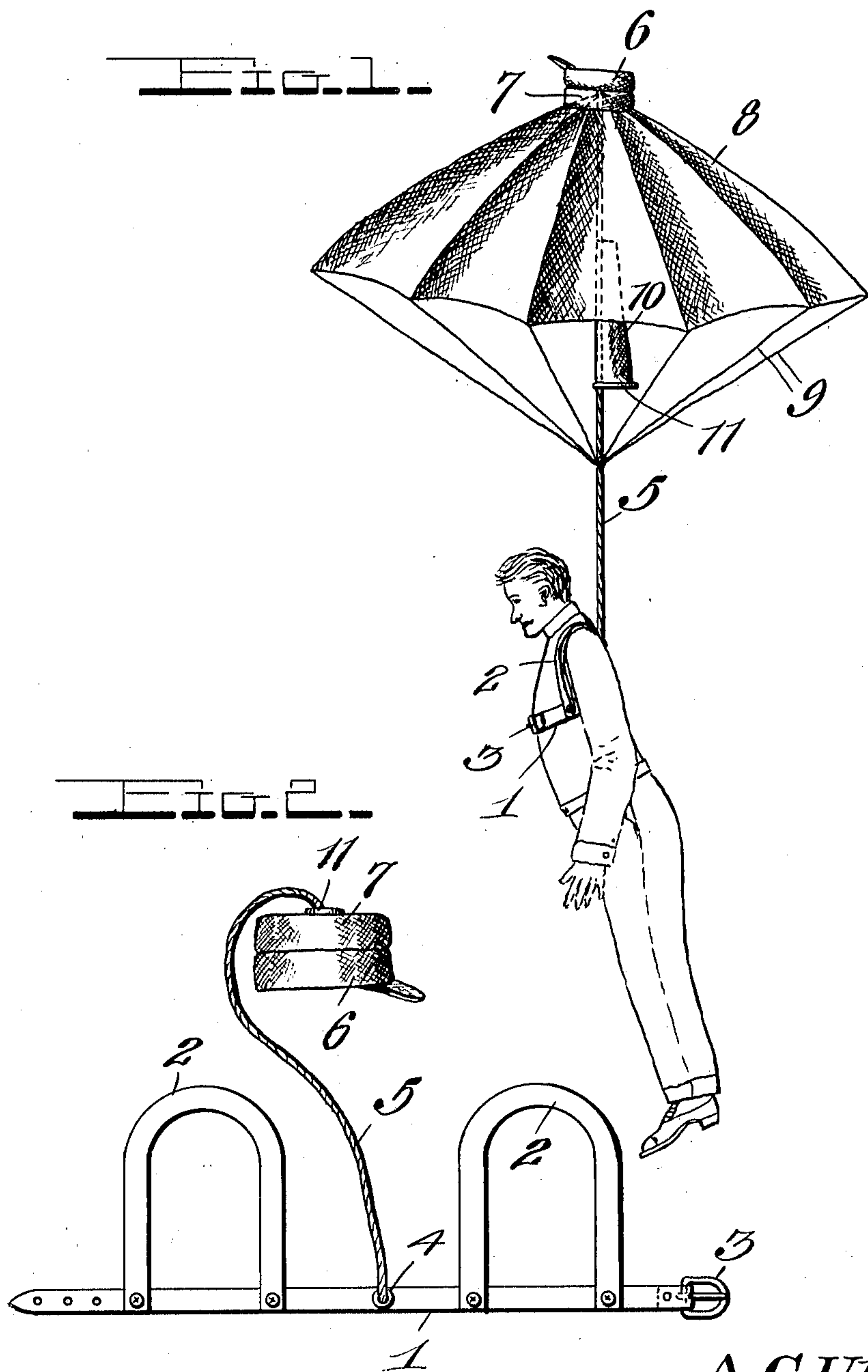


A. C. ULMER.
LIFE PRESERVER FOR AVIATORS.
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982,907.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911.



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ABSALOM CALHOUN ULMER, OF PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI.

LIFE-PRESERVER FOR AVIATORS.

982,907.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABSALOM C. ULMER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pascagoula, in the county of Jackson and State of Mississippi, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers for Aviators, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention is an improved life preserver for use by aviators in the event of accidents in or to a flying machine, the object of the invention being to provide an improved device of this character including a parachute which is normally disposed entirely out of the way and unobserved and which will in the event of an accident to the flying machine automatically open and operate to land the aviator safely, the invention consisting in the construction, combination and arrangement of devices hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved life preserver showing the same in use; and Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same showing the life preserver disposed compactly out of the way.

In accordance with my invention I provide a belt 1 or other sustaining device which is buckled around the body of the aviator and is provided with shoulder straps 2. The buckle 3 is here shown on the front side of the belt and on the rear side thereof is an attaching device, here shown as a ring 4, to which is attached the lower end of a cord 5. The upper end of the cord is attached to the upper side of a cap or other head covering here indicated at 6, and on the top of the cap is a pouch 7 which can be folded against and on the same and is preferably made of the same material as the cap so as to render the same inconspicuous. The apex of a parachute 8 is attached to the cord 5 at the point where the latter is attached to the cap or head covering and the parachute is so constructed that the same may be readily folded compactly and disposed in a very small space. The stay cords 9 which are attached to the outer edge of the parachute are con-

nected to the cord 5 at a point a suitable distance from the lower end thereof. To the said cord 5, which passes through the parachute and is connected to the same is attached an inflator 10 which is preferably made of flexible material such as silk fabric and is tubular in form with its upper and lower ends open and is provided at its lower end with a metallic ring 11 or other suitable device which distends the lower end of the said inflator and keeps the same open. The parachute, which is also made preferably of silk or other very light, flexible and strong fabric, is adapted to be folded and disposed in the pouch 6 on the cap. Thus disposed the parachute is entirely concealed and out of the way on the cap of the aviator and is connected to the belt 1 by the cord 5.

In the event of an accident to the flying machine such as will endanger the descent thereof, the aviator leaps therefrom and at the same time removes his cap. This causes the parachute with its casing 10 to be released from the pouch 6 and owing to the fact that the lower end of the inflator 10 is kept open by the ring 11 the resistance of the air will cause the parachute to open upwardly and be withdrawn out of the pouch 6 and serve to regulate the descent of the aviator so that he may land in safety.

The opening of the parachute is greatly facilitated by the inflator, which, being always open at the lower end, causes an air blast to be forced into the parachute as soon as the latter leaves the pouch, so that at the initial instant of leaving the pouch, the parachute becomes inflated and effective.

While I have herein shown a preferred embodiment of my invention I would have it understood that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention and within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:—

1. In apparatus of the class described, the combination of a head covering having a pouch, a cord connected to said head covering and extending through said pouch, an inflator on said cord, and a parachute con-

nected to the head covering and to said cord, said parachute being foldable into the pouch.

2. In apparatus of the class described, the
5 combination of a head covering, a supporting device, a cord connecting the supporting device and the head covering, a parachute connected to the said cord and an inflator on said cord, the said inflator being open at

its upper and lower ends and being provided 10 at its lower end with means to keep the same distended, for the purpose set forth.

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

ABSALOM CALHOUN ULMER.

Witnesses:

H. HARDING,

E. A. COLLE.