J. A. & A. KRECIOCH.

SUBMERSIBLE MINE CONTROLLER AND OBSERVATION STATION.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 3, 1917.

1,296,816.

Patented Mar. 11, 1919.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

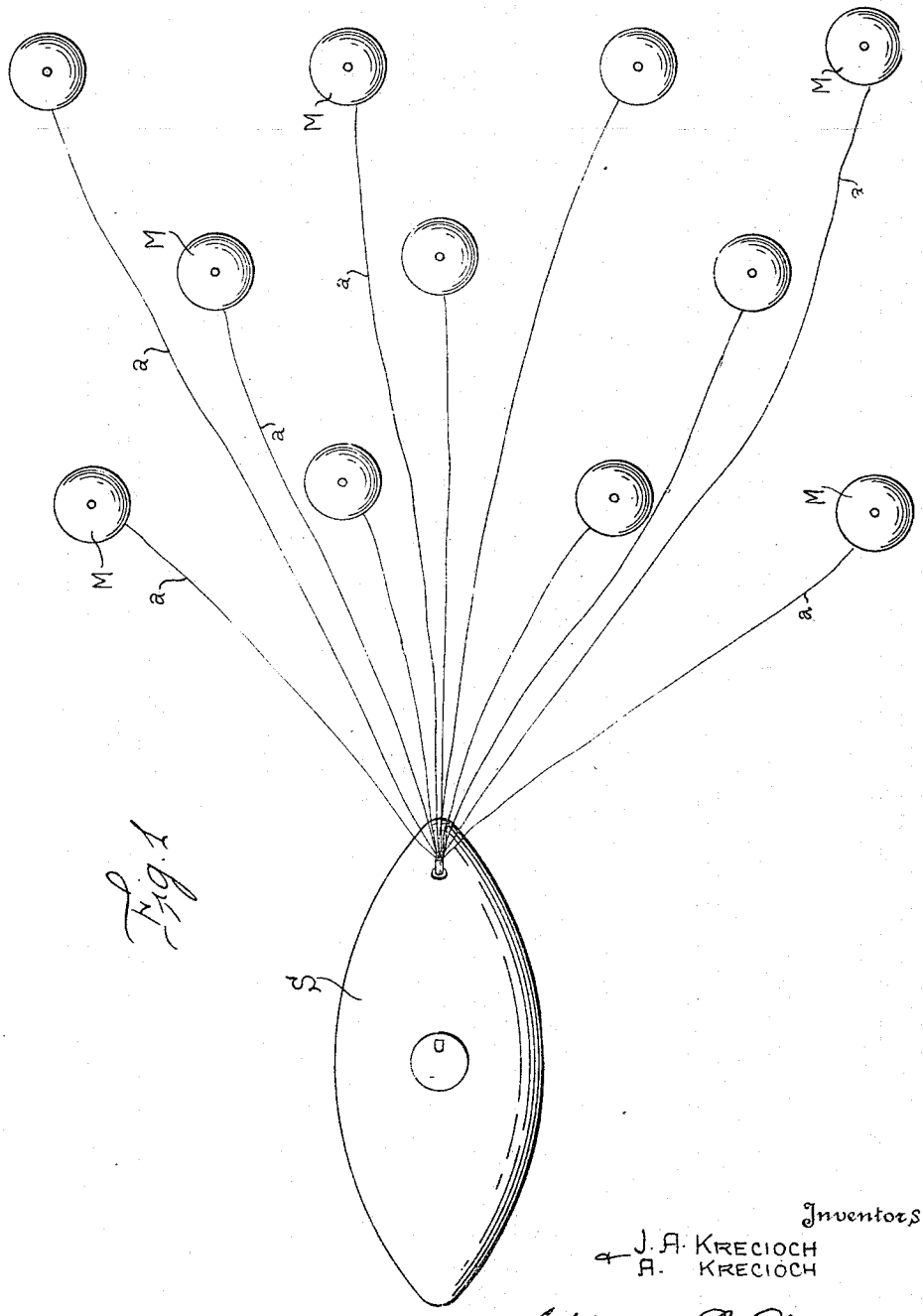


Fig. 1

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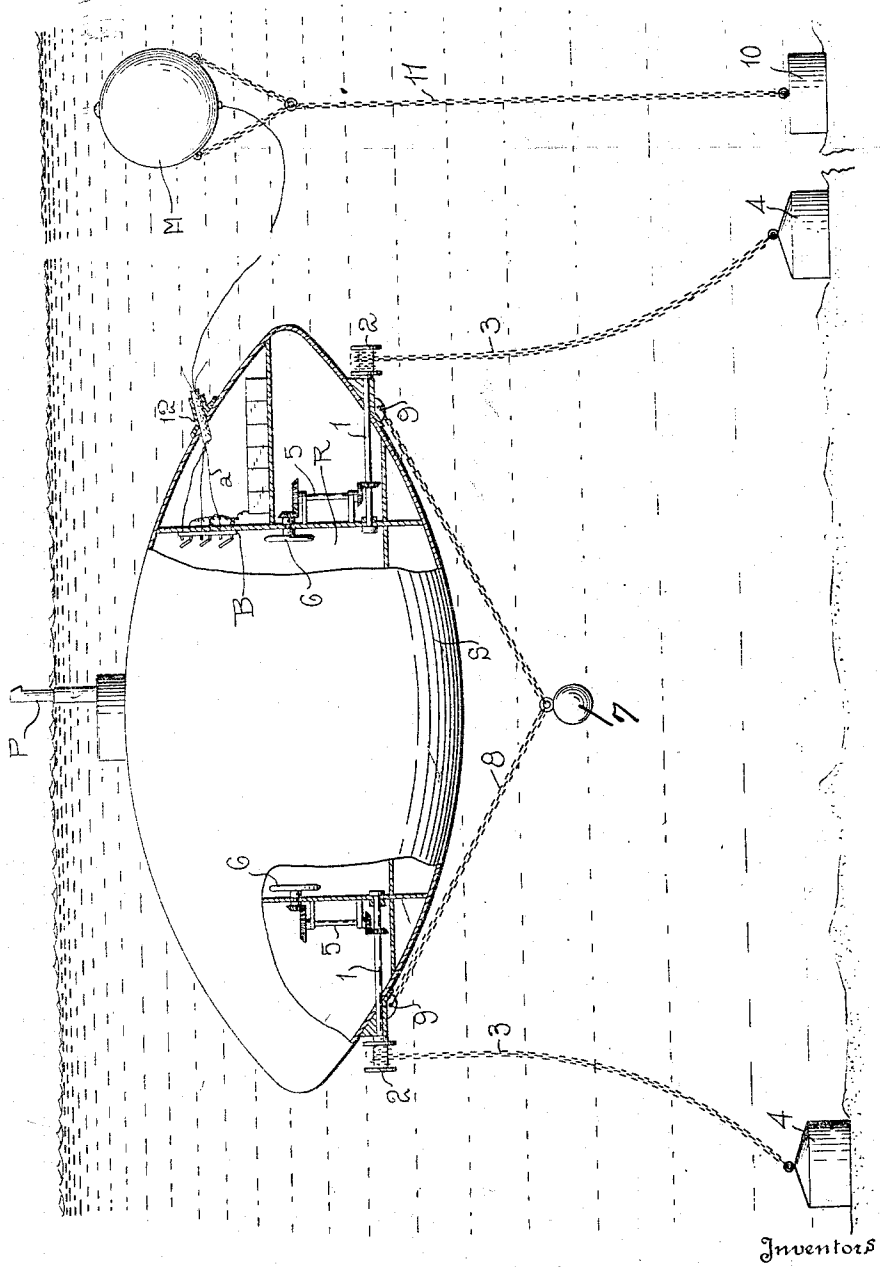
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SUBMERSIBLE MINE CONTROLLER AND OBSERVATION STATION.

1,296,816. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 11, 1919.

Application filed October 3, 1917. Serial No. 194,560.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAN A. KRECIOCH and ALBERT KRECIOCH, citizens of the United States, residing at Fall River, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Submersible Mine Controllers and Observation Stations, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to certain improvements in submersible controller and observation stations and it is an object of the invention to provide a device of this general character with novel and improved means whereby the same may be employed with convenience and facility as a controlling base or observation post for submerged mines.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a device of this particular type with novel and improved means whereby the same may be readily and conveniently maintained at substantially a fixed location to facilitate the use of the submarine as an observation post in connection with a mine field.

The invention consists in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts of our improved submersible mine controller and observation station wherein certain important advantages are attained and the device rendered simpler, less expensive and otherwise more convenient and advantageous for use, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

The novel features of our invention will hereinafter be definitely claimed.

In order that our invention may be the better understood we will now proceed to describe the same with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view in top plan illustrating an embodiment of our invention; and

Fig. 2 is a view partly in elevation and partly in section illustrating a submersible mine controller and observation station constructed in accordance with an embodiment of our invention and in anchored position, said view being also of a diagrammatic character.

As disclosed in the accompanying drawings S denotes the hull or body of our improved submersible mine controller and observation station and said hull or body is substantially oval or egg-shape in form with its longitudinal axis substantially horizontally disposed. By having the body or hull S of this particular shape it is able to avoid all objects which might come in contact with it. The hull or body S is adapted to be submerged in a conventional manner by mechanism arranged within the operating room R. Also arranged within the operating room R is a switch board B for a purpose to be hereinafter more particularly referred to.

Arranged fore and aft of the hull or body S are the longitudinally disposed shafts 1. Each of said shafts 1 extends exteriorly of the body and fixed to the exterior portion of the shafts 1 is a drum 2 around which is adapted to be wound the chain 3 or other flexible member. Secured to the outer end portion of the member 3 is a weight 4 or other anchoring member which, when resting upon the body or bottom of a body of water serves to maintain the submarine S in substantially a fixed location. Operatively engaged with each of the shafts 1 is a vertically disposed shaft 5 and operatively engaged with the shaft 5 is a hand wheel 6 or the like positioned within the operating room R. It will be self evident that upon requisite rotation being imparted to the shaft 1 by the hand wheel 6 the co-acting weight or anchor 4 may be raised or lowered in accordance with the requirements of practice. It has been fully demonstrated in practice that this particular means for anchoring the hull or body S serves to maintain the same substantially horizontal so that a level deck within the operating room is maintained so that the station may be employed with greater convenience and to greater advantage.

Positioned below the hull or body S and at substantially the center thereof is a weight 7 suspended a predetermined distance below the hull or body S through the medium of the chain 8 or other flexible member. The chain 8 is suitably anchored as indicated at 9 adjacent the opposite ends of the hull or body S. The weight 7 serves as a stabilizer for the hull or body especially when at anchor so that desired observation may be had through the periscope P when the station is submerged as indicated in Fig. 2 of the accompanying drawings.

M denote marine mines adapted to be

planted in the course of travel from the station S or other source. Each of the mines M is adapted to be maintained submerged through the medium of the anchor or weight 10 suitably connected with the mine M through the medium of the chain 11 or other flexible member. In practice it is preferred that the mine M be of a type capable of explosion by concussion or through the medium of an electric circuit.

a denotes an electrical connection leading from each of the mines and extending within the station through a socket 12 or the like produced in the wall thereof. Each of the electrical connections *a* is adapted to be suitably connected with a switchboard B so that a selective firing of the mines M may be affected.

In practice after the mines M have been properly planted, the station S is submerged a predetermined distance away from the mine field and at such a depth as to permit requisite observation to be made through the periscope P. The station S is also maintained in substantially a fixed position relative to the mine field through the medium of the weights or anchors 4. When a ship to be destroyed is in requisite position relative to a mine M said mine may be caused to explode by the closing of the proper switch carried by the port B.

Should the mine controller and observation station be observed and attacked the weights or anchors 4 may be readily raised and escape of the station affected in a well known manner. Should the members 3 break, the body or hull S may be readily caused to submerge to the bottom and maintained in such position until such time as the hull or body S can be returned to service under more favorable conditions.

From the foregoing description, it is thought to be obvious that a submersible mine controller and observation station constructed in accordance with our invention is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated and it will also be obvious that our invention is susceptible of some change and modification without materially departing from the principles and spirit thereof and for this reason we do not wish to be understood as limiting ourselves to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out our invention in practice except as hereinafter claimed.

We claim:—

A submersible mine controller and observation station comprising a hull substantially egg-shape in form with its longitudinal axis horizontally disposed, anchoring means coacting with the opposite end portions of the hull and serving to maintain the longitudinal axis of the hull substantially horizontal, stabilizing means connected with the opposite end portions of the hull to afford further means for maintaining said hull substantially horizontal, and a periscope carried by the hull.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

JAN A. KRECIOCH.
ALBERT KRECIOCH.

Witnesses:
JOHN E. HEALY,
WILLIAM F. WHALEN, Jr.