A. LOUPPE.

BREASTPLATE AND PROTECTOR.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 31, 1915. RENEWED SEPT. 13, 1917.

1,250,197.

Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

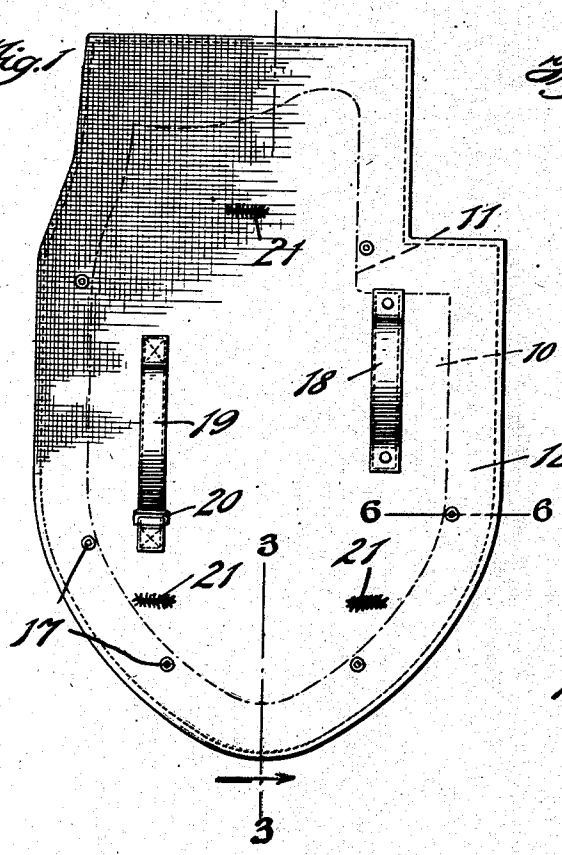


Fig. 2

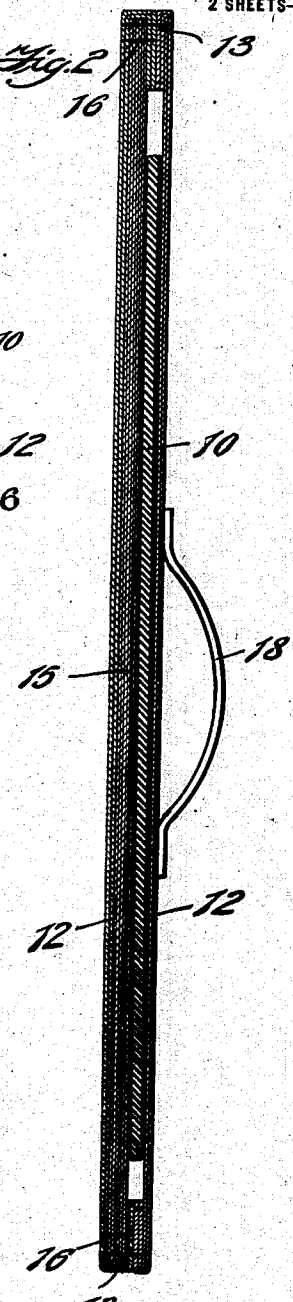
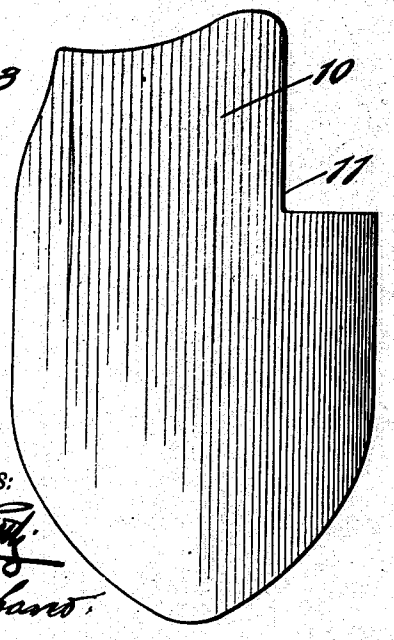


Fig. 3



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4

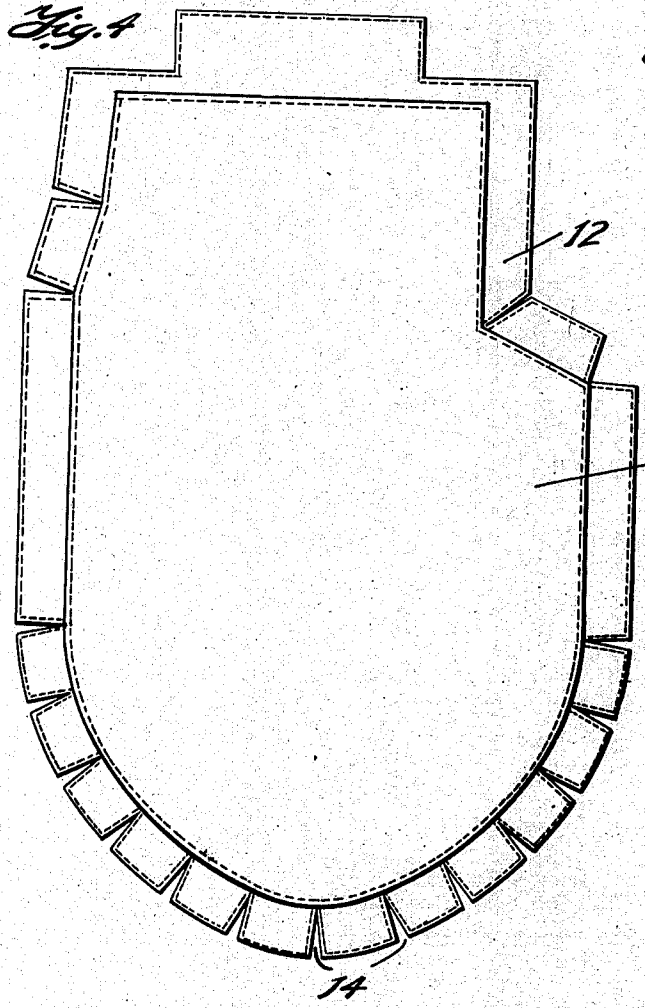


Fig. 5

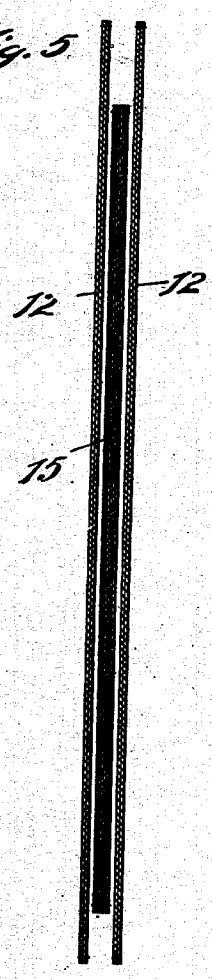
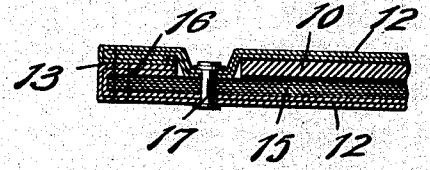


Fig. 6



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ALBERT LOUPPE, OF BREST, FRANCE, ASSIGNOR TO EDWARD MAURER, OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY.

BREASTPLATE AND PROTECTOR.

1,250,197. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT LOUPPE, a citizen of France, and a resident of Brest, France, in the Department of Finistère, in the Province of Bretagne, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Breastplates and Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in breast-plates or protectors, for the purpose of protecting persons engaged in warfare against bullets or projectiles, and particularly for use in trench fighting as carried on in modern method of warfare.

It is an object of the invention to provide such a device which may be conveniently manipulated, and which will be a thorough protection against bullets of various sizes, and will be so constructed as to absorb or retain the fragments produced when the bullet hits the shield, thereby preventing injury from this cause.

It is also an object to provide in such a device, means to enable the convenient firing of a rifle from behind the same.

With these and other objects in view, my invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, and will be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of my improved shield.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an elevation of the steel plate employed in my improved shield.

Fig. 4 is a view of the cover piece used at each side, and also the intermediate fragment absorbing member.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view showing the front and rear cover and the said intermediate member, and

Fig. 6 is a sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Fig. 1 thereof, my invention comprises a bullet-proof inner plate 10 of steel or other suitable resistant material, and of a shape to conform to the body of the soldier, a cut out portion 11 being provided in the upper right-hand corner, to enable a rifle to be fired from behind the same. The said plate is preferably slightly rounded. An outer envelop or cover 12, to contain the steel plate 10, is provided of canvas or other suitable cotton cloth, the outer portions of which extends beyond the edge of the steel plate, and are folded inwardly and secured at 13, the folded in portions being provided with serrations 14 at the curved lower end of the shield and at the corners to permit a flat fold. A flexible outer rim is thereby formed which serves as a pad for resting the shield and also protects other soldiers in a charge, for instance, from the hard edges of the steel plate. The cover 12 is preferably formed of several thicknesses of canvas, so that it will not be readily worn out from the rough usage to which such devices are put, and the outer thickness or layer is of a color not easily distinguishable by the enemy, such for instance as drab, bluish gray or the like.

Interposed between the steel plate 10 and the forward portion of the envelop 12, there are provided a plurality of layers of canvas or the like 15, preferably eight to ten in number and secured in place by stitching 16 extending through the fold of the forward portion of the canvas. In manufacturing the shield, these layers 14 are first secured in place beneath the fold of the forward portion of the cover, by the stitching 16, the steel plate 10 is put in place and the rear portion of the cover is then secured in place, by the outer row of stitching 13 as clearly shown in Fig. 3.

A great deal of the force of the bullet will be taken up passing through the layer 15, thereby materially reducing the impact against the plate 10. When the bullet comes in contact with the hard surface of the plate 10 however, it shatters and the fragments which occur, are pocketed between the various layers, thereby preventing any injury which could likely occur, should these fragments be unrestricted, or should the bullet glance off in a different direction.

To prevent movement of the steel plate 10 within the envelop 12, a number of rivets 17 are secured at suitable distances through the shield, adjacent the edge of the plate. A hand grip 18 is secured at the right hand side of the shield and a strap 19 passing

through an adjustable buckle 20 is provided at the left for securing the shield to the forearm of the soldier. Button-holes 21, are arranged in the rear portion of the cover 12, should it be desired to secure the shield to the uniform of the soldier, and also if desired to support the same from a suitable tripod or other means of support.

My improved shield will be especially useful in trench fighting, permitting firing of the rifle without exposure of the person of the soldier, and will also be effective protection against hand grenades, bombs and other such agencies of modern warfare. Because of its shape, construction and color, it will prove a useful barrier to protect sharpshooters, outposts and the like, and may also be used with decided effect in charges in close formation, advancing the lines of trenches, etc.

The thickness of the steel plate, the number of thicknesses of canvas, etc., it will be understood, may be varied to meet the various conditions under which these shields will be used.

I have described and illustrated a preferred and satisfactory form of my invention, but it is obvious, that changes may be made therein, within the spirit and scope thereof as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a shield of the character described, an inner bullet resisting plate, an outer inclosing envelop comprising front and rear portions, and an inner absorbent member at the bullet exposed side of the shield, comprising a plurality of layers of material having their respective adjacent surfaces unattached, disposed between said bullet resisting plate and the front portion of the envelop, the spaces between said layers of material constituting pockets adapted to pocket the fragments of bullets, produced by contact with the bullet resisting plate.

2. In a shield of the character described, an inner bullet resisting plate, an outer inclosing envelop comprising front and rear portions and an inner absorbent member at the bullet exposed side of the shield comprising a plurality of layers of canvas having their respective adjacent surfaces unattached, disposed between said bullet resisting plate and the front portion of the envelop, the spaces between said layers of canvas, constituting pockets adapted to pocket the fragments of bullets, produced by contact with the bullet resisting plate.

3. In a shield of the character described, an inner bullet resisting plate, provided with a cut out rifle receiving portion, an outer inclosing envelop comprising front and rear portions, and provided with a cut out rifle receiving portion, disposed within the cut-out portion of the plate, a hand grip and an adjustable arm engaging member on said rear portion of the envelop, and an inner absorbent member comprising a plurality of layers of material disposed between the said plate and the front portion of the envelop and adapted to pocket the fragments of bullets, produced by contact with the resisting plate.

4. In a shield of the character described, an inner bullet resisting plate, provided with a cut out rifle receiving portion, an outer inclosing envelop comprising front and rear portions, and provided with a cut out rifle receiving portion, disposed within the cut-out portion of the plate, a hand grip and an adjustable arm engaging member on said rear portion of the envelop, and an inner absorbent member comprising a plurality of layers of material disposed between the said plate and the front portion of the envelop and adapted to pocket the fragments of bullets, produced by contact with the resisting plate, and means on said shield for attaching the same to the uniform of the soldier.

5. In a shield of the character described, an inner bullet resisting plate, an outer inclosing envelop comprising front and rear portions of larger area than said inner resisting plate, an inner absorbent member comprising a plurality of layers of material, disposed between the said plate and the front portion of the envelop, and adapted to pocket the fragments of bullets produced by contact with the shield, and means connecting the front and rear portions of the envelop and retaining the resisting plate centrally thereof, to form a flexible marginal portion to the shield.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALBERT LOUPPE.

Witnesses:
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ED. MAURER.