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IDENTIFICATION CARD

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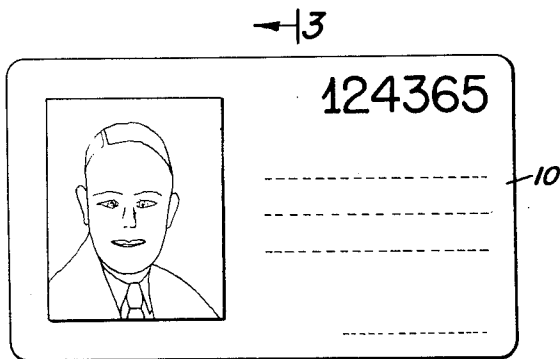


FIG. 1.

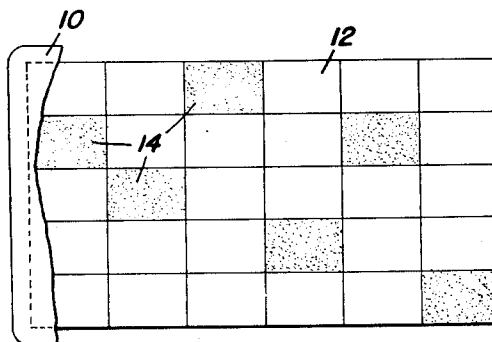


FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.

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IDENTIFICATION CARD

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1 Claim. (Cl. 250—106)

The present invention relates to a method and to means for insuring against unauthorized persons, or persons without proper authority at the moment, carrying away documents, such as papers and maps, materials, packages, etc. from an office or factory or from any classified area. As a corollary, the invention relates to a method and to means for insuring that only properly authorized persons may enter a classified area, and carry away from that area classified documents, materials, etc.

While it is comparatively easy to determine whether any metal object is being carried away from a restricted area without authority by an employee or other person, it has not been possible heretofore to detect so readily the presence of secret documents and to prevent their unauthorized removal.

Recent revelations that persons, even in the higher echelons of government service, have carried away from their offices confidential documents, photostated them, and returned them, have indicated the need for some simple, efficient method of preventing such unauthorized removal of documents. The continuing evidence that there are many persons in this country engaged in subversive and spying activities on behalf of foreign powers, serves but to accentuate that need. Moreover, cases have arisen, even where persons with properly-authorized access to classified documents, have carried away such documents without authority but with no ulterior motive, and through carelessness have placed those documents in jeopardy of falling into the hands of unauthorized persons, even subversives.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a method and means for marking documents, and materials of a highly secret or confidential nature so that they can readily be detected, and so that they can be located and identified definitely before they can be removed from a restricted area.

Another object of the invention is to provide a method and means whereby classified documents and other items can be marked in such manner that with simple detection devices and without destroying or harming the items their presence can be detected at an inspection point.

Another object of the invention is to provide means whereby the authority of a person to transport a classified item can be determined readily and without delay.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an identification card for persons authorized to transport classified material which will defy ordinary methods of counterfeiting.

Another object of the invention is to make it possible to mark pieces of mailing matter so that they can readily be identified and sorted in the Post Office or other department.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent hereinafter from the specification and from the recital of the appended claim.

Fig. 1 is a view of an identification card such as may be made according to one embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 2 is a view showing the top plastic layer of this card stripped away sufficiently to show a lower layer of

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the card which bears radioactive material disposed in such way as to denote a certain number; and

Fig. 3 is a section through the card, on a somewhat enlarged scale, taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

5 In practicing the present invention a radioactive material is impressed on or impregnated into some portion of the fabric of the document or material, whose unauthorized removal it is desired to prevent. The impression or impregnation is preferably made at some particularly designated point or portion of the document or material, as over an important word of the document or at a particular part of a page thereof, or in the case of a material in a designated portion of the fabric, or other material, so that if such radioactive marking means is deleted for any reason the removal of such identifying means will be immediately ascertainable.

10 The radioactive marking can readily be detected at an inspection point by use of any suitable means for detecting a radioactive substance, such as a Geiger-Müller counter, or other known means for detecting the presence of a radioactive substance. All employees of a restricted department of a government bureau, or of a factory engaged in confidential work, can then be required to pass a specified inspection point where they will be required to pass the Geiger-Müller or other detector. Persons wearing wristwatches or other items with luminous dials containing radioactive material, which might affect the indicator, can be asked to remove such items before inspection so as to insure that the radioactivity of such an article will not interfere with the inspection.

15 The attachment of the radioactive material can be made by means of waxes, seals, adhesive tapes, or other suitable means impregnated with radioactive materials, or the radioactive materials can be embossed into the paper, letter, print, map, or other document or material which it is desired to protect etc. through use of a check protector, or similar device, acting upon the radioactive adhesive tape, or the like.

20 If no long term security is necessary, the indicia or tracer may be a material having soft beta-radiation characteristics. This is particularly useful in the case of packages too large to secrete on the person.

25 For long term security of documents or other articles of extreme importance, the paper, fabric, or other material, may be water-marked with a radioactive symbol having a long life term, or have an adhesive seal or sealing wax applied thereto made of a long term radioactive material. Such radioactive materials as the isotopes of cobalt or manganese, which give off gamma rays and have no rays of harmful intensity, can be used. Such materials will be radioactive for a period of time up to ten years or more.

30 In practice, for example, when a letter or other document is finally approved and ready for signature, a security seal of radioactive transparent material can be placed over the most important words and/or embossed into the body of the document so that it can not thereafter be removed without destroying the document itself, or without permanently marring it. In the case of letters, maps, or other papers a practice may be made of marking them with radio-active marking material all in the same place, for instance, at the center of a page, so that the marking cannot be removed without it being immediately apparent.

35 Furthermore, in order to insure that only authorized persons be in possession of such radioactively protected documents, packages, or materials, these persons can be required to carry a card of identification, such as shown on the drawing, which is marked by radioactive material in a particular manner to identify that person. For instance, the card 12 may be ruled off in a series of columns of squares, each square denoting a number, and the loca-

tion of the square in the column designating a particular number, the columns being read from left to right, with the location of the square in a column denoting the number which is to be read. For instance, if the card 12 were ruled off in six columns of five squares each, as shown, and the second square in the first column, the third square in the second column, the first square in the third column, the fourth square in the fourth column, the second square in the fifth column, and the fifth square in the sixth column were embossed or otherwise marked with radioactive material 14, then from the location of the squares in the columns, the card would designate the number 231425.

The number may be coded in such way that it can be read only when exposed to a Geiger-Müller counter or other proper identifying apparatus, and the number might not even be known to the person carrying the card and the security papers or packages. In this way the person carrying the classified documents or materials cannot ordinarily forge or counterfeit the number. The passcard can, if desired, be activated by a short life element so as to be good for only a few days. Unless both the passcard and the security papers give off the same number signals, when examined, it will be known that the transportation of the papers or documents, or other materials, is unauthorized.

In order that the radioactive code number be kept secret it might be placed between two layers 10 of opaque passcard material if for any reason the code number would be subject to discoloration or would become obvious if on the outside face. In fact, the passcard might also be imprinted or written on the outside in the usual manner with one identifying number, as shown, and another number as part of a series with proper record kept at the issuing point for the cards, might be imprinted in radioactive materials on the card so that it can only be read when examined by the proper detecting apparatus. As a further precaution, it is also possible to make a radioactivated photoprint of the passcard by exposing the passcard to proper contact or near contact with properly sensitized material. The security card can also be examined by a fluoroscope for quick determination of its number.

An advantage of the invention is that it not only prevents transportation of classified documents and the like without authorization, but permits ready location of those

documents if misplaced. It can be used, also, with advantage in the mails. Letters requiring special handling might be marked radio-actively by the sender for ready detection in the postoffice.

The radioactive material used in any of the various possible embodiments of the invention will be such as to have no harmful effects upon the human body. It has been definitely determined that gamma rays, when of limited intensity, are harmless to the human body.

While the invention has been described in connection with certain different embodiments thereof, it will be understood that it is capable of further modification and uses; and this application is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which the invention pertains and as may be applied to the essential features hereinbefore set forth and as fall within the scope of the invention or the limits of the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

An identification card comprising a central layer and two outside layers, said central layer being disposed between the two outside layers and being ruled off in a plurality of columns of squares, certain of said squares being impregnated with radio-active material, that is invisible to the naked human eye, the location of an impregnated square in a column designating a specific number, and the number of the card being determined by the location of all the impregnated squares, and the two outside layers being made of material opaque to visible light, one of said outside layers bearing a number visible to the naked human eye.

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