

1,155,207.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

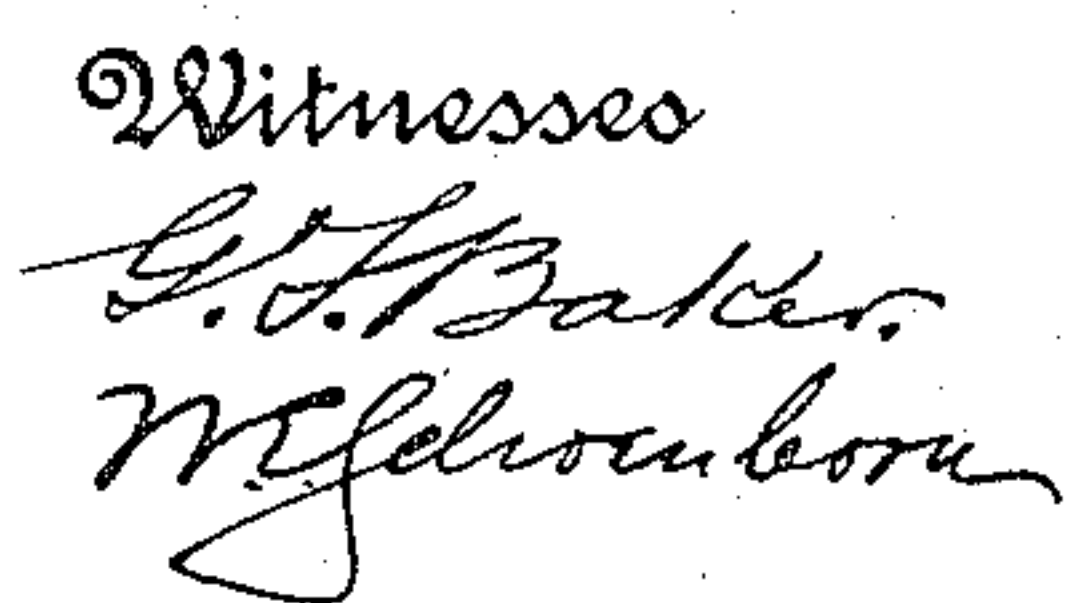


Fig. 4.

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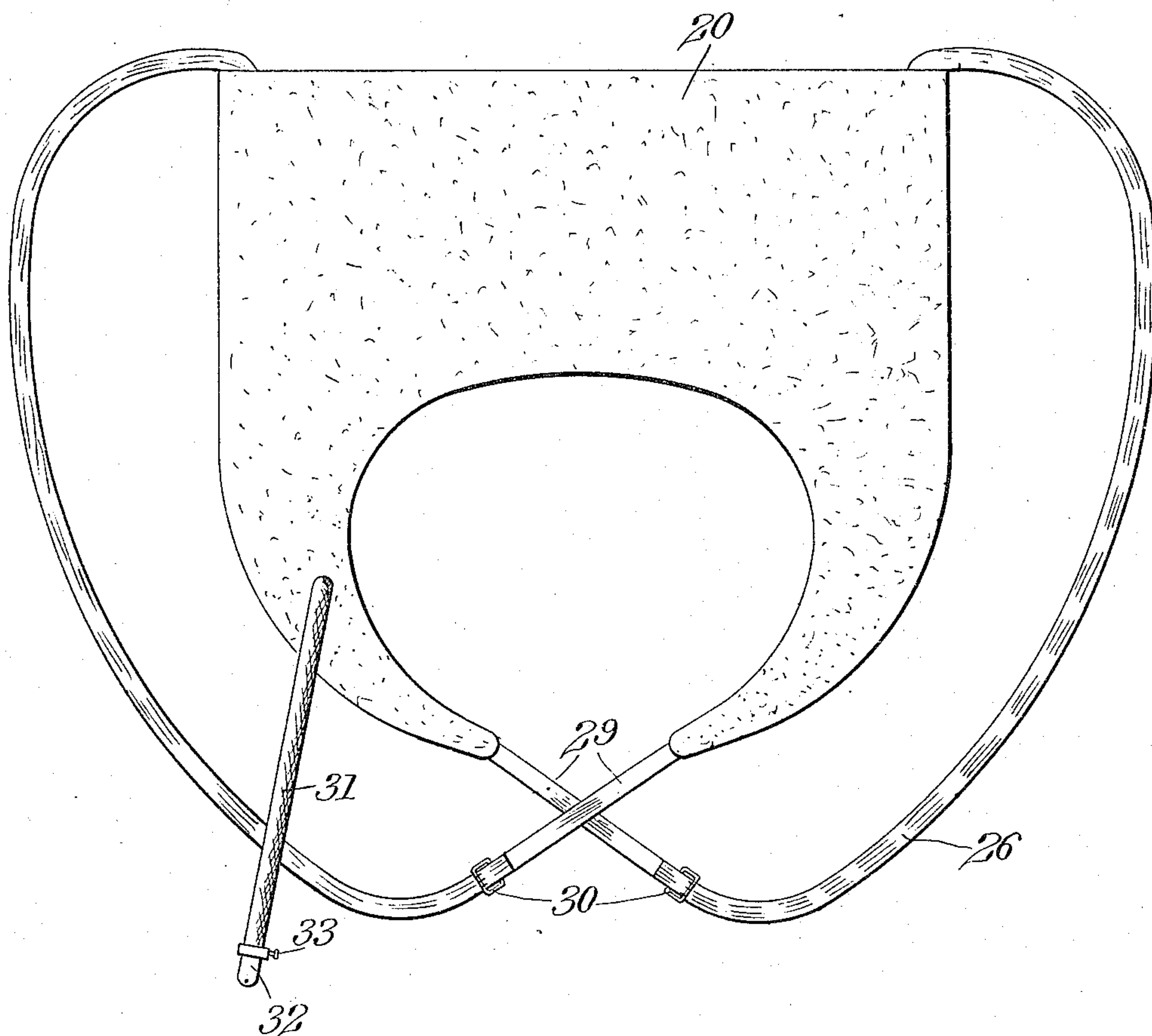
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LIFE PRESERVER.
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LIFE-PRESERVER.

1,155,207.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 28, 1915.

Application filed February 9, 1915. Serial No. 7,005.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. BROKAW, a citizen of the United States, residing at High Point, in the county of Guilford and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to life preservers, and more particularly to life preservers which are designed for connection with the collar of a garment, such as a sailor's shirt, Guernsey, sweater, or the like, so that the life preserver may be in constant readiness for use.

In a co-pending application filed by me December 19, 1914, Serial No. 878,059, I have shown, described and claimed a life preserver which is made in the shape of the collar of a garment, and is designed to lie beneath said collar and be detachably connected with the collar, such life preserver having suitable straps which fasten in front of the body, to secure the life preserver in position when it is desired for use. Under the present invention the life preserver, which is preferably of the inflatable type, and may be made of rubber or similar material which is impervious to air, is made in the shape of the collar of the garment with which it is to be worn, and is inserted between the two layers of material of which the collar is made, so that the life preserver is entirely concealed from view.

An important feature of the invention, in this connection, consists in providing an opening along the back edge of the collar and through which the life preserver may be inserted, or withdrawn, and detachable fastening devices are secured along the adjacent edges of this opening, whereby the life preserver may be readily inserted between the layers of the collar, and by means of said fastening devices the opening in the collar may be closed. The fastening devices also provide for readily opening the back portion of the collar in order to withdraw the life preserver when desired. This arrangement is convenient in that it provides for laundering the garment, minus the life preserver, whereby the injury which would probably be attendant upon laundering the garment while the life preserver was inclosed within the collars is prevented.

Another advantage of this arrangement is that if the life preserver is inclosed with-

in the collar of a sailor's shirt, the sailor may easily withdraw the life preserver and discard his shirt in the event that his ship should go into action, and, with the securing straps supplied to each life preserver he may secure the latter to his body so that it will be in condition for immediate use.

The above, and other valuable features of this invention will be better understood from the following description, and the novel features of the invention will be pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 represents a sailor's shirt as it appears with the collar inclosing the life preserver of the present invention, and the straps in position to secure the life preserver to the wearer's body; Fig. 2 is an inverted plan view of the collar of a garment inclosing the life preserver, certain portions of the collar being broken away to show the inclosed life preserver, and its securing straps; Fig. 3 is a sectional detail view on the line $x-x$, Fig. 2, on a slightly enlarged scale, showing the collar flap open; Fig. 4 is a sectional detail, taken on the same plane of section as Fig. 3, showing the life preserver inflated, and the collar flap closed, and Fig. 5 is a plan view of the life preserver, illustrating, diagrammatically, the arrangement of the straps around the wearer's body.

The life preserver comprises an inflatable bag 20, of rubber, or other suitable material, composed of upper and lower portions which are preferably united at their peripheral edges by cement, or other suitable means, the bag being made in the form of the collar of the garment in which it is inclosed.

In the illustrated embodiment of the invention the inflatable bag is made in the shape of the broad collar of a sailor's shirt, although it may be made in the shape of the collar of any garment with which it is adapted to be used. This bag is designed to be inclosed between the lower layer 21, and the upper layer 22, of flannel, or other fabric, constituting the collar of the sailor's shirt, or other garment. If inserted between the two layers of a collar of a sailor's shirt, as shown in Fig. 2, the usual rows of stitching 23, along the two side edges of the collar, will confine the inflatable bag at the sides of the collar. The stitches which usually unite the two layers of the collar along the back line thereof are omitted, so

as to leave an opening at the back of the collar through which the inflatable bag may be inserted or removed. To removably retain the bag in the collar, the adjacent edges of the layers 21, 22, along the open back of the collar are provided with fastening devices 25, by means of which the back of the collar may be closed to retain the life preserver therein. One of the layers of the collar, as 22, is provided with a flap 24 extending the full width of the collar along the back edge, and having fastening devices 27 which are arranged to engage cooperating socket members 27' that are arranged along the outer edge of the other layer, 21, of the collar, and at the same distances apart from each other as the fastening devices 27. By this means the life preserver 20 may be securely retained between the layers of the collar, the fastenings 25 serving to close the opening at the edge of the collar through which the life preserver is inserted, and the flap 24, with its fastening devices 27 which cooperate with the fastening devices 27' on the edge of the layer 21, serving as an additional closure, as well as providing a neat and smooth finish for the back edge of the collar.

The straps 26, 26, are each secured at one end to a rear corner of the life preserver 20, and each of the two forward extensions of the life preserver is provided with a short strap 29 which terminates in a buckle 30. The flap 24 has, adjacent each end thereof, two parallel slits 28, 28, and each strap 26 is threaded through a pair of these slits, and the loose ends of the remainder of the straps are housed loosely within the collar between the layer 21, and the inflatable bag 20, as shown in Fig. 6. The life preserver is also provided with an inflating tube 31, having a mouth piece 32 and a valve 33, whereby the wearer of the device may inflate the bag, and by means of the valve the air may be retained in the bag. The tube is also preferably provided with a tube compressing clip, or valve 34, for use in case the air valve 33 should leak, or otherwise refuse to act.

In the use of this invention, the inflatable bag 20 is worn between the layers of the collar in a collapsed condition as shown in Fig. 3, and the tube 31 is tucked in back of one of the forward extensions of the sailor's collar, so as to be concealed and out of the way. If the wearer is called upon to use the life preserver he places the mouth piece 30 in his mouth and inflates the bag 20. He then pulls the straps 26 out of the collar, by engaging the straps at the points where they are exposed between the two slits 28, 28, at each corner. The straps are then passed beneath the wearer's arms, and are fastened by the buckles 30, carried by the straps 29, which latter straps are crossed upon the wearer's breast in the manner shown in Fig. 5.

In the event that the user of the device should discard his shirt, or other garment to which the collar is attached which incloses the life preserver, as in the case of a sailor when his ship goes into action, the fastenings 27 and 25 are separated, thus opening the rear edge of the collar. The life preserver 20 is then pulled out and when the sailor takes off his shirt the life preserver may be placed about his neck and the straps 20 passed under his arms and secured by the buckles 30, the straps 29 being crossed, and the life preserver will thereby be held to the wearer's back. This life preserver is capable of use as a pillow, as by inflating the bag the device may be placed under the wearer's head and will provide a comfortable rest. The life preserver is also capable of being folded into a very small compass so that it may be carried in a bag, envelop, or other convenient receptacle and may be used by travelers, who will thus be enabled to carry with them, at all times, a life preserver which may be readily attached to the collar of a garment, or may be placed about the wearer's neck independently of any garment, if desired.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. The combination with a garment having a collar, of a life preserver made of substantially the same configuration as the collar, and detachably inclosed between the layers thereof.

2. The combination with a collar comprising two layers of material, of a life preserver of substantially the same configuration as the collar and inclosed between the layers thereof.

3. The combination with a collar composed of two layers of material and having an opening at one edge, of a life preserver of substantially the same configuration as said collar and arranged between the layers thereof, and fasteners for closing the open edge of the collar.

4. The combination of a collar composed of two layers of material and having forwardly directed portions, of a life preserver of substantially the same configuration as the collar and removably inclosed between the layers thereof.

5. The combination with a collar made of two layers of material stitched together at its sides and open at its back edge, of a life preserver of substantially the same configuration as said collar inclosed between the layers thereof, and fasteners located upon the adjacent rear edges of said layers, whereby the life preserver is retained within the collar, but may be removed therefrom.

6. The combination with a collar composed of two layers of material having forwardly extending portions, said layers being stitched

together along the sides of the collar, of co-
operating fastening devices arranged along
the rear edges of said layers, a flap secured
to one of said edges, and fastening devices
5 between said flap and the other edge of said
layer, and a life preserver of substantially
the configuration of the collar and arranged
to be inclosed between the layers thereof.

7. The combination with a collar com-
10 posed of two layers of material united along
their side edges, of coöperating detachable
fastening means between the adjacent rear
edges of said layers, a flap secured to one of
said rear edges, and coöperating fastening
15 devices between said flap and the other rear
edge, said flap being provided adjacent each
end with a pair of parallel slits, of a life
preserver inclosed between said layers of the
collar, straps secured to the outer corners of
20 the life preserver and passing through said

parallel slits, said straps arranged to be
housed between the life preserver and one
of the layers of the collar.

8. A life preserver made in the shape of a
collar and having a body portion and two 25
forward extensions thereon, in combination
with straps secured each to a rear corner of
said body portion, and coöperating straps
secured to the forward extensions and ter-
minating in buckles. 30

9. The combination with a garment having
a collar to extend over a portion of the wear-
er's back, of a collapsible life preserver ar-
ranged between the layers of said collar, said
life preserver being removable from said 35
collar.

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Witnesses:

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."