of the body of water.

The jacket proper has formed as a part thereof a series of full folds **36** as indicated in Fig. 4 wherein the jacket is fully opened. Said passages are closed at their upper ends but are open at their lower ends with the openings thereof coinciding with the lower marginal edge **21** of lining **11** as indicated in Fig. 3.

The purpose of the fold elements **37** is to permit the folds **36** to expand into an increased cross-sectional area when the garment becomes submerged and as the water begins to fill portions of each of said passageways.

These passageways before emersion will have a certain quantity of air within each of them, which air will become entrapped as the garment becomes submerged and as water enters said passageways.

This entrapped air will thus be moved to the upper closed ends of said passageways where it will be retained against dislodgment and thereby provide an increased buoyancy for the jacket construction.

There is additionally provided as a portion of the jacket, the cape formation **16** which extends around the shoulders, rearwardly thereof, and which is hollow and terminates in the downwardly depending tubular element **17**, which is bounded adjacent the jacket proper by the wall **42**.

Said wall is normally spaced from the rear of said jacket, but is inter-connected therewith at several points throughout its length as at **45**, to thereby maintain the tubular element in an upright position, said element being open at its lower end as at **55**, Fig. 2.

The tubular portion 17 of the cape 16 includes the inwardly directed fold elements 43, to thereby define the passageway 44, which thus can expand upon the introduction of water at 55, Fig. 2. Here, also the air initially contained within the passageway 44 will become entrapped as the water moves upwardly within the tubular element 17 to additionally increase the buoyancy of the garment.

As shown in Fig. 5, as well as in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the formed collar 15 is hollow and provides an air space 46 within which is positioned an elongated sealed balloon-like element 47, normally in a collapsed condition.

There is provided a compressed carbon-dioxide capsule or other gas capsule 48, upon the interior of the balloon 47, which can be manually crushed by the user to release the gas, thereby inflating said balloon.

While the garment is quite buoyant without the use of the balloon 47, nevertheless the inflation thereof will so greatly increase the buoyancy of the jacket or raincoat that the user might be maintained floating upright for several days.

Furthermore, the upper portion of cape 16 is also hollow and contains an elongated collapsed balloon or other sealed article 52, which also contains a breakable carbon-dioxide capsule 53. Thus with the balloon-like element 52 inflated, the garment has a maximum buoyancy.

Having described my invention, reference should now be had to the claims which follow for determining the scope thereof.

I claim:

1. A buoyant sportsman's jacket or raincoat comprising an outer jacket and an inner lining, the lining terminating adjacent the hips of the wearer and the outer jacket extending therebelow, an elastic belt secured to the lower end of said lining for snugly maintaining said lining against the user's body, spaced crotch straps depending from rear portions of the belt and adapted to be attached to the front free end portions of said belt, said outer jacket having a series of vertically extending folds defining air-tight pouches closed at their upper ends and open at their lower ends adjacent the bottom of said lining, vertical portions of said outer jacket bounding said pouches being secured to outer portions of said lining for connecting the outer jacket to said lining completing said pouches, the side edges of said pouches having opposed inwardly directed return folded portions of substantial V-shape to provide air chambers of increased area in said pouches, and a hollow cape formation secured to and extending across and rearwardly of the shoulders of said outer jacket said cape terminating in a downwardly depending tubular element open at its lower end and loosely connected adjacent its lower end to said outer jacket.

2. The jacket or raincoat of claim 1, the said edges of said tubular element having opposed inwardly directed return folded portions of substantial V-shape to provide an air chamber of increased area in said tubular element.

3. A buoyant sportsman's jacket or raincoat comprising an outer jacket and an inner lining, the lining terminating adjacent the hips of the wearer and the outer jacket extending therebelow, an elastic belt secured to the lower end of said lining for snugly maintaining said lining against the user's body, spaced crotch straps depending from rear portions of the belt and adapted to be attached to the front free end portions of said belt, said outer jacket having a series of vertically extending folds defining air-tight pouches closed at their upper ends and open at their lower ends adjacent the bottom of said lining, vertical portions of said outer jacket bounding said pouches being secured to outer portions of said lining for connecting the outer jacket to said lining completing said pouches, the side edges of said pouches having opposed inwardly directed return folded portions of substantial V-shape to provide air chambers of increased area in said pouches, a hollow collar on said outer jacket, an elongated collapsed balloon-like element within said collar, and a manually breakable compressed gas capsule positioned within said balloon-like element.

4. The jacket or raincoat of claim 1, an elongated balloon-like element positioned within said cape, and a manually breakable compressed gas capsule secured within said balloon-like element.

5. The jacket or raincoat of claim 1, an elongated balloon-like element positioned within said cape, a hollow collar on said outer jacket, an elongated collapsed balloon-like element within said collar, and manually breakable compressed gas capsules positioned within said balloon-like elements.

6. A buoyant sportsman's jacket or raincoat comprising an outer jacket and an inner lining, the lining terminating adjacent the hips of the wearer and the outer jacket extending therebelow, said outer jacket having a series of vertically extending folds defining air-tight pouches closed at their upper ends and open at their lower ends adjacent the bottom of said lining, vertical portions of said outer jacket bounding said pouches being secured to outer portions of said lining for connecting the outer jacket to said lining completing said pouches, the side edges of said pouches having opposed inwardly directed return folded portions of substantial V-shape to provide air chambers of increased area in said pouches, and a hollow cape formation secured to and extending across and rearwardly of the shoulders of said outer jacket, said cape terminating in a downwardly depending tubular element open at its lower end and loosely connected adjacent its lower end to said outer jacket.

7. The jacket or raincoat of claim 6, an elongated balloon-like element positioned within said cape, and a manually breakable compressed gas capsule secured within said balloon-like element.

8. The jacket or raincoat of claim 6, an elongated balloon-like element positioned within said cape, a hollow collar on said outer jacket, an elongated collapsed balloon-like element within said collar, and manually breakable compressed gas capsules positioned within said ballon-like elements.

9. A buoyant sportsman's jacket or raincoat comprising an outer jacket and an inner lining, the lining terminating adjacent the hips of the wearer and the outer jacket extending therebelow, said outer jacket having a series of vertically extending folds defining air-tight pouches closed at their upper ends and open at their lower ends adjacent the bottom of said lining, vertical portions of said outer jacket bounding said pouches being secured to outer portions of said lining for connecting the outer jacket to said lining completing said pouches, the side edges of said pouches having opposed inwardly directed return folded portions of substantial V-shape to provide air chambers of increased area in said pouches, a hollow collar on said outer jacket, an elongated collapsed balloon-like element within said collar, and a manually breakable compressed gas capsule positioned within said balloon-like element.

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