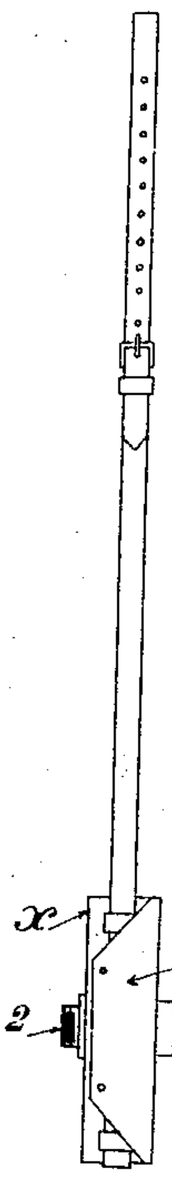
No. 882,057. PATENTED MAR. 17, 1908.

L. FORTÉ.

LIFE BELT.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 16, 1907.

FIG_2_



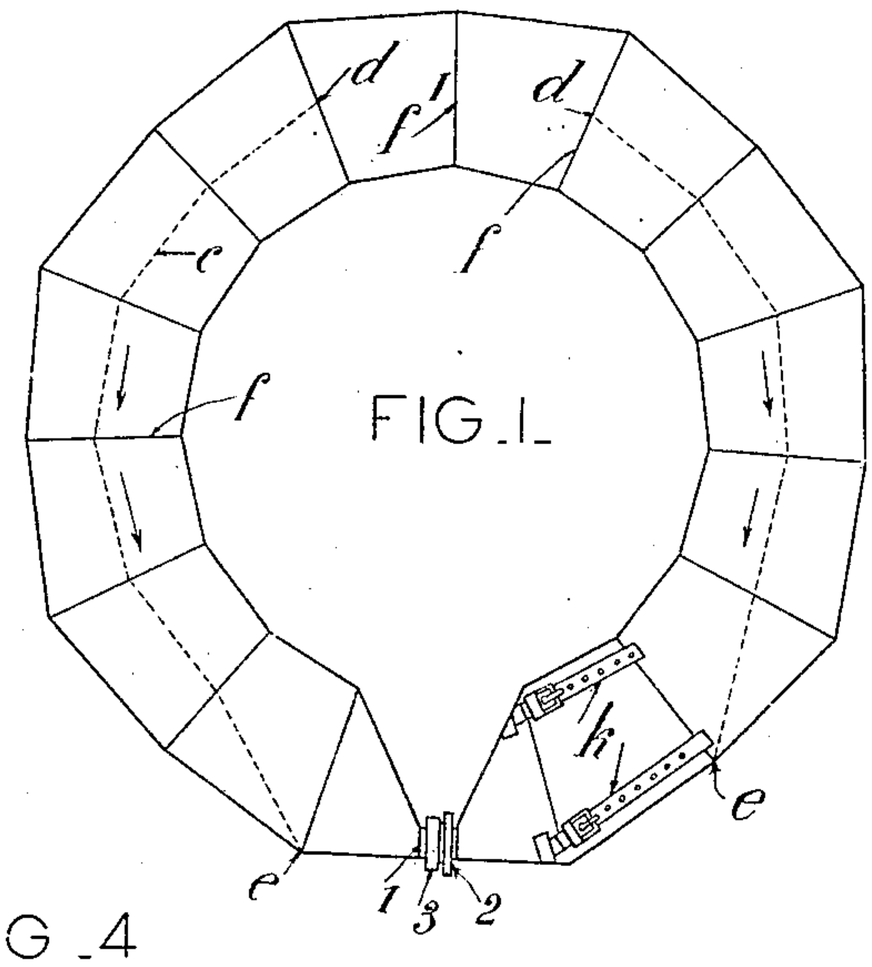


FIG_1_

FIG_3_

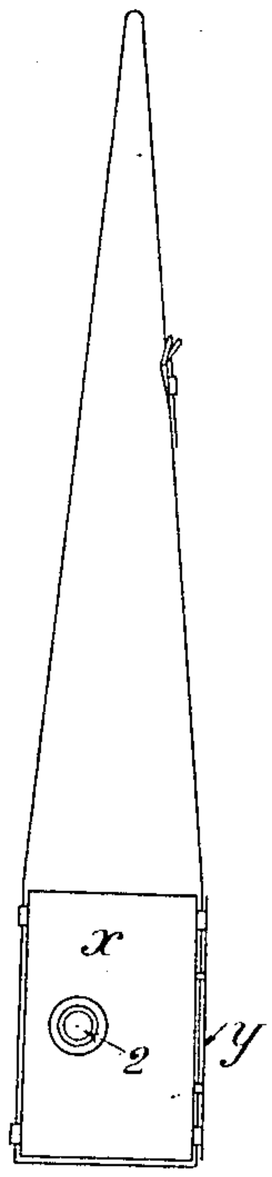


FIG_4

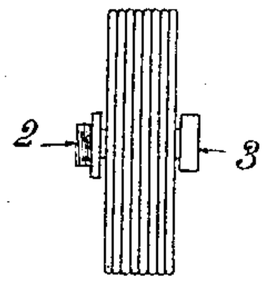


FIG_5_

FIG_6_

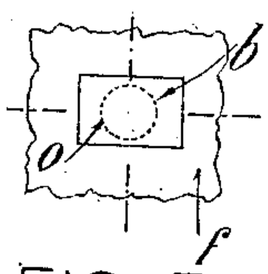


FIG_8_

FIG_7_

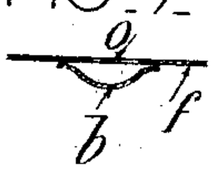


FIG_9

WITNESSES

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INVENTOR

León Forté

By Wm Wallace White

ATT'Y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LÉON FORTÉ, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

LIFE-BELT.

No. 882,057. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 17, 1908.

Application filed July 16, 1907. Serial No. 384,088.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LÉON FORTÉ, citizen of Turkey, residing at 107, Boulevard St. Michel, Paris, in the Republic of France, have invented new and useful Improvements in Life-Belts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in life belts.

The improved belt is formed by an annular air reservoir constructed of supple waterproof material, stretched on frames of steel wire, said frames carrying partitions, as will hereinafter be described; the improved belt is extensible and retractible like an accordion, and is placed in a case when not in use and carried by means of an adjustable shoulder strap, and has when so carried, the appearance of a pair of binocular glasses or a hand camera.

The improved belt is not intended to be filled with compressed air, so that the reduction of pressure produced by the least tear of the envelop is avoided.

Referring to the annexed drawings: Figure 1 shows the belt extended. Figs. 2 and 3 show a side view and a front view respectively of the belt when folded and inserted in its bag or case. Fig. 4 is a side view of the closed belt without the bag or case. Fig. 5 is a partial horizontal section of the belt, showing some cells extended and some cells partly retracted. Figs. 6, 7 and 8 are detailed views of one of the valves placed between the successive cells of the belt. Fig. 9 is, shown in section view, a detail of the connecting member formed of three pieces, which is used to connect both ends of the envelop.

The belt can be extended or retracted, that is to say, opened or closed; it is constructed of a suitable supple waterproof material, stretched out by means of preferably rectangular frames *g* or *h* constructed of steel or other suitable wire and arranged at certain distances apart as shown by Fig. 5. At the ends of the belt are fixed the two parts male and female, of a connecting member formed of three pieces. On the frames partitions of waterproof material *f* are stretched, each supplied with an aperture *o* on which a flexible valve *b* is arranged constructed of a suitable material (see Figs. 5 to 8); these valves are connected together by a wire *c* which is stretched, when the belt is fully open, and thus automatically moves the valves against their respective seats, as it is shown by the left part of the Fig. 5. The partitions are made tight by this operation. The fixing points of the wire are shown by *d* and *e* of Fig. 1; the central partition f^1 (Fig. 1) has no aperture. In case of a rent produced in the envelop of the belt, the water which penetrates therein is retained between two partitions.

The belt when closed is put into a case *x* with a cover *y* retained by clasps or press-buttons, and is carried by means of a shoulder strap (see Figs. 2 and 3); the case is provided with two apertures, which allow the two parts 2 and 3 of a connecting member formed of three pieces 1, 2 and 3 of the kind shown with detail by the Fig. 9, to pass out. The wire frames are alternately of small and large dimensions, in order that they can fit one into the other, thus allowing the belt to be folded into a reduced space: on the drawing (see Fig. 5) *g* are the small frames and *h* the large one.

The belt being carried by the shoulder strap is situated below the left arm of the wearer and in order to place it round the waist, the male part 2 of the connecting member (Fig. 2) is taken in the left hand, the case having been opened; and with the right hand passed behind the wearer's back, the female part 3 of the connecting member is drawn to the right and to the front. The belt is thus extended and the air entering by the two ends raises the valves and fills full the spaces between the partitions, of course without any compression. The parts 2, 3, of the connecting member having been attached, the belt is tightened round the waist, by means of straps and buckles *k* (Fig. 1), which embrace the end of the belt. The open case covers the same end. The belt can be placed round the waist in very few seconds.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A life belt comprising an annular reservoir, the walls of which are constructed of waterproof and flexible material or fabric, frames of steel wire transversely fixed at convenient distances in said annular reservoir in such a manner as to stiffen the latter when it is extended and to allow of its folding flat when it is closed, transverse partitions of waterproof material stretched on the wire frames for dividing the chamber into

compartments, said partitions having valve controlled apertures therein, means for controlling the valves, and means to connect both ends of the envelop, substantially as described and for the purpose set forth.

2. A life belt comprising an annular chamber, the walls of which are constructed of waterproof and flexible fabric or material, frames of steel wire fixed transversely at convenient distances in this annular chamber in such a manner as to stiffen it, when it is extended and to allow it to fold flat when it is closed, transversal partitions of waterproof fabric or material, stretched on the wire frames in such manner as to divide the chamber into compartments, apertures in these partitions, valves of waterproof fabric or material arranged before these apertures, a wire connecting the valves together between them, straps and buckles embracing one of the extreme compartments and being used to adjust the belt and to stretch the wire connecting the valves, and a joint formed of three pieces being used to connect both ends of the envelop, substantially as described and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LÉON FORTÉ.

Witnesses;
ANTOINE LAVOIX,
HANSON C. COXE.