

F. C. HARRIMAN.
 PACK SLING.
 APPLICATION FILED AUG. 3, 1908.

995,963.

Patented June 20, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

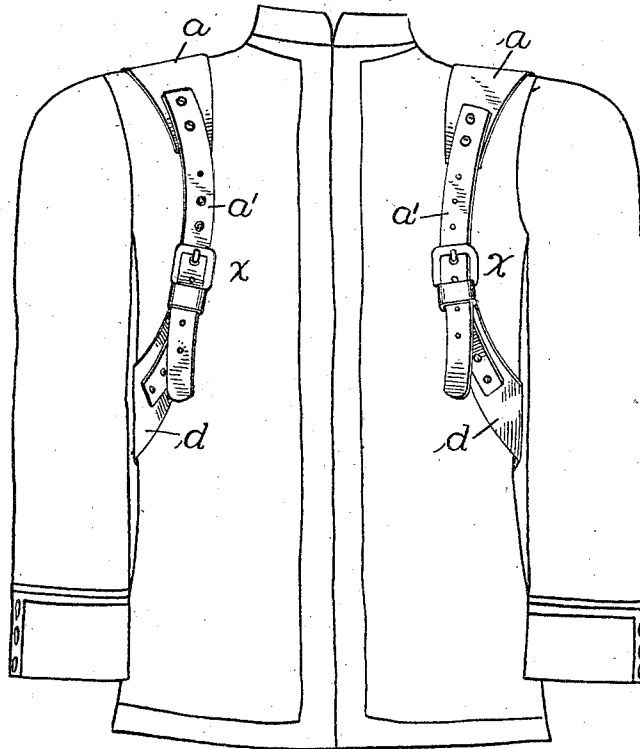
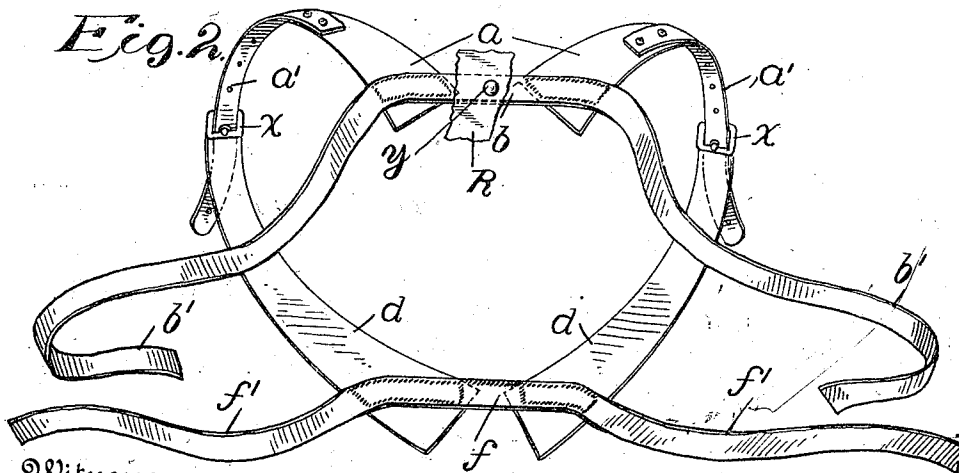


Fig. 2



Witnesses:
 Harry E. Hebig
 R. von Kneust

Inventor
 Frederick Charles Harriman
 By *Thomas S. Beach*

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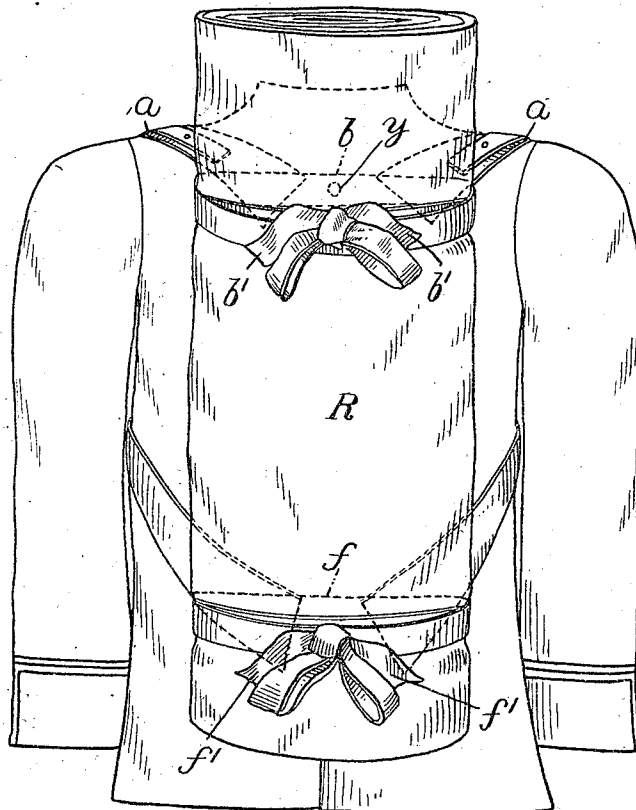


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK CHARLES HARRIMAN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PACK-SLING.

995,963.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 20, 1911.

Application filed August 3, 1908. Serial No. 446,793.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK CHARLES HARRIMAN, citizen of the United States, residing at 107 West Forty-third street, New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pack-Slings, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention is a pack sling adapted for use of soldiers, guides, prospectors, hunters, etc.

The object of the invention is to produce a sling for carrying a military or like roll vertically of and in line with the spine of the wearer, so that the load is brought directly against the middle vertical line of the back with the load distributed very evenly over the shoulders and back, leaving the arms free of movement and the chest unconstricted and unweighted.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of the pack sling in place; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the pack sling detached; and Fig. 3 is a rear view of the pack sling in place and tied to a military roll.

In the drawings, *a* are a pair of shoulder straps, the back ends of which are connected by a yoke piece *b* provided with end extensions *b*¹, to be secured around the upper portion of the military roll *R* or other load. The shoulder straps are each provided preferably with a perforated, downwardly extending front strap *a*¹ for adjustable connection with the buckle *w*; at the lower end of each are a pair of side pieces *d* which pass well below the arm pits of the wearer across his sides and rearward to a point of union near the middle of his back. The lower back ends of the side pieces *d* are conveniently united by the tied piece *f*, which is provided with extensions *f*¹, to be secured around the lower portion of the military roll *R* or other load about opposite the small of the back. By this construction and arrangement of parts, my new back support is readily adjustable at the buckles *w* to fit men of varied lengths of body, and the weight of the military roll or other load is evenly distributed over the shoulders, back of the neck and back, leaving both arms entirely free for all movements and the chest unconstricted and unweighted, as is not the case with military

rolls as now worn, horse-shoe shape, over one shoulder with one leg of the roll down the back and the other across the chest.

The military roll as now worn, often interferes with the free movement of the arms, interferes with breathing, interferes with the manual of arms and becomes readily displaced when the wearer is pushing through brush or in a stooping position.

My new pack sling is particularly adapted for military use for reasons just indicated. Another advantage of my new sling when used for supporting military rolls, is that the sling may be readily put on and taken off without unbuckling and while the roll is embraced by the extensions *b*¹, *b*¹, and *f*¹, *f*¹; the roll laid on the ground, the said extensions untied and the roll unrolled.

Of course extensions *b*¹, *b*¹ and *f*¹, *f*¹ may be made strap and bucklewise if desired, but I prefer to use these extensions as simple ties. The roll or load may be attached permanently to the sling as by the rivet *y*, if desired.

Now it will be observed, in connection with the present invention, that my roll need not be permanently secured to the harness. On the contrary, if the rivet *y* is omitted, the roll is detachably secured to the harness by the transverse back straps *b*¹ and *f*¹, and consequently the roll may be quickly detached from the harness while the latter is on the soldier's back, so that the harness can be stripped to what is known as fighting form. In the present invention, not only is the roll detachable from the harness, but the construction of the harness is such that when a folded and rolled blanket is located in it, the transverse straps are operable to compress the roll from the rear portion of the roll, about the sides and front thereof, (in other words, circumferentially,) and so hold it in rolled form for wear in long suspension down the back. It will be observed that in the preferred form of my invention illustrated, the upper and lower roll-engaging straps spring or extend away from the rearward middle portion of the harness as a whole, so that the sides of the roll are well between the shoulders and sides of the wearer (see Fig. 3).

I am aware of Carr's United States Patent No. 510,239 of December 5, 1893, and disclaim all that is shown therein. The Carr structure is made to carry a rectangular pack, and not a roll. Each strap *t* forms

one shoulder strap and one side strap, the latter portion coming edgewise against the wearer's side; but what is more important is that each strap is so positioned that its upper rear portion slants away from the spine and does not converge at or near the spine, while the lower rear portion of each strap converges away from the spine to the outer lower corners of the rectangular load. Each strap where confined to the upper tie comes about opposite the shoulder blades, while the lower ends of each strap where confined to the outer corner portions of the rectangular load come about opposite the wearer's hips.

I am also aware of the Short Patent, No. 34,272 of January 28, 1862, where the old-fashioned rectangular knapsack is secured to a sling. The strap *a* passes around the back of the wearer's neck opposite the collar; the lower ends of the straps are attached near the lower corners of the knapsack; and there is no convergence whatever of shoulder straps at or near the wearer's spine, or of side straps at or near the wearer's spine. No one prior to my invention has devised a sling of any kind, so far as I am advised, for holding a military or other roll vertically of and opposite the spine of the wearer.

As above indicated, the principle of this invention is the suspension of the pack in long form, roll-wise, down the middle of the back, in which position it is easily and conveniently borne with advantages not heretofore obtained from any known mode or means of equipment. By my invention, the bottom end of the roll comes opposite the buttocks, and, resting in part thereon, relieves the loins and kidneys of the strain incident to use of the horse-shoe-shaped roll worn over one shoulder and across the back and breast. It is a well established military fact that soldiers have frequently thrown away packs or blankets of the latter type because of the great strain brought upon their loins and kidneys in wearing such packs, and the general inconvenience thereof. The older rectangular knapsacks were generally carried in such wise, as stated in the Short Patent No. 33,726, that "the whole weight of it is brought directly upon the shoulders and across the back of the neck." The Carr patent construction involves support of the knapsack by the shoulders and head. The Short Patent No. 34,272 shows a construction by which the blanket is carried on top of a rectangular knapsack the lower inner corner of which comes against the upper part of the loins.

What I claim is:—

1. An accoutrement comprising transverse

back straps, shoulder and side straps connected at their front end portions and rearwardly connected, near the rearward middle portion of the sling, the transverse back straps being freely bendable therefrom; and an elongated roll compressively and circumferentially engaged by said freely bendable transverse straps, the free ends of the transverse straps being coupled to exert circumferential compression on the roll.

2. A pack sling for carrying a military or like roll vertically of and opposite the wearer's spine, said sling comprising a pair of shoulder straps and a pair of side straps, the rear ends of all of which straps converge toward the spinal line of the sling, the rear ends of the shoulder straps extending downwardly, and the rear ends of the side straps extending upwardly; and upper and lower transverse roll-holding straps connected with the rear middle portions of the sling and operable to be bent outwardly from the spinal line of the sling to encircle a vertical roll and hold it in place in rolled form vertically of and opposite the wearer's spine, and means for connecting the front portions of the shoulder and side straps.

3. A harness or sling for circumferentially and compressively engaging and supporting a military or other roll in long suspension down the wearer's back opposite his spine, comprising a pair of shoulder straps which converge at the rear portion of the harness; a pair of side straps which converge at the rear portion of the harness, the front ends of the shoulder and side straps being connectible; and a pair of transverse, rearward straps, one above the other; the upper one being in connection with the rearward upper portion of the harness, and the lower one being in connection with the rearward lower portion of the harness, and both being extendible in roll-engaging form from the rearward, vertically middle portion of the harness.

4. A pack sling for carrying a military or other roll in long suspension down the back, with the vertical axis thereof opposite the wearer's spine, comprising rearwardly converging shoulder and side straps provided with upper and lower roll-engaging cross-straps forming a part of the harness and free to be bent outwardly from the vertical middle portion thereof.

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

FREDERICK CHARLES HARRIMAN.

Witnesses:

EDWARD S. BEACH,
ANNA VON HEMERT.