

T. C. BRADFORD.
LIFE SAVING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 10, 1912.

1,056,733.

Patented Mar. 18, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

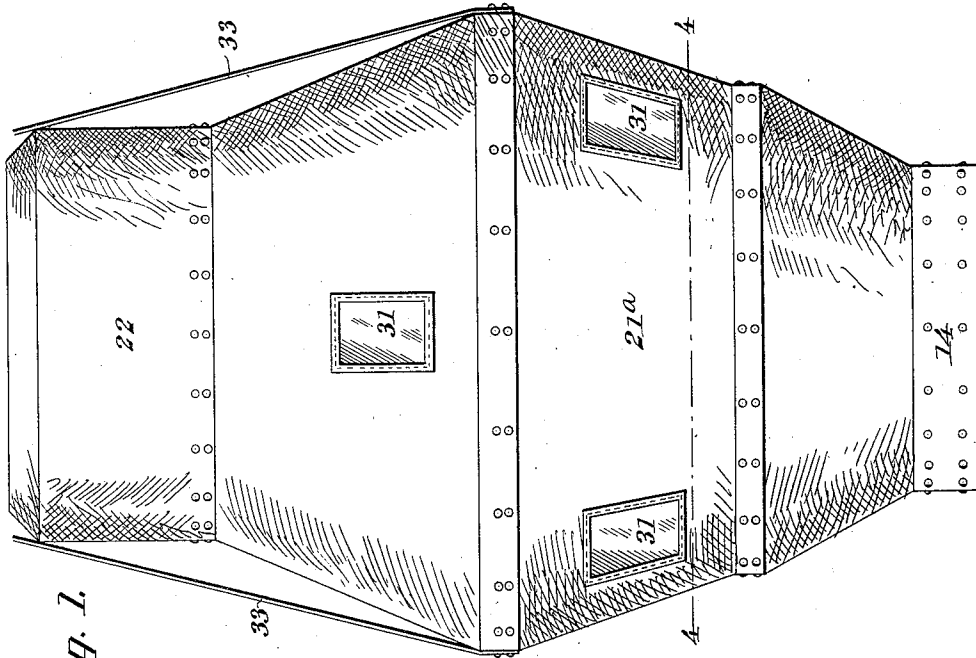


Fig. 1.

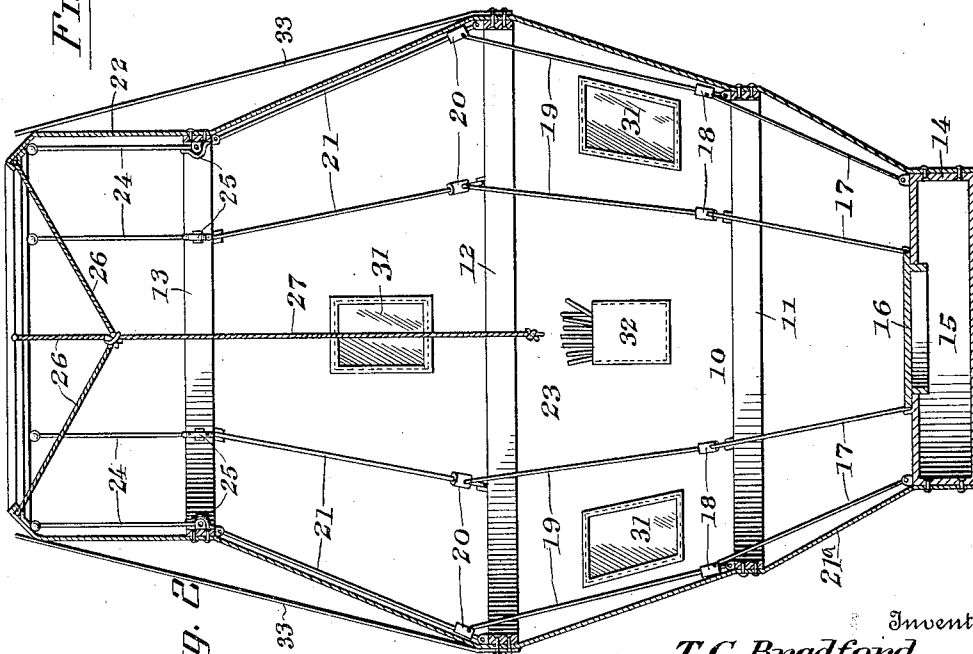


Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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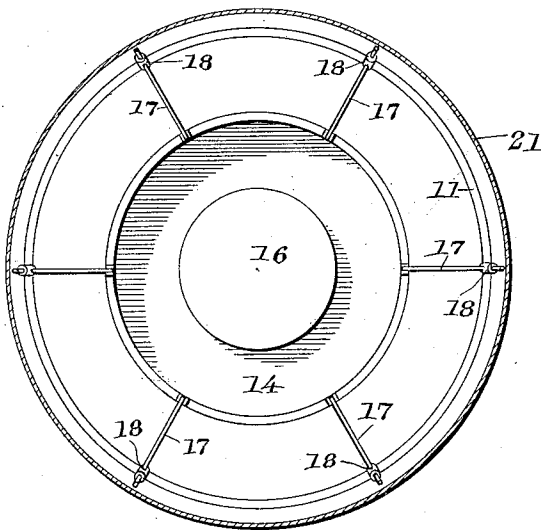
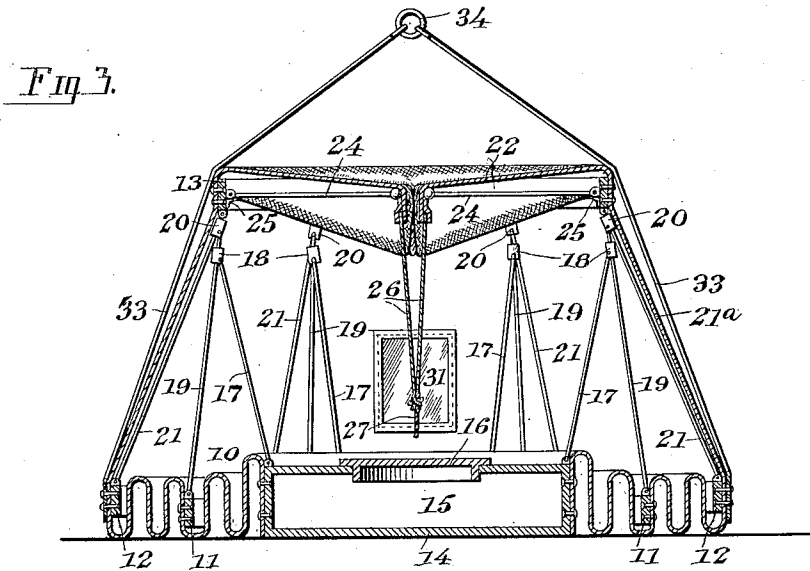
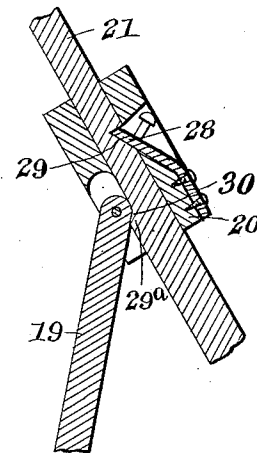


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS C. BRADFORD, OF LAMARQUE, TEXAS.

LIFE-SAVING DEVICE.

1,056,733.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 18, 1913.

Application filed September 10, 1912. Serial No. 719,618.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS C. BRADFORD, a citizen of the United States, residing in Lamarque, in the county of Galveston and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Life-Saving Devices, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to life-saving apparatus and has for an object to provide a collapsible life-saving device.

The invention embodies, among other features, a structure which is normally folded in order that the same will take up very little room on a ship or dock and the device is arranged so that the same can be unfolded and secured in unfolded position to form a compartment, the device being of a buoyant nature and adapted to float upon the water.

A further embodiment of the invention resides in a device which can be quickly and easily unfolded and which will readily accommodate several persons, the device being adapted to normally lie folded on a deck of a ship and adapted to float upon the water when moved into extended position.

In the further disclosure of the invention reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, constituting a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the views, and in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device showing the same in open position; Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the device disclosed in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the device showing the same in closed position; Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 4—4 in Fig. 1; and Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view showing the manner of locking the supporting arms in supporting position.

Referring more particularly to the views, use is made of a frame 10 consisting of a series of superimposed hoop members 11, 12 and 13 and a base 14, the base 14 being constructed in the manner of a container to provide a compartment 15 adapted to receive food or water and which is normally closed by a cover 16 forming the floor of the life-saving device to be further described herein.

The hoop members 11, 12 and 13 are preferably of different diameters and mounted to swing on the base 14 are arms 17 having collars 18 mounted to swing on the upper ends thereof and slidable on supporting

arms 19 having collars 20, similar to the collars 18, mounted to swing thereon, the said collars 20 being slidable on supporting arms 21 having rigid connection with the hoop members 12 and 13, thus spacing the hoop member 13 from the hoop member 12, the arms 19 having pivotal connection with the hoop member 11 in order that the hoop members 11 and 12 will be relatively spaced apart when the device is in extended or open position. A casing 21^a, preferably made of a waterproof material or canvas of a waterproof nature, is arranged to encircle the frame 10, the said casing being secured to the base 14 and to the various hoop members 11, 12 and 13 with the upper end of the casing terminating in a circular closure flap 22 formed with the casing 21^a and extending upwardly beyond the hoop member 13, the mentioned closure flap being adapted to close a main compartment 23 formed by the casing 21^a encircling the frame 10. The closure flap 22 is normally held in open position by rods 24 mounted to swing on the hoop member 13 and engaged by springs 25 to normally hold the rods in vertical position with the upper ends of the rods engaging the closure flap so that the sides thereof will lie in substantially a vertical plane. Draw strings 26 are secured to the upper edge of the closure flap at various points and the said draw strings terminate in a single string 27 which, when pulled downwardly, will move the closure flap 22 into closed position, the mentioned flap being moved against the tension of the springs 25 which normally hold the rods 24 in vertical position.

The distances between the base 14 and hoop member 11 and the hoop member 11 and hoop member 12 are restricted sufficiently to permit of the hoop members 11 and 12 assuming the position shown in Fig. 3 when the device is folded, it being readily understood that when it is desired to open the device, an upward pull is exerted on the hoop member 13, thus causing the collars 18 and 20 to slide on the respective arms 19 and 21. Now in order to lock the device in open position each of the collars 18 and 20 has formed therewith or secured thereto a leaf spring 28 adapted to extend into a notch 29 formed at the lower end of each arm 19 and 21 to lock the collar rigidly on the arm. The lower ends of the arms 19 and 21 are enlarged at the points 29^a to

form a beveled surface 30, against which one face of each of the arms 17 and 19 is adapted to abut when the device is moved into extended position so that at the moment the spring 28 of each collar moves into the notch of each arm and locks the collar thereto a face of the next lowermost arm, and which has pivotal connection with the collar, will abut against the beveled surface 30, thus relatively locking the arms in rigid position and preventing the collapsing of the device.

Window panes 31, preferably made of isinglass or a flexible transparent material, are secured to the casing 21 and pockets 32 are preferably provided on the inner face of the casing for the storage of rockets or distress signals.

The device is adapted to normally lie on the deck of the ship in folded position as shown in Fig. 3 and when it is desired to use the same, the device is moved into extended or open position by pulling upwardly on the hoop member 13, after which the persons place themselves in the device or the device can be thrown overboard and persons can then jump therein. The device is constructed with sufficient buoyancy to easily float upon the water and if desirable various slight additions can be provided on the device such as folded seats or the like in order to provide for the comfort of the passengers.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a life-saving device, a frame consisting of a base and a series of superimposed hoop members, arms mounted to swing on the base, arms mounted to swing on the hoop members and having the arms of the base mounted to slide thereon, the

said arms being adapted to retain the hoop members in spaced relation to the said base, means for locking the said arms to secure the hoop members and said base in spaced relation, and a casing encircling the said frame to form a compartment.

2. In a life-saving device, a frame consisting of a base and a series of superimposed hoop members, arms mounted to swing on the base, arms mounted to swing on the hoop members and having the arms of the base mounted to slide thereon, the said arms being adapted to retain the hoop members in spaced relation to the said base, means for locking the said arms to secure the hoop members and said base in spaced relation, a casing encircling the said frame to form a compartment, a closure flap on the said casing and adapted to close the compartment formed by the frame and the casing, and means for moving the said flap into closed position.

3. A life-saving device comprising a frame, a base included with the said frame and constituting a container therefor, arms for supporting the said frame in open position, a casing encircling the frame to form a compartment, locking means on the said arms for securing the frame in open and locked position, a flap on the said casing and adapted to close the compartment, means for moving the said flap into closed position, and spring-engaged means for normally retaining the said flap in open position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS C. BRADFORD.

Witnesses:

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D. DANIELS.