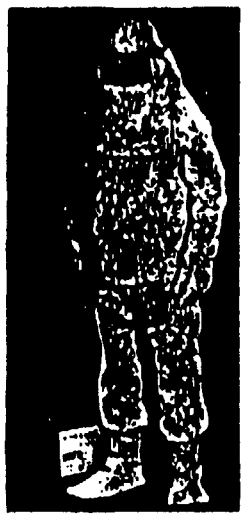
ASBESTOS CLOTHING

Development During Recent Years

By Edison L. Wheeler[1]

The many uses of asbestos clothing zoomed to great heights during the war. It was ultra important to be safe both at home and in actual battle. Thousands of pairs of asbestos gloves and mittens were also used by our armed forces in speedily handling hot shell cases, gun barrels and other hot objects. Severe burns and heat blisters were thus prevented and combat work was carried on unhampered. Long asbestos aprons (surgeon style) with sleeves, were used for fighting fire. All of these items involved tremendous quantities of asbestos cloth.



Asbestos Suit with Cape on Helmet

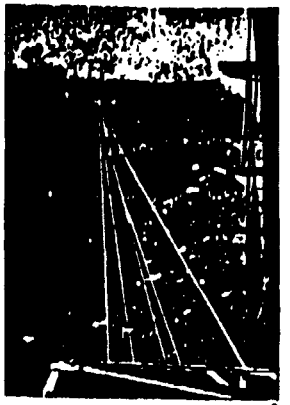
Photo courtesy of Wheeler

Thousands of crash landing suits (a new development) were used and these too called for enormous yardage of asbestos cloth. These suits were imperative, in case of an airplane crash. Here was needed a complete, quickly donned outfit that would afford ample protection from head to foot and still allow the wearer free movement to use firefighting equipment at close range or to rescue victims. Asbestos clothing was the only answer to such a problem. A man in any kind of regular clothing would have been absolutely helpless while the asbestos clad man could readily do a real job safely. Of course an asbestos clad man, unless he is equipped with an oxygen tank or air

[1]General Manager of F. H. Wheeler Manufacturing Company.



Skier in chair-lift nears summit of Mt. Mansfield.



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