The present invention relates to metal casket and vault protection devices, and particularly to devices for reducing or preventing electrolytic destruction of metal burial containers when buried in the ground.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a sacrificial protecting metal supported on burial caskets and burial vaults to reduce or prevent electrolytic destructive damage to the metal from which the casket or vault is formed.

Another object of the invention is to provide a support structure for securing sacrificial metal blocks to burial vaults and caskets with the sacrificial metal arranged in a decorative manner.

A further object of the invention is to provide attractive decorative blocks of sacrificial metal with means for supporting the metal blocks exteriorly of a vault or casket.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent in the following specification when considered in the light of the attached drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a burial vault with the invention attached thereto.

Figure 2 is an enlarged side elevation of the burial vault illustrating one of the sacrificial blocks.

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal cross-sectional view along the line 3—3 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary side elevation of a modified form of the invention.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal cross-sectional view along the line 5—5 of Figure 4, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 3 of another modified form of the invention taken along the line 6—6 of Figure 7, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 7 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of Figure 6, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 8 is a view similar to Figure 3 of still another modified form of the invention.

Figure 9 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical cross-sectional view taken along the line 9—9 of Figure 8, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 10 is a view similar to Figure 3 of another modified form of the invention.

Figure 11 is a view similar to Figure 3 of still another modified form of the invention.

Figure 12 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical cross-sectional view taken along the line 12—12 of Figure 11, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 13 is a top plan view of a casket or burial vault illustrating a modified design of sacrificial metal block.

Figure 14 is a fragmentary corner elevation of a casket or burial vault illustrating a sacrificial metal block enclosing the corner.

Referring now to the drawings in detail wherein like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the several figures, the reference numeral 20 indicates generally a casket or burial vault constructed in accordance with the invention.
of the strap 37c are welded to the casket or vault 20 and
generally rectangular caps 40c are engaged thereover.

The caps 40c are provided with inwardly extending de-
tents 41 to engage the ends 38c of the strap 37c to se-
cure the caps 40c thereto. A neoprene or rubber gasket
28c is positioned between the casket or vault 20 and the
block 25c, as can be seen in Figures 8 and 9.

A further modified form of the invention is illustrated
in Figure 10, wherein the casket or vault 20 is provided
with a plurality of threaded studs 26d and each stud 26d
supports a sacrificial metal magnesium block 25d having
a central bore 39d engaging over the threaded stud 26d
and a somewhat larger bore 35d arranged to receive a
nut 31d which is threaded onto the stud 26d to secure
the block 25d to the vault 20 against a neoprene or rub-
er gasket 28d.

A plug 42 is positioned in the bore 33d to cover the
exposed end of the threaded shaft 26d and the nut 31d.

Another modified form of the invention is illustrated
in Figures 11 and 12 wherein the casket or vault 20 is pro-
vided with a plurality of sacrificial metal magnesium
blocks 25e each of which is cast around a cylindrical
transversely extending metal rod 37e. Each end of the
rod 37e is provided with a relatively short axial bore 39e
for reasons to be assigned.

The casket or vault 20 is provided with a plurality of
pairs of upstanding ears 35e, and the ears 35e are pro-
vided with axially aligned threaded bores 43. A set
screw 36e extends through each of the threaded bores 43
and has a reduced diameter inner end portion 44 engaged
in the bore 39e in each of the rods 37e.

A generally rectangular cap 40e encompasses each of
the ears 35e and the set screws 36e and is secured to the
ears 35e by inwardly extending detents 41e, as best shown
in Figure 12.

In Figure 13, a casket or vault 20f having a cover 22f
is provided with a sacrificial metal magnesium block 25f
having the shape of a cross. The block 25f may be se-
cured to the top 22f of the casket or vault 20f by any of
the attaching structures illustrated in Figures 1 through 12.

In Figure 14, a casket or vault 20g having a side wall
23g and an end wall 24g is provided with a sacrificial metal
magnesium block 25g arranged to decoratively encom-
pass the corner of the casket or vault 20g. The block
25g may be secured to the casket or vault 20g by any
of the fastening structures illustrated in Figures 1
through 12.

It should be understood that the term burial container
used in the claim is generic to a burial vault and a
burial casket.

Having thus described the preferred embodiments of
the invention, it should be understood that numerous
other structural modifications and adaptations may be
resorted to without departing from the scope of the
appended claim.

What is claimed is:

In combination, a metallic burial container, a plurality
of sacrificial metal blocks, a neoprene gasket interposed
between each of said blocks and said container, and me-
tallic means securing said blocks to said container with
said gasket spacing said container and said blocks apart,
the entire surface of each block except that adjacent said
gasket being exposed to the surrounding media, said
means for securing said container and said blocks to-
gether including a plurality of threaded studs welded to
said container, and said blocks each having a threaded
bore engaged over said threaded studs, the outer surface
of each block being ornamented.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

902,758 Nielsen Nov. 3, 1908
1,799,586 Foster Apr. 7, 1931
2,454,936 Young Nov. 30, 1948
2,762,771 Preiser Sept. 11, 1956
2,856,342 Van der Hoeven et al. Oct. 14, 1958

FOREIGN PATENTS

527,360 Belgium Apr. 15, 1954