Oct. 11, 1938. G. R. SHAW 2,132,544

COMBINED CUSHION AND LIFE BELT

Filed Sept. 1, 1937 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

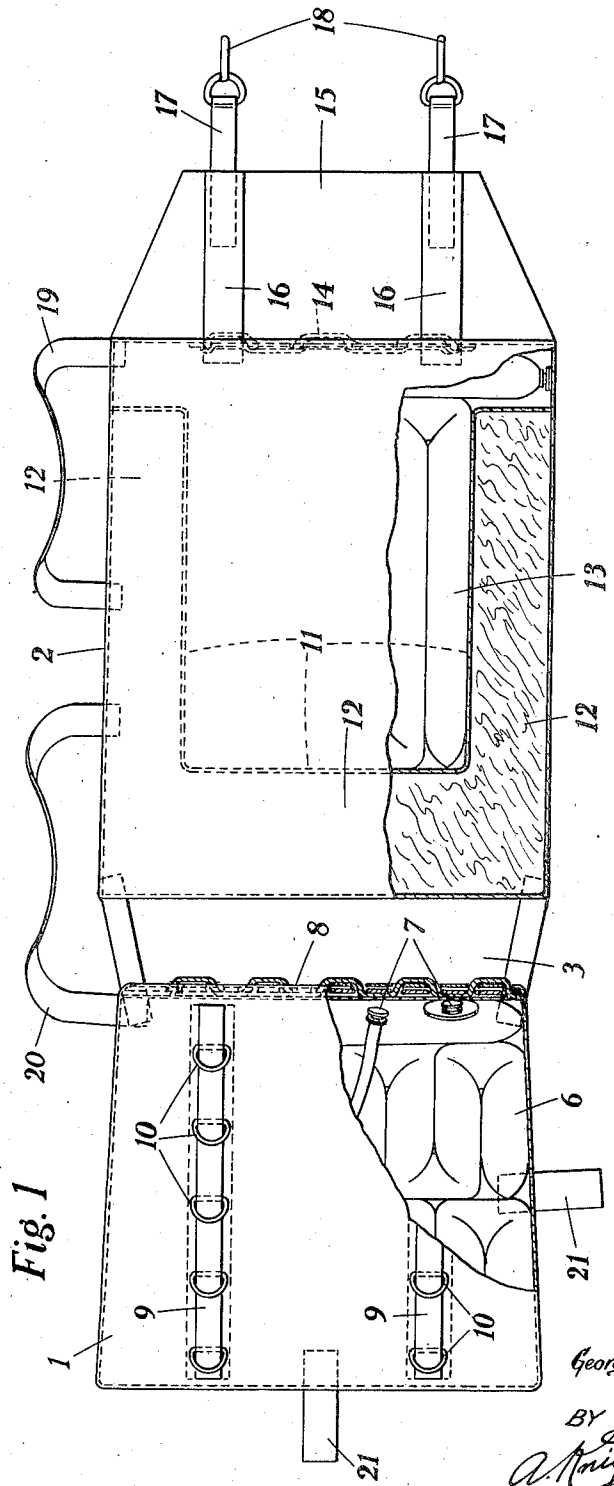


Fig. 1

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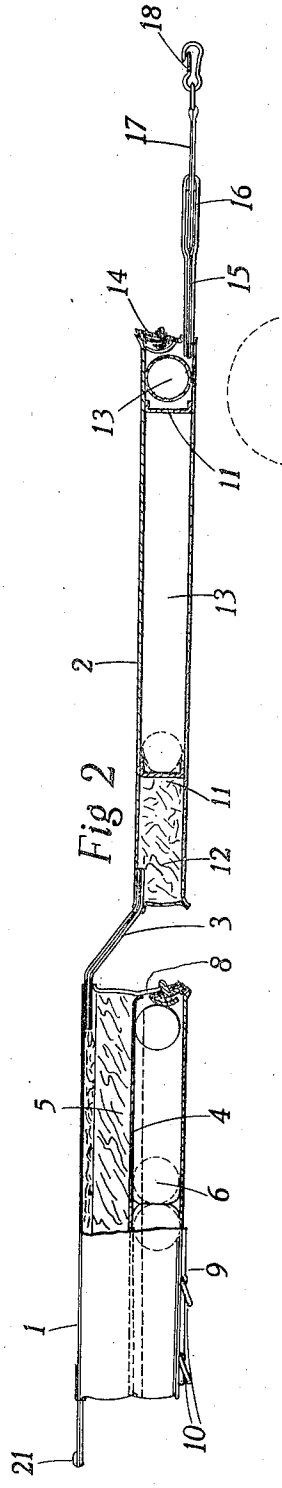


Fig 2

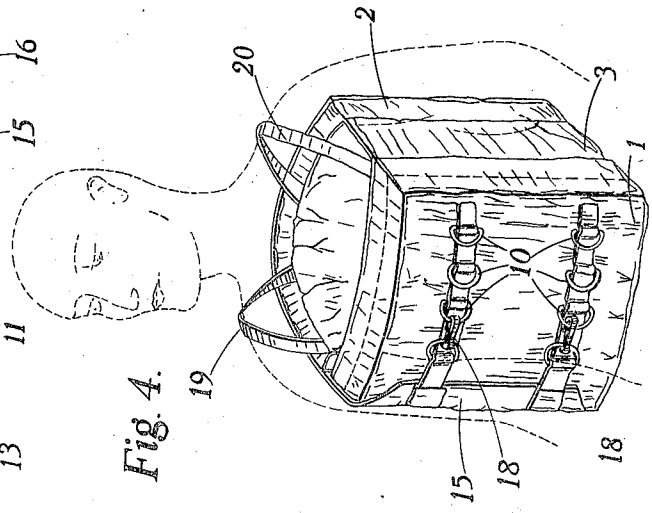


Fig. 4.

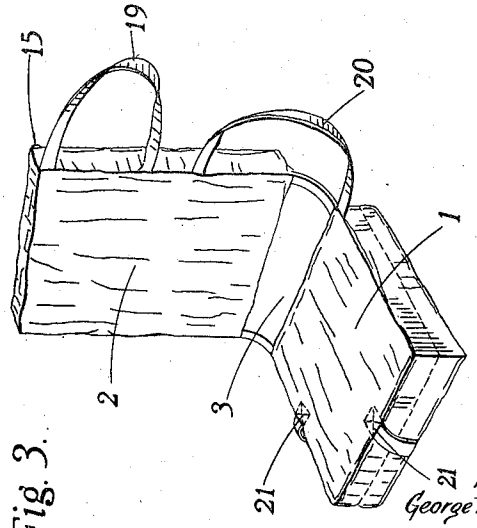


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,132,544

COMBINED CUSHION AND LIFE BELT

George Richard Shaw, Upper Warlingham, England

Application September 1, 1937, Serial No. 161,989
In Great Britain September 15, 1936

6 Claims. (Cl. 9—12)

This invention relates to a combined cushion and life-belt particularly designed but not necessarily limited for use on the chairs and seats of aircraft and ships to prevent or minimize the loss of life by drowning in the event of an accident thereto, and it has for its objects the provision of a cushion of simple form normally adapted to rest on the seat and back of the chair but which may be readily removed therefrom and easily and rapidly secured around the body in a similar manner to a life-belt, said cushion having sufficient buoyancy to support the wearer when in the water, and to this end, according to this invention, the combined cushion and life-belt comprises seat and back portions joined together and provided with means for supporting and securing them on the body of the wearer, both of said portions being furnished in their interior with means for rendering same buoyant.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate one embodiment of this invention:—

Figure 1 is a view of the underside with parts of the covering fabric removed to show the interior construction;

Figure 2 is a side elevation also with parts removed;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the device in position as a cushion;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the device in position as a lifebelt.

The cushion consists essentially of a seat portion 1 and a back portion 2 adapted to rest upon the seat and against the back respectively of a chair, the said portions being joined together by a strip 3 of flexible material extending between their adjacent upper edges.

The seat portion 1 consists of a waterproofed canvas pocket divided by a horizontal partition 4 of similar material into an upper compartment adapted to be upholstered with kapok, rubberized hair or other suitable material 5 and a lower compartment adapted to contain pneumatic cushions 6 inflatable through air valves 7 located so as to be accessible through an aperture in the back edge of the pocket provided with a closure flap 8, the edges of the flap and pocket being furnished with eyelets adapted to be laced together when the cushions 6 have been inserted in position. Two strips of leather, webbing or other suitable reinforcing material 9 extending from front to rear are secured to the underside of the seat portion, each of said strips being furnished with a plurality of metal rings or eyes 10.

The back portion 2 also consists of a waterproofed canvas pocket but is only approximately half the depth of the seat portion, said pocket being divided by a partition 11 into a U-shaped outer or edge portion adapted to be upholstered with kapok, rubberized hair or other suitable material 12 and a T-shaped central and upper end portion adapted to contain pneumatic cushions 13. The free end of the pocket is provided with a closure flap 14, the edges of the flap and pocket being furnished with eyelets adapted to be laced together when the cushions 13 have been inserted therein. The top end of the pocket is further provided with a flap 15 suitably reinforced at 16 for the attachment of short straps 17 terminating in spring clips or hooks 18. Shoulder straps in the form of loops 19 and 20 are provided along one side of the device, the strap 19 being secured at each end as by stitching to the front side seam of the back portion 2 whilst one end of the strap 20 is secured to the side seam of the back portion 2 and the other end to the seat portion 1 adjacent the rear corner thereof.

When it is required to use the cushion as a lifebelt it is removed from the chair, the wearer passes his arms through the loops 19 and 20 and adjusts same on to the shoulders, the front face of the back portion 2 resting against his back; the seat portion 1 of the cushion is then drawn round to the front under the wearer's arm and placed across the chest. The flap 15 on the free end of the back portion 2 is then pulled forward and over the front edge of the seat portion 1 and the hooks 18 on said flap 15 are clipped into the metal rings 10 on the underside of the seat portion 1, the hooks being clipped into those rings which provide the most suitable adjustment. In this manner the lifebelt is firmly held in position round the wearer's body under the armpits and is prevented from slipping down by means of the shoulder straps 19 and 20.

The cushion formed as above described may be enclosed in seat and back pockets or loose covers formed of a suitable upholstery material, or the cushion may be covered in the latter and used on the chair without any additional covering. The seat portion 1 may be provided with suitably disposed tabs 21 to enable the device to be readily grasped, and when loose covers are employed, withdrawn therefrom, should an emergency arise necessitating the use of the device as a lifebelt.

What I claim is:—

1. A cushion adapted for use as a lifebelt comprising in combination a seat portion consisting of an outer covering divided by a horizontal partition into upper and lower compartments, a filling for one of said compartments, a pneumatic cushion contained within the other of said compartments and rings attached to the said seat portion, a back portion consisting of an outer covering including side, front and back walls, a partition extending between said walls and dividing said back portion into two compartments in the same plane, a filling for one of said compartments, a pneumatic cushion for the other of said compartments and hook devices secured to the upper end of said back por-

tion and connecting means between the rear of the seat portion and the lower end of the back portion.

2. A cushion adapted for use as a lifebelt comprising in combination a seat portion consisting of an outer covering divided by a horizontal partition into upper and lower compartments, a filling for the upper compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the lower compartment and two series of rings secured on the underside of said seat portion, each series extending from front to rear, a back portion consisting of an outer covering divided by a partition into an upper end compartment and a lower end compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the upper end compartment, a filling for the lower end compartment, straps corresponding with the series of rings on the seat portion extending from the upper end of the back portion and a hook device secured to the end of each strap, connecting means between the rear of the seat portion and the lower end of the back portion and shoulder straps for supporting the cushion upon the body of a wearer.

3. A cushion adapted for use as a lifebelt comprising in combination a seat portion consisting of an outer covering divided by a horizontal partition into upper and lower compartments, a filling for the upper compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the lower compartment, a closure flap through which the pneumatic cushion may be inserted and inflated, means for fastening the free edges of the flap and cover together and two series of rings secured on the underside of said cushion, each series extending from front to rear, a back portion consisting of an outer covering divided by a partition into a T-shaped upper end compartment and a U-shaped lower end compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the T-shaped upper end compartment, a filling for the U-shaped lower end compartment, a closure flap through which the pneumatic cushion may be inserted and inflated, means for fastening the free edges of the flap and cover together, a flap extending from the upper end of said back portion, two straps attached to said flap corresponding with the series of rings on the seat portion and a hook device secured to the end of each strap, a web portion connecting the rear of the seat portion to the lower end of the back portion and shoulder straps connected at their ends at points along one side of the cushion.

4. A cushion adapted for use as a lifebelt comprising in combination a seat portion consisting of an outer covering divided by a horizontal partition into upper and lower compartments, a filling for the upper compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the lower compartment, reinforcing strips secured on the underside and extending from front to rear and a series of rings attached along each reinforcing strip, a back portion consisting of an outer covering divided by a partition into a T-shaped upper end compartment and a U-shaped lower end compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the T-shaped upper end compartment, a filling for the U-shaped lower end compartment, a flap extending from the upper end of said back portion, reinforcing strips attached to said flap corresponding with the reinforcing strips on the seat portion, a strap secured along and extending from said reinforcing strips, and a hook device secured to the end of each strap, a web portion connecting the rear of the seat portion to the lower end of the back portion, and shoulder straps connected at their ends at points along one side of the cushion.

5. A cushion adapted for use as a lifebelt comprising in combination a seat portion consisting of a waterproof outer covering divided by a horizontal partition of similar material into upper and lower compartments, a filling for the upper compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the lower compartment, a closure flap through which the pneumatic cushion may be inserted and inflated, means for fastening the free edges of the flap and cover together, reinforcing strips secured on the underside and extending from front to rear and a series of rings attached along each reinforcing strip, a back portion consisting of a waterproof outer covering divided by a partition of similar material into a T-shaped upper end compartment and a U-shaped lower end compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within said upper end compartment, a filling for said lower end compartment, a closure flap through which the pneumatic cushion may be inserted and inflated, means for fastening the free edges of the flap and cover together, a flap extending from the upper end of said back portion, reinforcing strips attached to said flap corresponding with the reinforcing strips on the seat portion, a strap secured along and extending from said reinforcing strips, and a hook device secured to the end of each strap, a web portion connecting the rear of the seat portion to the lower end of the back portion, and shoulder straps connected at their ends at points along one side of the cushion.

6. A cushion adapted for use as a lifebelt comprising in combination a seat portion consisting of a waterproof canvas outer covering divided by a horizontal partition of similar material into upper and lower compartments, rubberized hair filling for the upper compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the said lower compartment, a closure flap through which the pneumatic cushion may be inserted and inflated, means for fastening the free edges of the flap and cover together, two reinforcing strips each secured on the underside and extending from front to rear, a series of rings attached along each reinforcing strip, and means attached to said seat portion whereby it may be easily seized by the hands, a back portion consisting of a waterproof canvas outer covering divided by a partition of similar material into a T-shaped upper end compartment and a U-shaped lower end compartment, a pneumatic cushion contained within the T-shaped upper end compartment, rubberized hair filling for the U-shaped lower end compartment, a closure flap through which the pneumatic cushion may be inserted and inflated, means for fastening the free edges of the flap and cover together, a flap extending from the upper end, two reinforcing strips attached to said flap corresponding with the reinforcing strips on the seat portion, a strap secured along and extending from each reinforcing strip, and a hook device secured to the end of each strap, a web portion connecting the rear of the seat portion to the lower end of the back portion, and shoulder straps connected at their ends at points along one side of the cushion.

GEORGE RICHARD SHAW.