J. S. BUTLER.

TRIPOD FOR MACHINE GUNS.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 11, 1919.

1,372,599.

Patented Mar. 22, 1921.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig 1

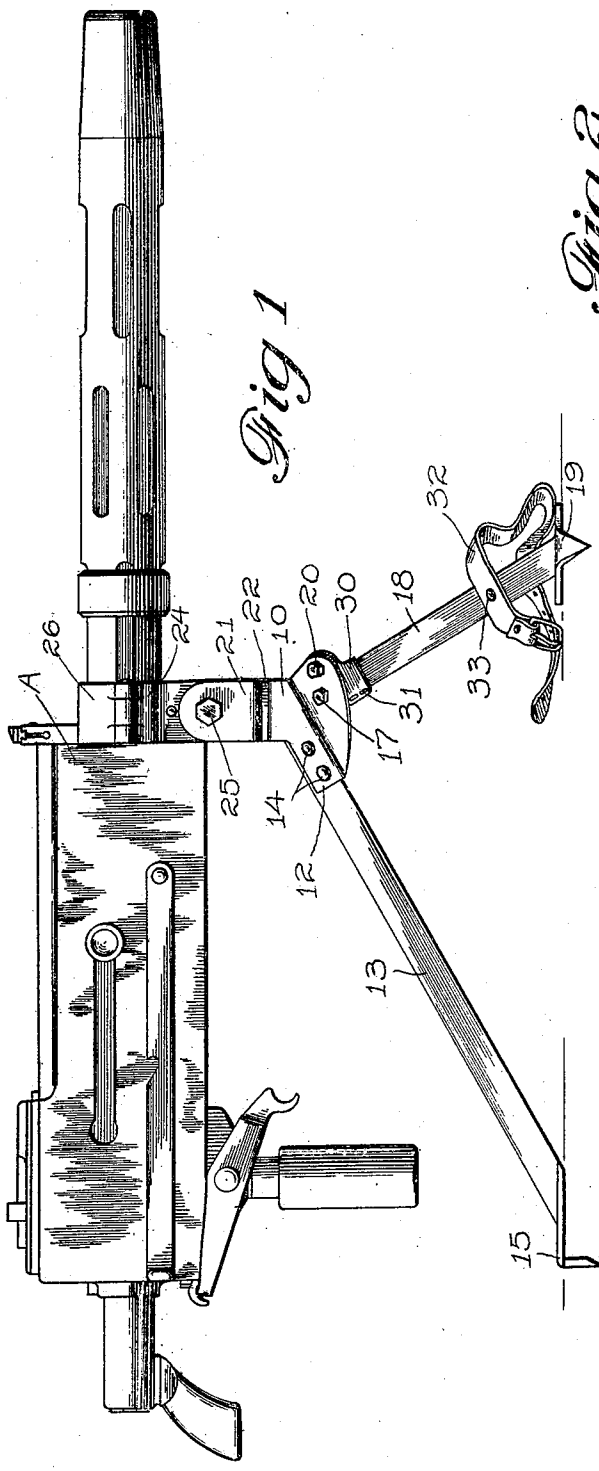
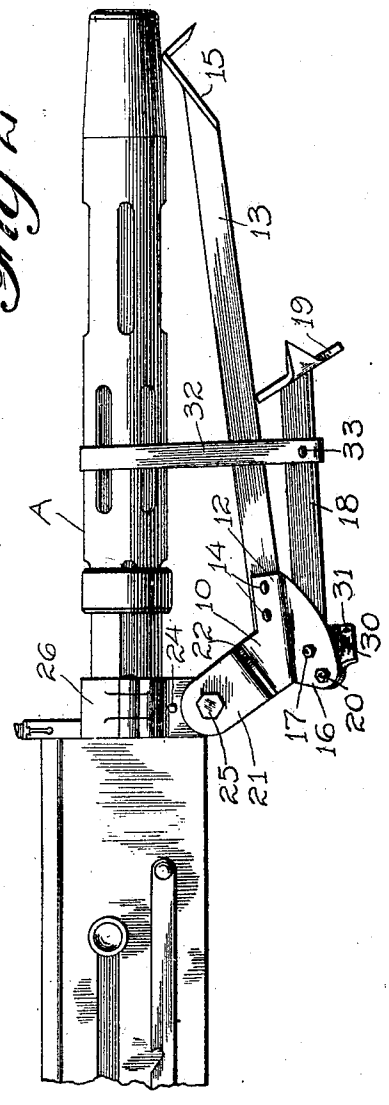


Fig 2



Inventor

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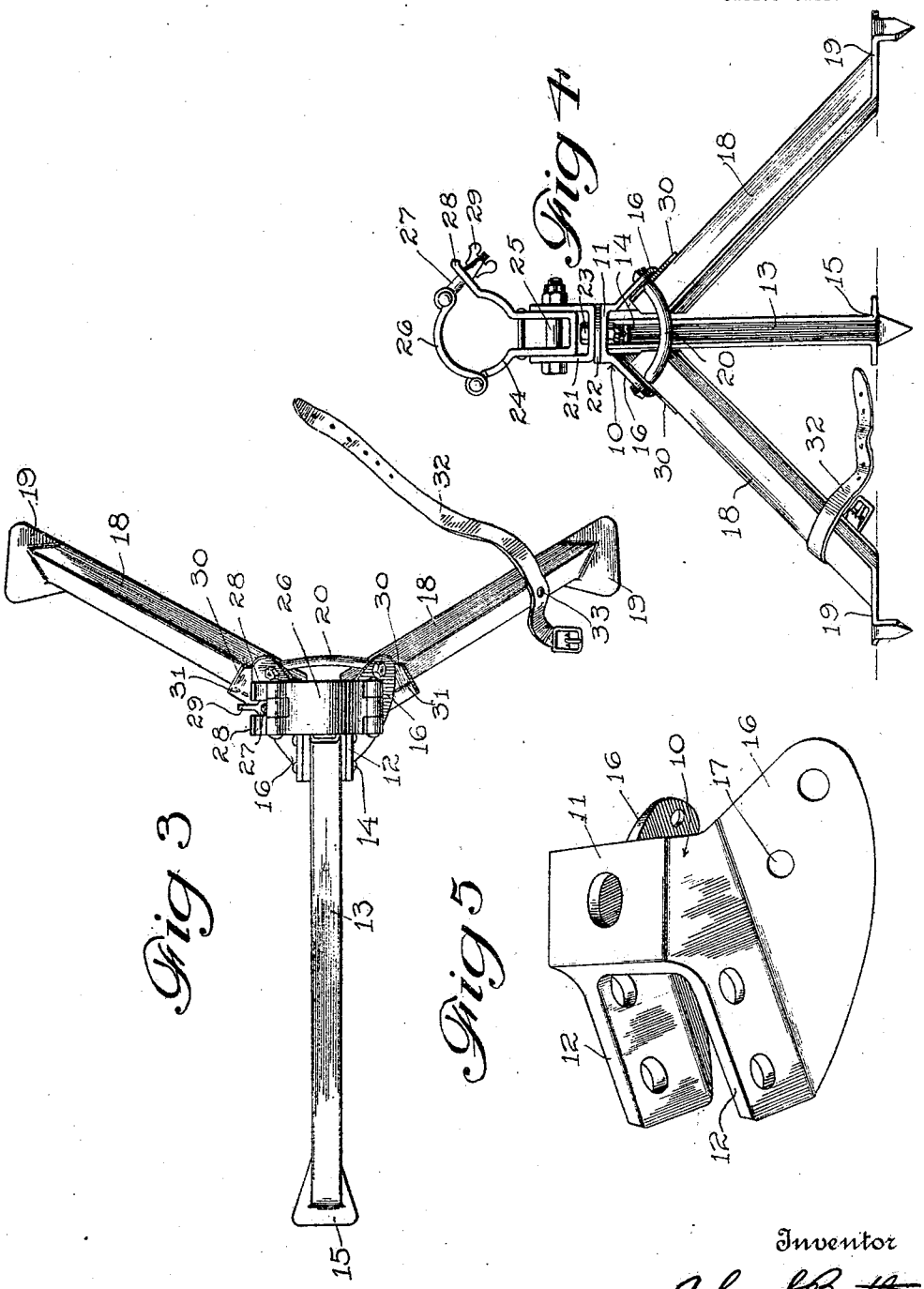


Fig 4

Fig 3

Fig 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN S. BUTLER, OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, ASSIGNOR TO NEWTON D. BAKER, SECRETARY OF WAR, TRUSTEE.

TRIPOD FOR MACHINE-GUNS.

1,372,599. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 22, 1921.

Application filed February 11, 1919. Serial No. 276,394.

(FILED UNDER THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1883, 22 STAT. L., 625.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. BUTLER, captain ordnance department, U. S. Army, a citizen of the United States, stationed at Washington, D. C., have invented an Improvement in Tripods for Machine-Guns, of which the following is a specification.

The invention described herein may be used by the Government, or any of its officers or employees in prosecution of work for the Government, or by any other person in the United States, without payment of any royalty thereon.

This invention relates to improvements in tripods for machine guns and refers more particularly to tripods for Browning machine guns of the type adapted for use in connection with military tanks.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a tripod of the foregoing character which will be readily engageable to a tank gun which has been removed from the tank for emergency use by the operator in a prone position, and which may be easily and quickly folded and strapped to the gun for transportation.

With the foregoing and other important objects in view my invention comprises the new and useful details of construction and arrangement which will be hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the annexed drawing, and pointed out more specifically in and by the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings wherein the preferred embodiment of my invention is shown like reference characters refer to like and corresponding parts throughout the several views.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is the side elevation of my tripod shown in its operating relation with the machine gun of the "tank" type.

Fig. 2 is a similar view of my device folded and strapped to the gun.

Fig. 3 is a plan view and Fig. 4 is a front elevation of my tripod in its operating position.

Fig. 5 is a detailed perspective view of the central yoke of my tripod.

Referring now to the drawing, it will be seen that I provide my tripod with a central yoke 10 having its center bridge 11 carried substantially horizontal in the operating position of the tripod. A pair of longitudinally extended vertical flanges 12 are dependent from the bridge and a channeled rear leg 13 is fixed therebetween as by rivets 14, the leg extending diagonally rearward and terminating at its lower end in a suitable foot 15. The lower edges of flanges 12 are turned outwardly to form diagonally extending wings 16 to each of which is pivoted at 17 a front leg 18 which terminates at the lower end in a foot 19. Legs 18 are adapted in the operating position of the tripod to extend diagonally forward and laterally in position to firmly brace the tripod in the usual manner, an arcuate stop bolt 20 being fixed between the wing 16 forward of the yoke in position to limit the spread of the legs by engagement therewith.

Vertically pivoted by bolt 23 to bridge 11 is a U-shaped bracket 21, a spacing washer 22 being inserted between the bridge and bracket, allowing the bracket to freely rotate about the bolt 23. To bracket 21 a clamp head 24 is transversely pivoted by bolt 25, the clamp head being vertically rotatable about bolt 25. In clamp head 24 the machine gun A is adapted to rest, a hinged arcuate cap 26 being carried by the head in position to swing laterally over the gun to secure the same in place. A hinged bolt 27 on the cap is adapted to swing between upwardly extending bifurcations 28 carried on the head, and a wing nut 29 is threaded on the bolt to provide means for drawing the cap 26 securely against the gun.

As a means for detachably engaging the forward legs 18 in their spread position against stop bolt 20 I insert about pivoting pins 17 between each of the legs and the corresponding wings 16 of the yoke a spring plate 30 having downwardly projecting rounded protuberances 31 positioned to engage behind the legs when the legs have been swung forward to the desired position. It will be seen that said spring actuated protuberances will resist the slight tendency of the legs to be rotated by the vibration of the gun, but that the operator may readily swing the legs past said protuberances by exerting sufficient pressure to force the spring plate slightly upward when adjusting the tripod.

In folding my tripod the legs and central yoke are rotated so that rear leg 13 is extended forward. Leg 13 is then raised upward until the foot 15 contacts with the gun,

the yoke 10 and bracket 21 rotating with the leg on bolt 25. Legs 18 are then rotated on pivoting pins 17 to positions in which the feet 19 are in contact with leg 13. A strap 32 which is riveted to one of the legs 18 at 33 is then buckled about the tripod and gun as is clearly shown in Fig. 2.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that my invention provides a tripod which is readly adaptable for use with a tank gun especially when the gun is being used in an emergency by an operator in a prone position and that the same may be easily and quickly folded and strapped to the gun for transportation.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A tripod for a machine gun or the like, including a clamp for engagement with the gun, a bracket carried by the clamp, a yoke hinged to the bracket, a rear leg fixed to the yoke and adapted to be swung beneath and longitudinally of the gun barrel when not in use, and front legs pivoted to the yoke and adapted to be swung into engagement with the rear leg when the tripod is not in use.

2. A tripod for a machine gun, including a bracket, means for pivotally securing the bracket to the gun, a rear leg fixed to the bracket and adapted to be swung beneath and longitudinally of the gun barrel when not in use, and front legs pivoted to the yoke and adapted to be swung into engagement with the rear leg.

3. A tripod for machine guns, including a yoke formed with depending flanges, means for pivotally securing the yoke to a machine gun, a leg fixed between the flanges and adapted to be swung beneath and longitudinally of the gun barrel when not in use, and legs pivoted to respective flanges and adapted to be swung into engagement with the fixed leg.

4. In combination with a machine gun, a tripod therefor having a clamp detachably engageable with the gun, a transversely hinged bracket carried by the clamp, a central yoke vertically pivoted to the hinged bracket, a rearwardly extending leg fixed to said yoke, said yoke provided with diagonally extending wings, diagonally and forwardly diverging front legs pivoted to said wings, and an arcuate bolt bridging the space between said wings in position to limit the forward divergence of said legs.

5. In combination with a machine gun, a tripod therefor having a clamp detachably engageable with the gun, a transversely hinged bracket carried by the clamp, a central yoke vertically pivoted to the hinged bracket, a rearwardly extending leg fixed to the yoke, diagonally and forwardly diverging front legs pivoted to the yoke, stop means on said yoke in position to limit the forward divergence of said legs, and spring means carried by the yoke in position to detachably engage the front legs in the spread position.

JOHN S. BUTLER.