

No. 67,898.

A. MILLS.
CARTRIDGE BELT.

Patented Aug. 20, 1867.

Fig 1.

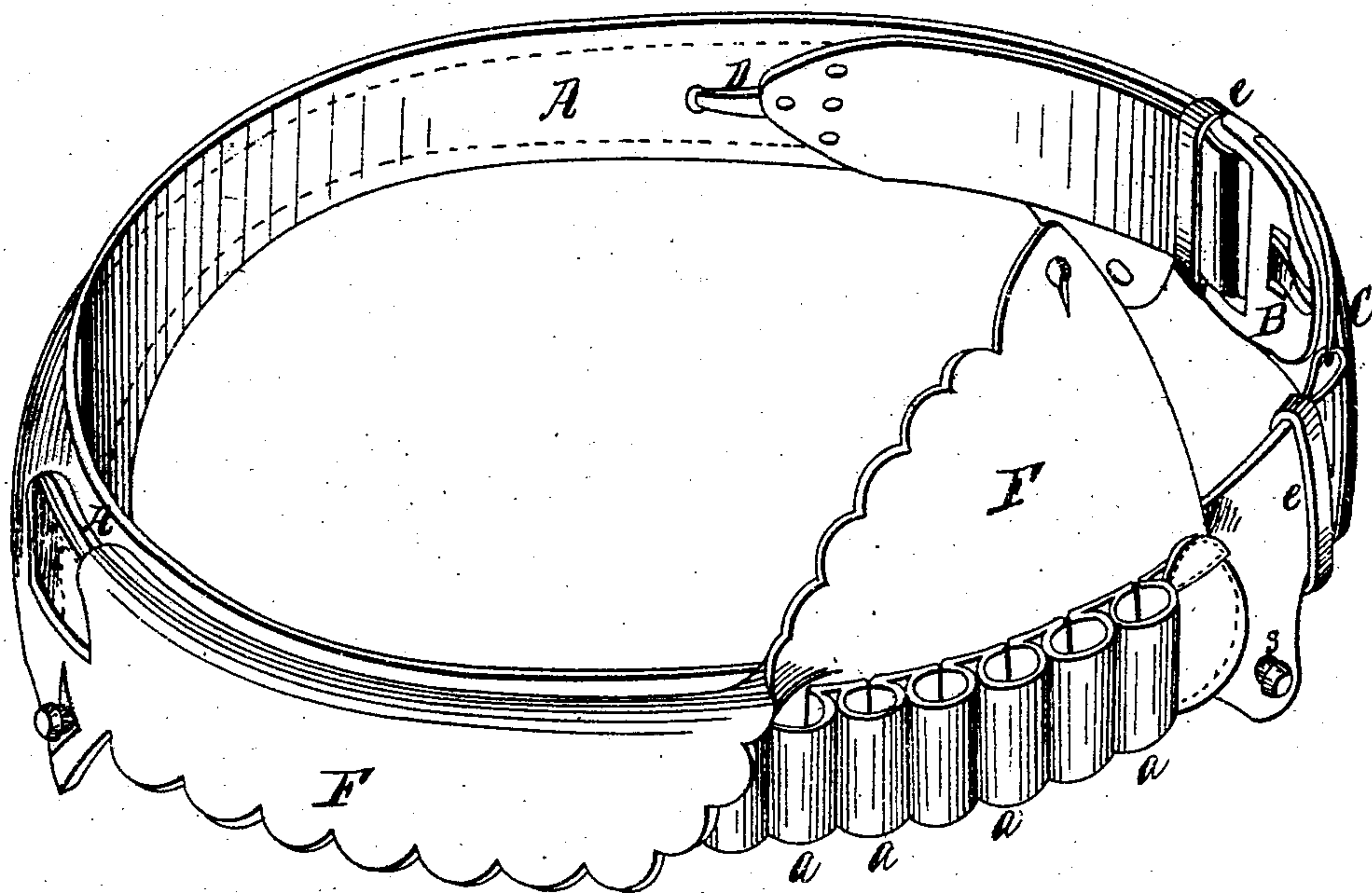
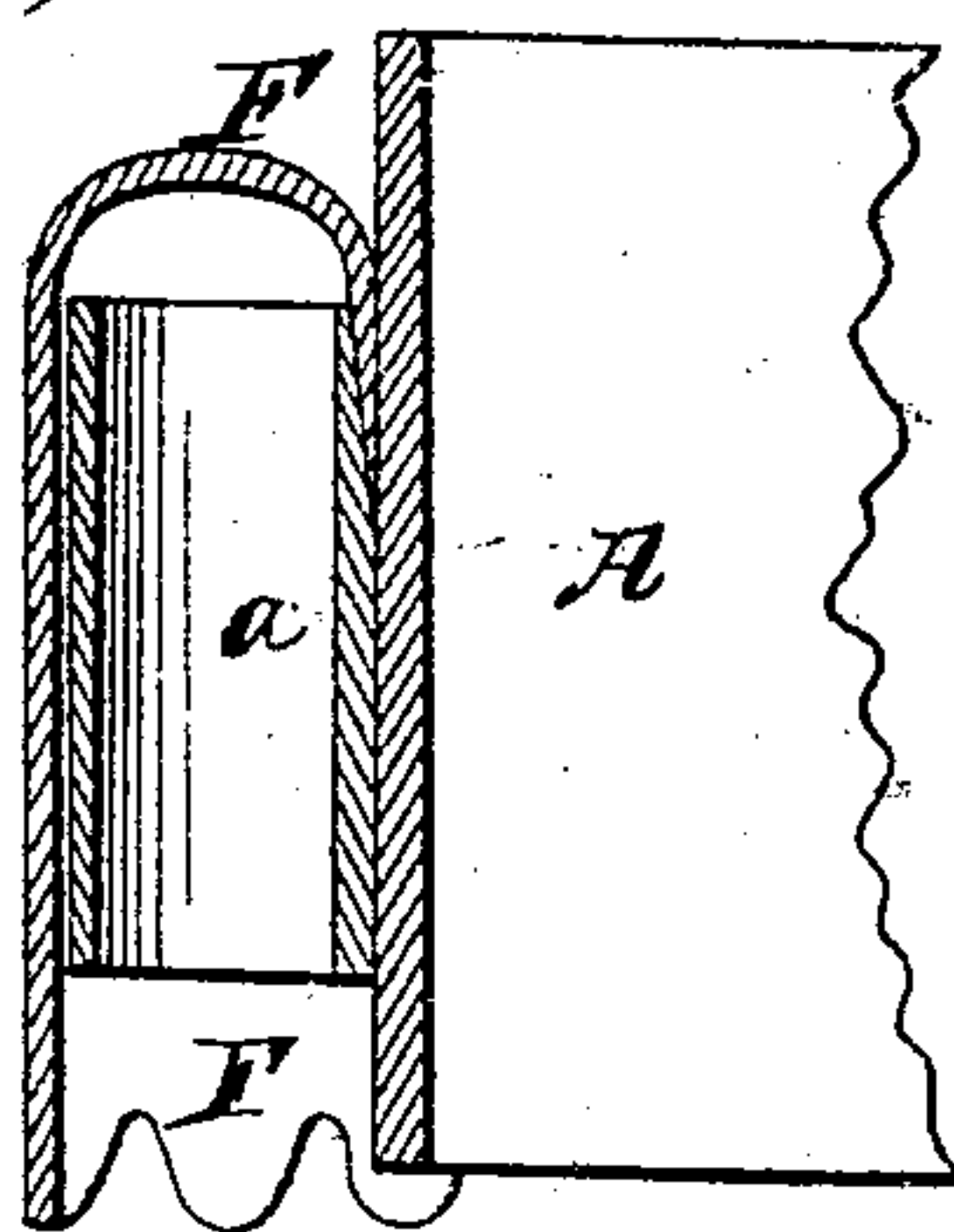


Fig 2.



Witnesses

H. H. Young
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Inventor

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By David A. Burr Atty

United States Patent Office.

ANSON MILLS, UNITED STATES ARMY, OF FORT BRIDGER, UTAH.

Letters Patent No. 67,898, dated August 20, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN CARTRIDGE-BELTS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, ANSON MILLS, captain eighteenth infantry, and brevet lieutenant colonel, United States Army, have invented a new and useful Belt for Metallic Cartridges; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my metallic cartridge-belt, with a portion of the flap raised, showing the arrangement of thimbles or cartridge receptacles beneath it, and illustrating also the manner of adjusting the length of the belt.

Figure 2 is a vertical central section, taken transversely through the belt and one of the receptacles.

The nature of my invention consists in the combination of a series of light cylindrical receptacles, *a a*, for cartridges, with a pliable belt, *A*, to be worn about the waist, with or without shoulder-straps, and which may readily be lengthened or shortened, to fit the wearer closely and comfortably.

The belt *A* consists of a light, pliable band, which I prefer to make of leather of one or more thicknesses, but which may be made of canvas or webbing, or other suitable fabric. The ends of this band pass through slots in the ends, respectively, of a metallic clasp or hook, *B*, and of a catch or eye, *C*, and are each folded back under a retaining strip, *e*, on the inside of the band, and are secured by means of a hook, *D*, engaging in holes pierced therein. Thus, by drawing in or letting out these ends folded back as described, the band constituting the belt may be quickly shortened or lengthened at pleasure, and the belt be nevertheless at all times readily clasped about the waist. To the outer side of this belt or band *A* I secure cylindrical receptacles, *a a*, of the proper diameter to receive and embrace closely the ordinary metallic cartridges in use in the service. I prefer to make these receptacles of a strip of leather, or of some stout pliable fabric of a width about equal to the length of a metallic cartridge. This strip is stitched to the outer face of the band into a series of cylindrical loops of equal diameters, which thus form suitable receptacles for the cartridges, and add but little to the weight of the belt. The loops may be left open at the bottom as well as at the top, the cartridges being retained therein by means of their projecting flanges. To protect the cartridges, when placed in this belt, from rain and dust, I provide a flap of leather or water-proof fabric, *F*, and stitch one edge of it along the belt over the top of the loops *a*, forming the receptacles, leaving it free to fold and drop over them, or the flap may be first secured to the band, and the receptacles thereafter placed thereon, so that the flap shall be held between these receptacles and the band. To facilitate the ready opening of the flap, and to permit access to a portion of the cartridges without exposure of the remainder, I prefer to divide or separate it into two or more sections. The ends of the flap are fastened down and secured at pleasure, by means of buttons *S* or other devices. A very thin metallic strip may be used for forming the receptacles *a*, or they may be each formed separately and fastened side by side to the belt, the pliability of the belt being preserved by the fact that each receptacle is secured thereto along a single line running transversely or at right angles to its length.

My "metallic cartridge-belt," made as described, is not only lighter than the ordinary cartridges-boxes in use, but the weight of the cartridges therein is equally distributed on all sides of the body, instead of being concentrated at a single point. By its pliability it yields and conforms also to every movement of the body, so that there is no jar or concussion therefrom under any circumstances. Where desired, the ordinary shoulder-straps may be secured thereto, so that a portion of its weight, when filled, shall be supported from the shoulders of the wearer. Its adjustable fastenings admit of any one belt being worn with comfort by different persons.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination and arrangement of a series of receptacles *a a* for metallic cartridges with a pliable band or belt, *A*, formed and fitted to be worn about the body, substantially as herein set forth.

The foregoing specification of my improved cartridge-belt signed by me this first day of April, 1867.

ANSON MILLS,

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel United States Army.

Witnesses:

J. VAN ALLEN CARTER,

A. S. BURT, *Captain Twenty-Seventh Infantry.*