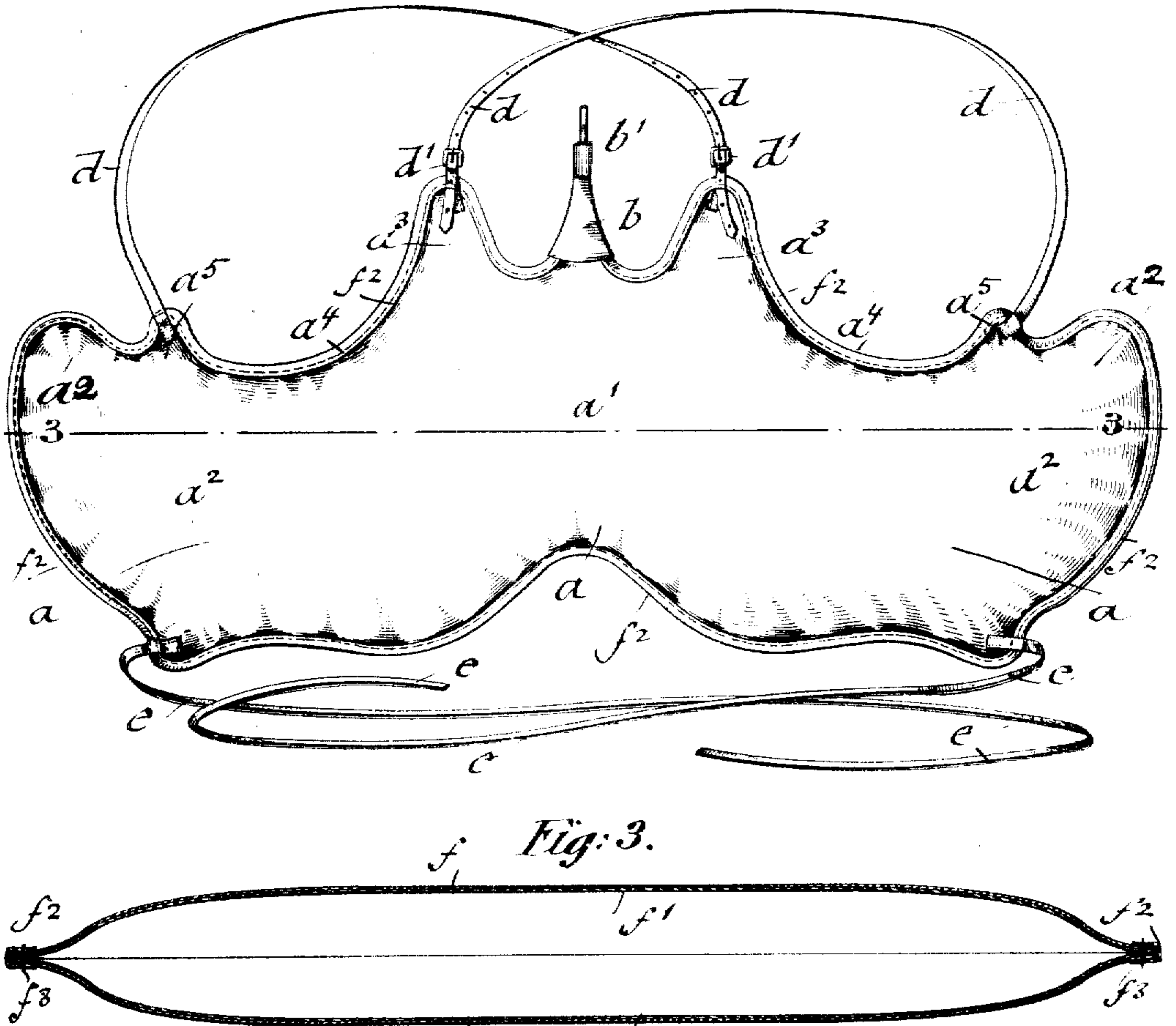


952,763.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OTTO STROHSCHNEIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

LIFE-PRESERVING AND SWIMMING APPARATUS.

52,763.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 22, 1910.

Application filed October 22, 1909. Serial No. 523,965.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OTTO STROHSCHNEIN, a citizen of the Empire of Germany, residing in New York, in the borough of Manhattan, county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preserving and Swimming Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved life-preserving and swimming apparatus which, when not required for use, can be folded or rolled up into a comparatively small compass so as to be carried in a traveling bag, and which can be readily and quickly inflated for use after being applied to the shoulders and chest of the body; and the invention consists of a life-preserving and swimming apparatus which is composed of a front or chest-portion and end-
portions located under the armpits of the body, and attached by means of intercrossing shoulder-straps and waist-straps to the body.

The body of the life-preserving and swimming device is made of stout canvas provided with a lining of waterproof fabric and connected at the outer edges by a binding cemented and stitched thereto.

The invention consists further of certain details of construction which will be fully described hereinafter and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved life-preserving and swimming apparatus shown as applied to the body, Fig. 2 is a front-elevation of the same, spread out in flat state, and drawn on a larger scale, so as to show the construction of the apparatus, and Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section on line 3, 3, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the views.

Referring to the drawings, *a* represents the body of my improved life-preserving and swimming apparatus. The body *a* is composed of three portions, a chest-portion *a*¹, which is made narrower at its middle portion and provided at its upper end with an inflating tube *b* provided with a valve *b*¹ and two end or arm-pit portions *a*². The chest-portion *a*¹ has two upwardly-extending portions *a*³ one at each side of the inflating tube *b*, which form extensions of the chest-portion and which are connected with

downwardly curved portions *a*⁴ with short extensions *a*⁵ on the arm-pit portions *a*². The upwardly-extending portions *a*³ of the chest-portion *a*¹ are connected by shoulder-straps *d* and buckles *d*¹ with the shorter extensions *a*⁵, the shoulder-straps *d* being adjustable by the buckles and crossed on the back of the body, as shown clearly in Figs. 1 and 2. To the lower ends of the armpit-
portions *a*² are attached waist-bands or straps *e* which are crossed at the back and tied together in front, so that the life preserving and swimming device is tightly held on the upper part of the body by means of the intercrossing shoulder-straps *d* and waist-straps *e*.

The body of the life-preserver is made of an exterior layer of canvas *f*, an interior lining of waterproof fabric *f*¹ which is connected with the exterior layer by means of rubber-cement and a binding *f*², which is applied around the edge of the body *a* by rubber cement and stitches *f*³. By cementing and stitching the binding around the edges of the chest and armpit-
portions a perfectly waterproof inflatable body is obtained.

When the device is not required for use, it is preferably folded or rolled up and then placed in the traveling bag or trunk. When the device is required for use, it is unfolded and applied by means of the intercrossing shoulder-straps and waistbands around the chest and under the armpits of the body and then inflated by blowing air into it by means of the valved tube. The buoyancy imparted to the inflated body and armpit-
portions supports the body in the water so as to act as a life-preserver. The rounded-off portions between the chest-portion and armpit-portions permit the tight hugging of the body around the chest and under the armpits, while the armpit-portions permit the free upright support of the body in the water. The apparatus can also be used for swimming into deep water by persons who cannot swim.

The advantages of my improved apparatus are that it can be conveniently carried along in the traveling bag or trunk in rolled or folded up state and applied for use whenever required in case of danger, while the inflating operation is quickly accomplished through the valved tube as soon as the apparatus is applied to the body. The body is made absolutely air and waterproof

and can also be used to great advantage for swimming purposes, especially by persons who are not conversant with swimming. It can be furnished at a comparatively low price and forms an effective life-preserving and swimming device.

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

1. A life-preserving and swimming apparatus, consisting of a body-portion having upwardly-extending portions and an additional upwardly-extending portion therebetween having a valved inflating tube, laterally and upwardly extending armpit-portions forming the rear-ends of the body-portion, intercrossing shoulder-straps extending from the upwardly-extending portions and armpit-portions, and waist-straps on the lower part of the armpit-portions for attaching the device around the body.

2. A life-preserving and swimming apparatus, comprising a body-portion having upwardly-extending portions, an upwardly-extending portion between the latter having a valved inflating tube between the same, laterally and upwardly extending armpit-portions forming the rear-ends of the body-portion, inwardly-curved portions between the upwardly-extending portions and the armpit-portions, intercrossing shoulder-straps between the upwardly-extending portions and the armpit-portions, and waistbands or straps at the lower ends of the armpit-portions.

3. A life-preserving and swimming apparatus, consisting of a body-portion having a chest-portion adapted to rest against the chest of the wearer, an armpit-portion adapted to rest under the arms of the wearer, upwardly-extending portions adapted to rest in front of the shoulders, a flexible valved tube between said upwardly-extending portions, shorter extensions adapted to fit be-

hind and against the armpits and shoulders, free end-portions extending from said armpit-portions upwardly and rearwardly behind said shorter extensions, adjustable shoulder-straps connecting each of the upwardly-extending portions with the opposite shorter extension, and waist-straps secured to the lower ends of the armpit-portions.

4. A life-preserving and swimming apparatus, consisting of a body-portion having a chest-portion adapted to rest against the chest of the wearer, and provided with an upward curvature at its lower edge, an armpit-portion adapted to rest under the arms of the wearer, upwardly-extending portions adapted to rest against and in front of the armpit and shoulder and forming between each other a depressed portion, a flexible valve-tube between said upwardly-extending portions and attached to the edge of said depressed portion, shorter extensions adapted to fit behind and against the armpits and shoulders and forming with said armpit-portions and said upwardly-extending portions downwardly-curved portions adapted to fit under the armpits, free end-portions extending from said armpit-portions upwardly and rearwardly behind said shorter extensions, adjustable shoulder-straps connecting each of the upwardly-extending portions with the opposite shorter extension and adapted to be crossed behind the back of the wearer, and waist-straps secured to the lower ends of the armpit-portions and adapted to be crossed behind the back and tied in front of the wearer.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

OTTO STROHSCHNEIN.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,
FANNIE FISK.