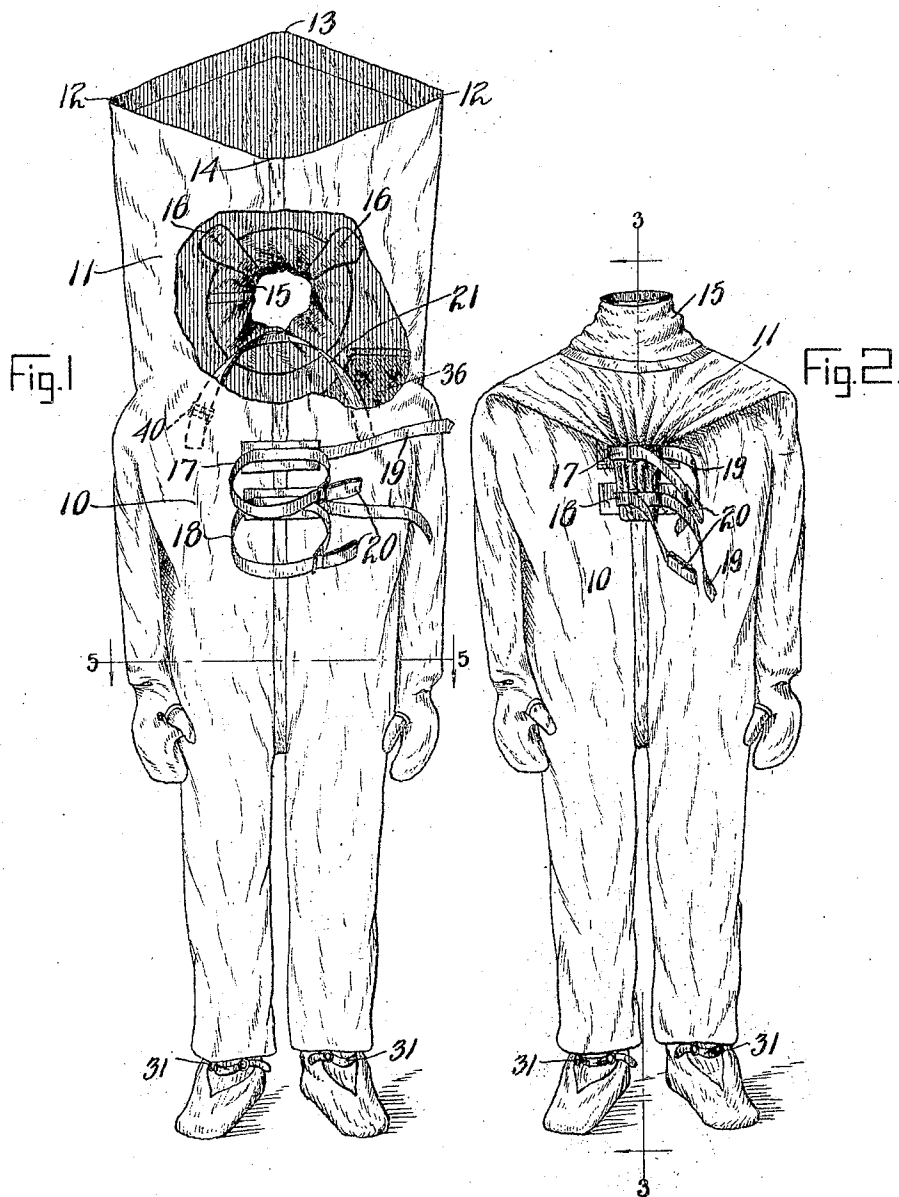


O. A. YOUNGREN AND J. A. WATT.
LIFE PRESERVER.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 14, 1918.

1,374,623.

Patented Apr. 12, 1921.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Inventors
Oscar A. Youngren
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By *Radford & Dossett*
Attorneys

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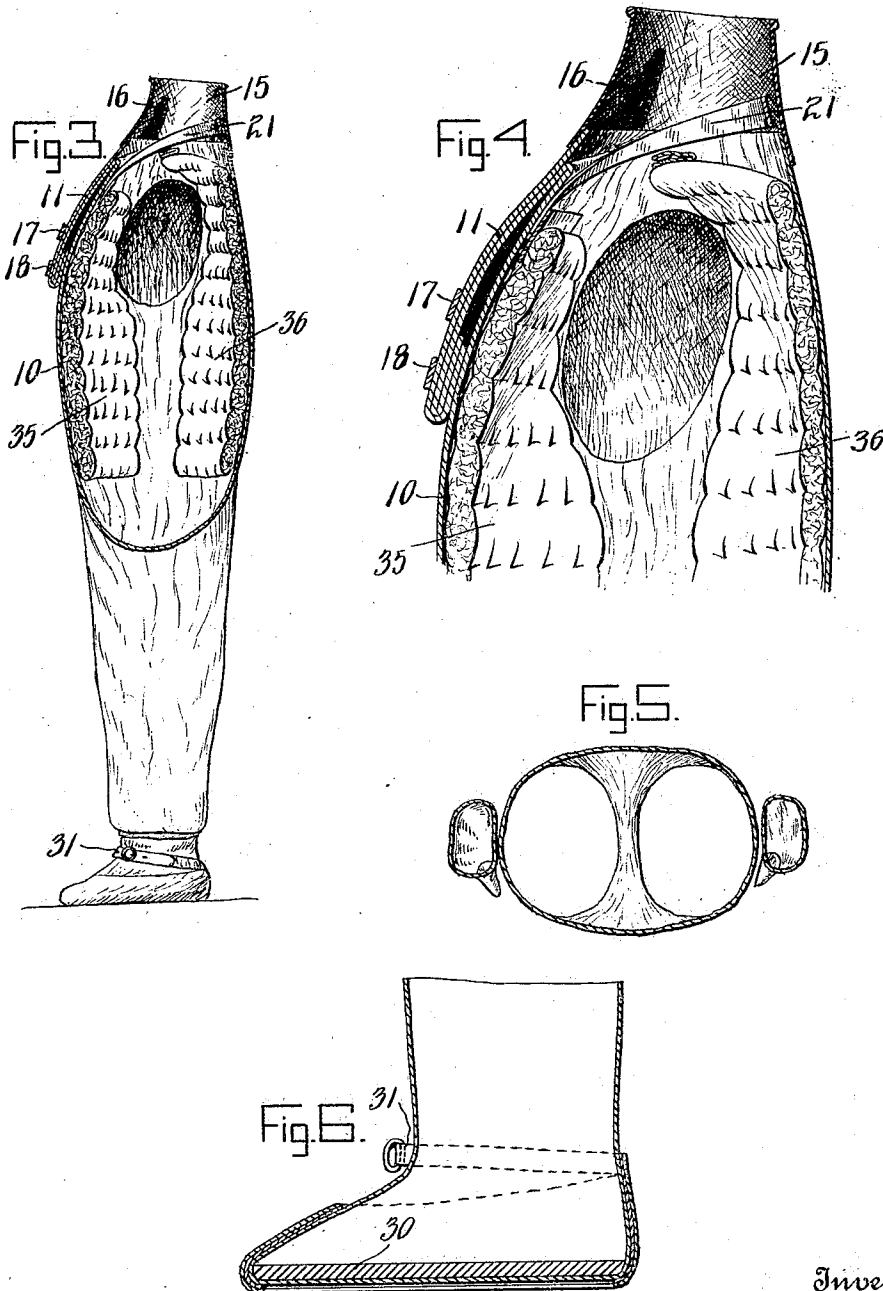
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Oscar A. Youngren
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Bradford & Doolittle,
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OSCAR A. YOUNGREN AND JAMES A. WATT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNORS TO
NATIONAL LIFE PRESERVER COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION
OF WYOMING.

LIFE-PRESERVER.

1,374,623.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 12, 1921.

Application filed June 14, 1918. Serial No. 239,966.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, OSCAR A. YOUNGREN, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, New York county, and State of New York, and JAMES A. WATT, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, New York county, and State of New York, have invented and discovered certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers, of which the following is a specification.

The object of our said invention is to provide a life preserver in the form of a water-proof suit adapted to completely inclose the body of the wearer and to be put on over the clothing, and one which may readily be adapted to float the wearer regardless of weight; and further, to provide means whereby such a suit may be readily and conveniently put on and adjusted to the body of the wearer and the closure sealed quickly in such a way as to make it water tight.

This invention consists in an improvement in the structure of water-proof suits of the type forming the subject matter of Youngren Patents No. 1,123,058, (Reissue No. 14,110) and No. 1,242,752, the improvements residing chiefly in means whereby the use of the metal frame around the closure to the opening at the upper end of the suit may be obviated and the weight thereof, as well as the rigidity incident to its use at this point in the suit, be avoided, all as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings which are made a part hereof, and on which similar reference characters indicate similar parts,

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a suit of my improved construction showing the upper end thereof as it appears when open and ready to be put on, a portion of the front of the suit being shown broken out to illustrate more clearly the position of the neck-piece,

Fig. 2, a similar view showing the suit as it appears when closed and adjusted to the wearer.

Fig. 3, a sectional view of Fig. 2,

Fig. 4, a view showing the portion illustrated by the upper part of Fig. 3 on an enlarged scale, and

Figs. 5 and 6 detail sections showing the parts illustrated more clearly.

In said drawings like reference characters

indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

In the main, the suit illustrated is not materially different from that forming the subject matter of said patents above referred to except in the construction whereby the suit is opened and closed. The body 10 is of water-proof material, preferably rubber, and closed at all points except the opening provided for the entrance of the wearer and the neck-piece, as will be presently described. The foot portions contain weights and straps 31 are provided to secure them to the feet of the wearer. The upper portion of the suit contains pads 35 and 36 of buoyant material, such as kapok, arranged as more fully shown and described in said Patent 1,242,752.

The body of the suit 10 has an extended sack-like portion 11 formed in-piece therewith and extending upwardly from its upper end and of a size to readily admit the person of the wearer, said upper end being formed substantially as illustrated in Fig. 1 with its rear portion extending outwardly from the body from points 12 to a point 13 while the front portion is cut to taper downwardly from said points 12 to central point 14. The neck-piece 15 is formed on the back of the sack-like portion 11 and is of elastic material with longitudinal stays 16 as illustrated in said Patent No. 1,242,572, and is positioned to cover over the head of the wearer as indicated in Fig. 2.

A series of straps 17 and 18 are provided on the front of the suit adapted to loop around the folded cape or sack-like portion as indicated in Fig. 2. Each of the straps is provided with a buckle 25 as shown, and the outer end of each strap is formed with a thickened portion 20, or a part secured thereon of a thickness to prevent the end of the strap from passing through the buckle. By this means the straps are always looped in the position indicated in Fig. 1, ready to receive the folded end of the cape. Straps 19 furnish handholds for convenience in drawing the loop tight.

In putting on the suit the wearer gets into the suit feet first, the upper end being opened as indicated in Fig. 1. A strap 21 is first passed over the head of the wearer in order to raise up and support the upper end

of the suit at the proper elevation bringing the buoyant lining 35 up with it and thereby maintaining the buoyancy as close to the head as possible. The cape portion is then pulled forward and the head of the wearer projected through the neck-piece 15, which, being of elastic material, as described in said patents before mentioned, closes closely around the neck, forming a closure that is water-tight, but at the same time flexible and elastic to permit easy breathing and movements of the muscles of the neck for any purpose. The non-elastic strips 16 prevent stretching in a longitudinal direction and thus facilitate the operation of inserting the head through the opening. The strap 21 may be adjustable by a buckle 40, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1, if desired.

The open end of the cape is then brought down in front of the wearer below the neck and folded over, the extended rear portion being doubled under the cut down front portion and the part rolled up to the center from each edge. The cone-shaped end thus formed is then extended through the loops formed by the straps 17 and 18.

Said straps are then drawn tightly around said folded portion and secured by the buckles. This forms a closure that is water-tight and permits a structure of the suit that has no stiff projecting metal shoulder pieces, thereby enabling the wearer to adjust himself to openings, as when passing through hatch-ways in the ships, and other places, as will be understood.

Having thus fully described our said invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A one-piece garment of water-proof material for use as a life preserver formed with an extended cape-like portion surrounding its upper end having an opening through which entrance to and exit from said garment may be made, said cape-like

portion also embodying in its rear portion an elastic neck-piece with an opening for the passage of the head of the wearer, and straps secured to the front of the garment below the normal position of the neck-piece and arranged to form loops to surround and secure the folded ends of the cape portion when brought down in front of the wearer and folded together, substantially as set forth.

2. A life preserver comprising a one-piece suit of water-proof material having an open upper end surrounded by an extended portion adapted to fold together, a neck-piece formed in the extended portion, and a supporting strap attached to the front of the suit and adapted to extend over the head of the wearer back of the neck to support the front portion and buoyant material mounted within said suit near the upper end thereof and attached thereto, substantially as set forth.

3. A life preserver comprising a suit of water-proof material adapted to envelop the entire body of the wearer and formed with an extended portion at its upper end through which entrance to and exit from the suit may be made, a neck-piece in said extended portion through which the head of the wearer may be inserted, buoyant material attached to the interior of the suit near the upper end thereof, and a supporting strap secured to said suit near its upper end adapted to pass over the head of the wearer, whereby the buoyant material is supported close to the neck, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals at New York city, New York, this 12th day of June, A. D. nineteen hundred and eighteen.

OSCAR A. YOUNGREN. [L. s.]
JAMES A. WATT. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

B. J. HASSELMAN,
A. E. PUCKRIN.