

W. J. HUFF,  
RELEASING HOOK FOR LIFE BOATS AND THE LIKE,  
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1,027,481.

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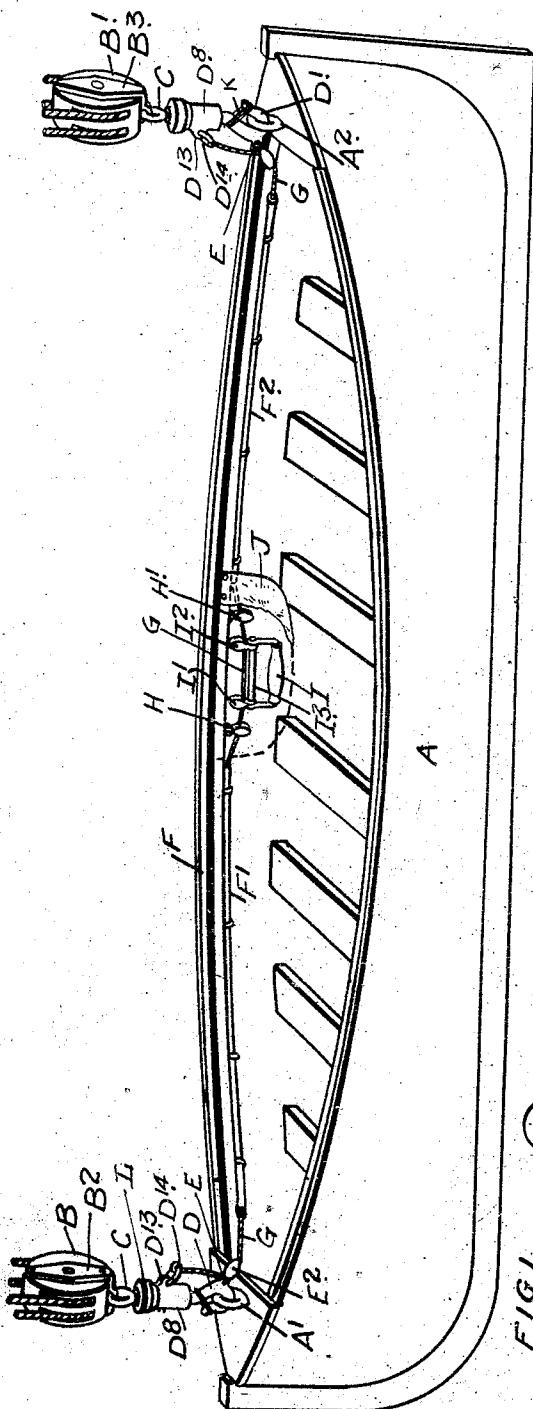


FIG. 1.

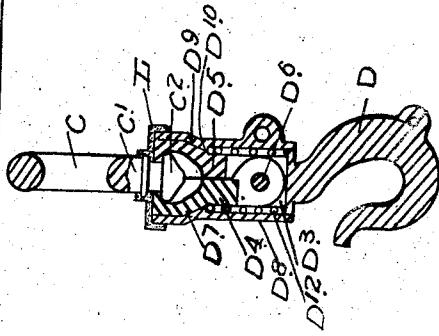


FIG. 2.

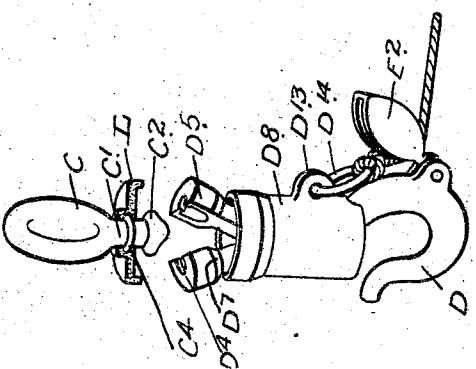


FIG. 3.

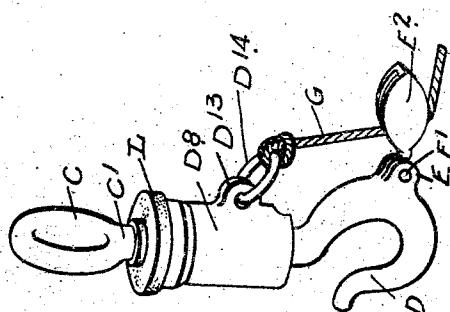


FIG. 4.

WITNESSES. INVENTOR.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM JOHN HUFF, OF TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA.

## RELEASING-HOOK FOR LIFE-BOATS AND THE LIKE.

1,027,481.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 28, 1912.

Application filed September 25, 1911. Serial No. 651,149.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JOHN HUFF, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Releasing-Hooks for Life-Boats and the Like, of which the following is the specification.

My invention relates to improvements in releasing hooks for life boats and the like and the object of the invention is to provide a simple device conveniently located in the boat for simultaneously operating the releasing means of the hook at each end of the boat so as to simultaneously and instantaneously free the boat at each end immediately the boat reaches the water and it consists essentially of an eye connected to each davit tackle and provided with a depending head, a suitable eye at each end of the boat, a hook engaging each eye, a spring held sleeve connected to the shank of the hook containing gripping jaws designed to grip the depending head of the eye connected to the davit tackle, a cable connected to each of the spring held sleeves of the boat supporting hooks and extending down beneath the gunwale of the boat through a tube leading from each end to the center of the boat so as to leave the central portions of the cable exposed, a supporting block depending beneath the gunwale in proximity to each inner end of the cable containing tube, a handle provided with blocks supported by the central portion of the cord between the aforesaid blocks depending from the gunwale as hereinafter more particularly described by the following specification.

Figure 1, represents a general perspective view of a boat showing my supporting hooks and releasing means connected thereto. Fig. 2, is an enlarged perspective detail of the boat supporting hook and the davit tackle eye releasably connected thereto. Fig. 3, is a similar view to Fig. 2 showing the releasing jaws in the released position and the davit tackle eye removed. Fig. 4, is a vertical section through Fig. 2.

In the drawings like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each figure.

A is a life boat provided at the bow and stern portion with eyes A' and A<sup>2</sup>.

B and B' are blocks depending from the davits and forming part of the tackle thereof.

C C are eyes connected in the usual manner by the straps B<sup>2</sup> and B<sup>3</sup> to the blocks B and B'. Each eye C is provided with a depending stem C' terminating in a head C<sup>2</sup>. 60

D and D' are hooks designed to engage with the eyes A' and A<sup>2</sup>. Each hook D and D' is provided with upwardly extending lugs D<sup>3</sup> between which are pivoted gripping jaws D<sup>4</sup> and D<sup>5</sup> by means of the cross pin 65 D<sup>6</sup>. It will be noticed on referring to Fig. 4 that the upper end of the jaws are enlarged and provided with flaring portions D<sup>7</sup>.

D<sup>8</sup> is a sleeve provided with a correspondingly flared portion D<sup>9</sup> and a shoulder D<sup>10</sup>. 70 Between the shoulder D<sup>10</sup> and the top of the hook extends a spiral spring D<sup>12</sup>. Each sleeve D<sup>8</sup> is provided with an eye D<sup>13</sup> in which is held a ring D<sup>14</sup>. Each hook D and D' is provided with a lug E between which 75 is swung upon a cross pin E' a block E<sup>2</sup>.

F is the gunwale of the boat beneath which are supported tubes F' and F<sup>2</sup>. The tubes F' and F<sup>2</sup> extend from points in proximity to the bow and the stern of the boat 80 to points in proximity to the center of the boat.

G is a cable extending from the eye D<sup>14</sup> forming part of the releasing means of the hook D beneath the block E<sup>2</sup> of the hook D 85 and through the tube F' to the tube F<sup>2</sup> through which it passes to the eye D<sup>14</sup> forming part of the releasing tackle of the hook D'. It will be noticed that the central portion of the cable G extending between the 90 inner ends of the tubes F' and F<sup>2</sup> is exposed.

H and H' are blocks swung beneath the gunwale of the boat in proximity to the inner ends of the tubes F' and F<sup>2</sup> and over which the central portion of the cable G 95 passes so as to support the same.

I is an operating handle swung upon the cable G between the blocks H and H' and is supported thereon by the blocks I' and I<sup>2</sup> 100 swung upon the cross bar I<sup>3</sup> of the handle I.

J is an apron secured to the gunwale of the boat and designed to hide the handle from sight so that the passengers in the boat will not be able to see the same. When it is desired to release the boat all that it is necessary to do after the boat has been lowered into the water is to pull upon the handle I thereby drawing upon the cable G simultaneously from each end thereby depressing each sleeve D<sup>8</sup> against the pressure of the 105 springs D<sup>12</sup> and thereby releasing the jaws D<sup>4</sup> and D<sup>5</sup> so as to free the head C<sup>2</sup> forming

part of the davit tackle eye C thus freeing the boat simultaneously and instantaneously at each end. To prevent the hooks D and D' and D<sup>2</sup> from coming out of the eyes A' 5 and A<sup>2</sup> when the hooks are freed, I wind suitable wire K around the hooks as shown in Fig. 1 so as to prevent the hooks from coming out of the eyes. To prevent water getting into the sleeve D<sup>8</sup> I provide a rubber cap L fitting over the top of the sleeve and around the stem C' and of the eye C. The stem C' is provided with a rib C<sup>4</sup> so that there will be a closer connection between the rubber cap and the stem. 10  
 15 From this description it will be seen that I have devised a very simple device whereby a life boat when lowered into the water may be instantaneously and simultaneously released at both ends thereby minimizing the danger of the boat capsizing in rough water.

What I claim as my invention is.

1. A releasing hook for life boats, comprising an eye member having a depending head at one end, a hook member having up-

wardly projecting lugs between which are 25 pivotally mounted gripping jaws designed to engage said depending head, and a sliding spring-held sleeve inclosing said gripping jaws, with means for operating same, substantially as described. 30

2. A releasing hook for life boats comprising an eye member having a depending head at one end, a hook member having two upwardly projecting lugs between which are 35 pivotally secured a pair of gripping jaws for engaging said depending head, upper ends of said jaws enlarged and provided with flaring portions, a sliding spring-held sleeve inclosing said gripping jaws and provided with a corresponding flaring portion 40 and shoulder designed to embrace said gripping jaws, and means for operating spring-held sleeve.

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Witnesses:

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."