June 9, 1942. H. O. EIANE 2,285,503

AUTOMATIC FIREARM

Filed Aug. 3, 1939

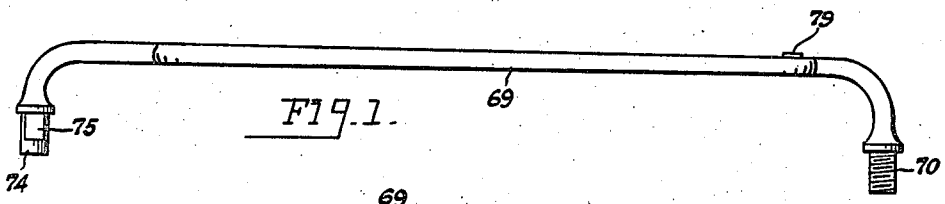


Fig. 1.

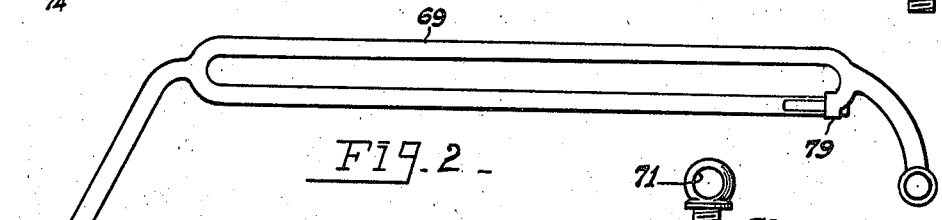


Fig. 2.

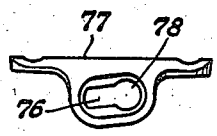


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

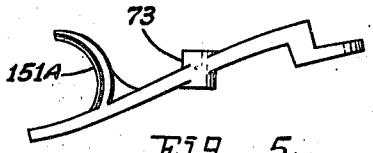


Fig. 5.

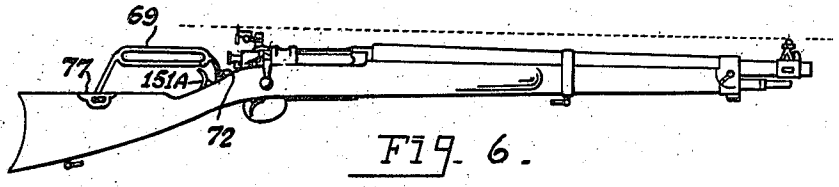


Fig. 6.

Witnesses

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AUTOMATIC FIREARM

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Application August 3, 1939, Serial No. 288,165

2 Claims. (Cl. 42—1)

My invention relates to improvements in automatic fire-arms and particularly to my earlier invention of an automatic rifle, illustrated and described in Patent No. 2,144,241, of January 17, 1939, in which the breech bolt operates directly in front of the gunner's face, and as such requires an extra long gunstock between the receiver and the butt plate, which in turn renders the firm-arm muzzle heavy; and therefore the main objective of the present improvements are for the purpose of obtaining a better balance of the arm, by providing it with offset front and rear sights and allowing the breech bolt mechanism to operate along the right side of the gunner's face, whereby considerable reduction can be made in the gunstock behind the receiver.

I attain part of this important objective by the use of a bolt guard, hereinafter more fully described and claimed having reference to the accompanying drawing, in which Fig. 1 represents a top plan view of the guard in detached relation. Fig. 2 is a right side view in elevation of the guard, also in detached relation. Fig. 3 is a right side view of a lock device for rear support of the guard shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 represents a side view of an eye-bolt for front support of the guard, shown in detached relation.

Fig. 5 is a right side view of a receiver extension provided with means for support of the eye-bolt shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a side view elevation of a fire-arm embodying the principle of my invention, showing the guard in its operative position.

Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that a bolt guard **69** is provided with a threaded front terminal **70**, which screws into a threaded eye **71**, located at the upper end of a threaded eye-bolt **72**.

Referring to Fig. 5, it will be noted that a hub-shaped formation **73**, located on a receiver extension which carry the thumb guard **151A**, is drilled and threaded on its inside (not shown) to receive the eye-bolt **72**.

At the rear end of the guard **69** is formed a lock terminal **74**, which has a flat milled section **75** slightly tapered rearward to fit into a similarly formed slot **76**, shown in Fig. 18 as extending transversely through a lock device **77** which is embedded and secured in the gunstock, as indicated in Fig. 6. A transversely disposed passage **78** communicates with the slot **76**.

Referring to Fig. 2, it will be noted that a slip-joint **79** is located at near the front end of the guard **69**, so as to permit said guard to be more readily bent in the act of locking and unlocking its rear end.

It will be particularly noted that in Fig. 1, the rear lock terminal **74** is somewhat shorter than the front terminal **70**, but this difference is compensated for by having the slot **76** offset toward left with respect to a centerline drawn through the bore of the fire-arm, so that the middle part of the guard **69** will line up parallel to said centerline when in normal raised position, and also to be able to lie snugly to the right side of the gun-stock when folded.

The guard **69** is made of tempered spring steel, and arranged so that when in locked position, rearward pressure is exerted by the terminal **74** against the rear end of the slot **67**, thereby maintaining the guard **69** in a firmly locked position.

To unlock and fold the guard **69** on the right side of the gun-stock, it is only necessary to push the rear terminal **74** forward until it reaches the transverse passage **78**, from which point it can be withdrawn toward left and the guard **69** raised on its front terminal **70** as a pivotal point to a vertical position; at this stage the eye-bolt **72** is given a half turn unscrewing and the said guard brought down on the right side of the gun-stock and the rear terminal **74** locked in the reverse order of its unlocking.

It will be borne in mind that threads on the front terminal **70** and the eye-bolt **72** fit loosely enough to be manipulated by hand.

I do not intend to limit my invention to the exact description and drawing as herein given, as many changes can be made without departing from the principles involved.

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

1. In an automatic fire arm having a receiver and a reciprocating bolt action mechanism operating within and beyond said receiver, a flexible grated bolt guard adapted for use with offset left side gun sights and mounted parallel to the reciprocating path of said bolt mechanism, said guard comprising a threaded front terminal set at a right angle to the main body of said guard, a vertically disposed eye-bolt threaded into a rearward extension of said receiver and provided with internal threads in its eye for receiving said front terminal, a rear terminal likewise set at a right angle to the main body of said guard and provided with a flat milled section thereon, a stationary rear end locking device provided with a transverse passage and a reduced slot extending rearwardly from said passage, said flat

milled section of said rear terminal adapted to expand into said slot and lock said guard in its operative position.

2. In an automatic fire arm having a receiver and a reciprocating bolt action mechanism operating within and beyond said receiver, a flexible grated bolt guard mounted parallel to the reciprocating path of said bolt mechanism at the left side thereof, said guard comprising a grated main body, a threaded front terminal set at a right angle to said main body, an eye-bolt threaded into vertical position at the rear end of said receiver and threaded internally in its eye for reception of said front terminal, a rear terminal also set at a right angle to the main body of said guard and provided with a flat milled section thereon, a stationary rear end locking device provided with a transverse passage and a rearwardly extending slot, said rear terminal adapted for insertion from the left side of said passage for locking of said guard in its operative position and in reverse order from the right side of said passage when said guard is folded toward right in an inoperative position.

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