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SIGNAL TRAINER

Filed March 19, 1945

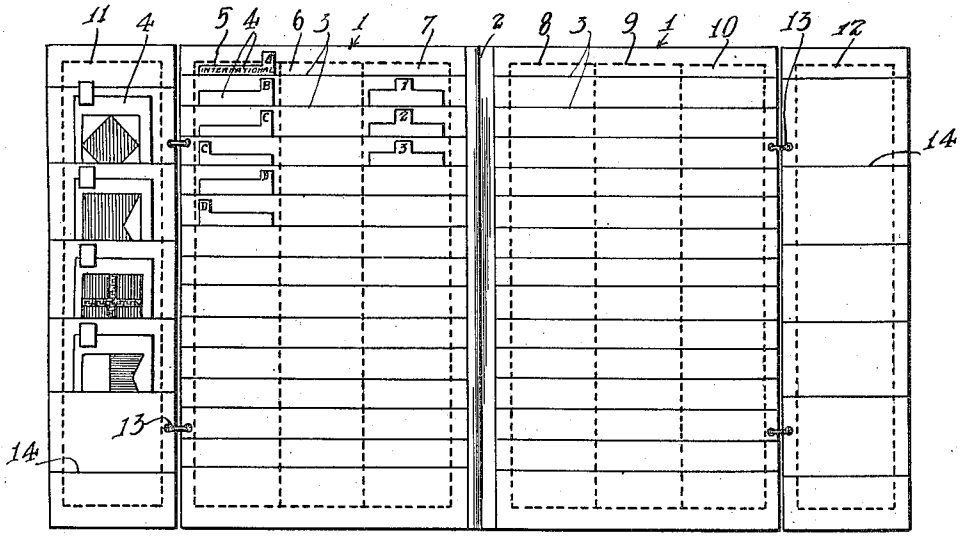


Fig. 1

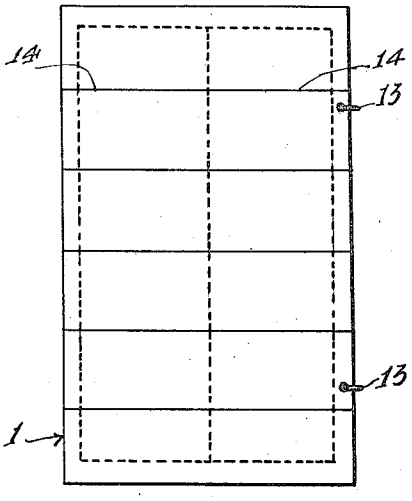


Fig. 2

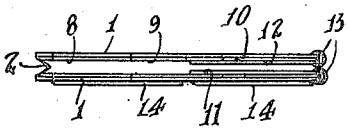


Fig. 3

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SIGNAL TRAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 35—14)

1

My invention consists of a device for use in training signal men and deck officers in the use of the various signal flags, pennants, and repeaters, used in both the Navy and wartime merchant marine. For signaling, these flags consist of the international code signals: alphabet flags, numeral flags, and numeral pennants; Navy special flags, pennants, and repeaters.

To train a man in the use of these flags, pennants, and repeaters, I have developed a device which consists primarily of a series of six sets of thirteen vertical pockets in which all of the signal flags, pennants, and repeaters used are stowed in duplicate in the same order as they are stowed on the ship's signal bridge. Instead of actually placing flags in these pockets, I use cards upon which have been printed the exact likeness of each flag, pennant, and repeater.

This trainer is in the form of a double-flag bag—alphabet flags; numeral flags, numeral pennants, Navy special pennants and repeaters—stowed in duplicate in a size comparable to a standard file folder.

In conjunction with the receptacle for receiving the cards representing flags, pennants, and repeaters, I have another series of pockets into which the cards can be inserted to make up a signal. This last mentioned set of six vertical pockets is attached to the storage device by a yieldable hinge which permits the same to be turned around away from the operator and toward those instructed. By the use of this training device, the signal hoist can be made up as if it were being placed on a signal halyard, and then by turning the same outwardly, it can be displayed to the group being instructed so that they can read the same and interpret the message placed thereon. To the opposite side of the storage device, by a similar yieldable hinge, is attached a duplicate set of six vertical pockets in which a second set of display cards can be placed by the instructor while the first signal is being read by those instructed. In this manner, the instructor can constantly be preparing the hoist to follow while the class records the hoist displayed without delaying the instruction.

Also, on the back of the main storage compartment of my signal trainer is a vertical series of six pockets, where information signals can be displayed, leaving the hinged wings free to fly the instructional hoists. In this fixed signal space consisting of six vertical pockets is displayed such signal as "This is a drill." This method of conducting flag hoist drill is similar to that used by at sea.

2

I have found that with this afore-described signal trainer, training may continue at sea in the instruction of deck officers during the tactical period in the wardroom, or for the signal gang instruction on the navigation bridge, even if the ship is under way in company with other ships, and the ship's regular signal yards are being used for actual operations.

In addition the same afore-described signal trainer may be used as a substitute for the officer in tactical command from a vantage point someplace forward of the bridge to originate tactical signals, which the ship's signal force on the signal bridge reads through binoculars, hoists on the ship's signal yards, and reports the signal flying by sound, power, telephone or voice tube to the officer of the deck on the navigation bridge, who executes the signal. All stations receive valuable training, even to the point of ship handling and tactics for deck officers, though the ship may be travelling alone.

Other objects and advantages of my invention are set forth in the following description of the preferred embodiment thereof.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of my signal trainer.

Fig. 2 is an elevation with the device folded.

Fig. 3 is a plan view.

A signal trainer constructed in accordance with my invention comprises a plurality of large panels 1 made of heavy cardboard or other suitable material, connected together by a hinge 2 of any type, such as a cloth tape. I have found it desirable to have two panels 1 connected by the hinge 2, as this permits the entire device to be folded into a small package, and it also protects the flag cards which will be hereinafter described.

On the panels 1 are positioned a plurality of pockets 3 arranged in vertical rows. These pockets used to receive the cards are comprised of paper or cloth straps fastened on three sides, with the top open. In the pockets 3 are positioned the cards 4, on which are printed the various colored flags, pennants, and repeaters representing the letters and numerals of the international code, and the various Navy special flags and pennants. The flags, pennants, and repeaters are printed on the cards 4 in color. The international alphabet flags are positioned in the first and second columns 5 and 6 of the left-hand panel 1, and they are arranged in alphabetical order in two columns of 13 each. The numeral flags are positioned in column 7; the Navy special flags, pennants, and repeaters in columns 8 and 9; and

the numeral pennants in column 10 of the right-hand panel 1.

This order represents a similar positioning of the flags, pennants, and repeaters as they are stowed in the double-flag bag aboard ship, represented by the pockets 4 in my device. At both the left and right-hand sides of the panels 1, are positioned panels 11 and 12 made of heavy cardboard or other material, which are hinged by ring hinges 13 or other type of hinge, to the panels 1. Upon the panels 11 and 12 are placed a column of six vertical pockets 14. These pockets are shallow, so that only the bottom ends of the signal cards 4 extend into the same, and the remainder of the card, displaying the exact likeness of each flag, pennant, and repeater, can be clearly seen.

In the operation of my signal trainer, the instructor selects from the pockets 3 the signal he wishes to display, and positions it in the pockets 14 on the panel 11. The entire device is held in a vertical position by two triangular supports (not shown) attached to the back of the main storage compartment. Upon making up the signal, the same is "hoisted" by rotating the panel 11 through 180° so that it may be read only from the rear side of the panel 1 by the group being instructed, which is given a limited time to interpret and record the signal. As the signal is read, the panel 11 is rotated back so that it is not visible to the group being instructed, and at the same time the panel 12, with the next signal prepared upon it, is rotated until it is now visible to the class, which, in turn, in the time allotted interprets and records this signal. By this method flags, pennants, and repeaters are all readily accessible by the instructor for hoist and are as readily restowable in preparation for the succeeding hoist. The sytem of stowage and the method of putting the flags in hoist is similar to the use of a flag bag at sea; when the flags are in hoist, displayed on panels 11 and 12 two-blocked, they appear as flags in hoist at sea, two-blocked to the yard.

While I have described the preferred embodiments of my invention, I am not to be limited to any of the details set forth herein, except as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a signal trainer, a panel having pockets thereon for the reception of a series of cards, a panel hinged to said first panel and having a series of pockets in vertical alignment, said hinged panel being rotatable upon its hinge to a position adjacent the back of said first panel whereby a signal may be displayed by positioning signal cards in said vertically aligned pockets and by rotating into view said hinged panel into the position adjacent the back of said first panel.

2. In a signal trainer, a panel having pockets thereon for removably receiving a series of cards having the international and Navy signal flags printed thereon, a panel attached by a hinge to said panel and having pockets in vertical alignment, said pockets being on the same side of said panel as those on said first named panel, said hinged panel being rotatable upon its hinge to a position adjacent the back of said first panel whereby a signal may be displayed by positioning said signal cards in said vertically aligned pockets and by rotating into view said hinged panel into the position adjacent the back of said first panel.

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