C. A. L. TOTTEN.
Game Apparatus.

No. 227,931. Patented May 25, 1880.

Fig 1

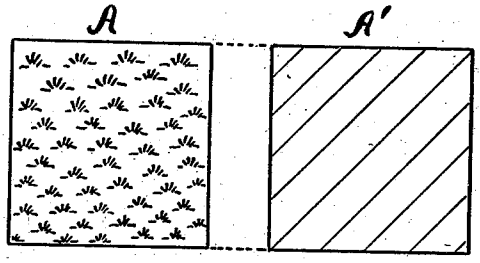


Fig 2

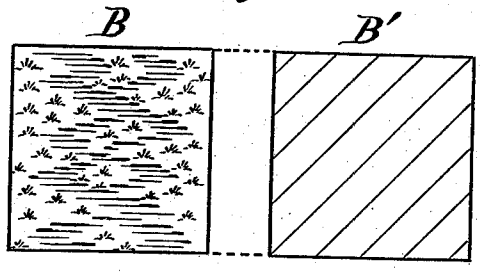


Fig. 3.

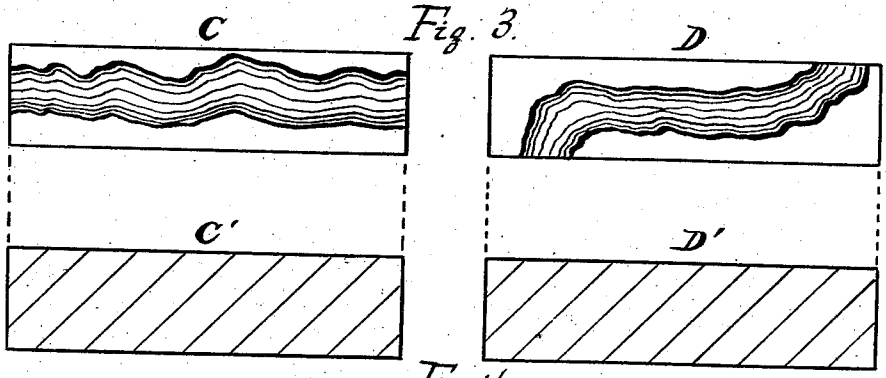


Fig. 4

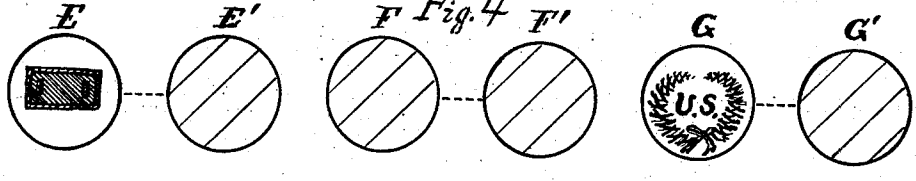


Fig. 5.

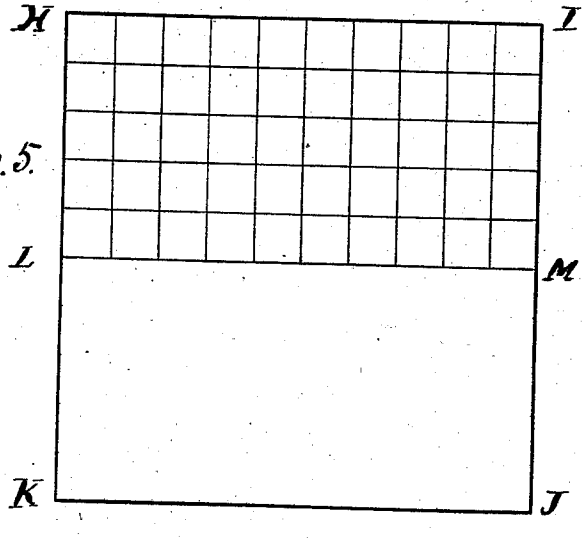
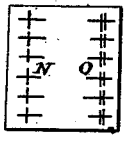


Fig. 6.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. L. TOTTEN, OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 227,931, dated May 25, 1880.

Application filed September 22, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. L. TOTTEN, of the United States Army, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus for the Playing of Military and other Games; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and explicit description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 represents a game-block. Fig. 2 shows a similar block with different delineations. Fig. 3 shows two blocks, a section of a river being displayed upon one side of each. Fig. 4 contains several counters or small game-pieces. Fig. 5 represents a slated game-board. Fig. 6 represents a block tactically depicted.

My invention relates to game blocks and boards for the use of the players in a variety of games, and especially for the use of instructors and private students in obtaining graphic illustration of text-books and authorities upon various topics — such, for instance, as those upon the military art and science.

It consists, essentially, in providing the blocks, pieces, and counters with one or more prepared surfaces, slated or silicated or similarly prepared, upon which any desirable device may be temporarily depicted. For instance, in the study of grand tactics and strategy, the blocks I have invented have permanent topographical symbols, such as rivers, swamps, and woods upon one face, and upon the other a slated surface to receive such delineations and symbols as the student himself may find necessary with a view to extending the capacity of the outfit so as to cover special cases. Again, very frequently, when using blocks and dummies variously depicted for the illustration of such a subject as military tactics, it becomes necessary to have additional blocks to represent officers and formations that are not contained in the outfit or that, in the study under consideration, have become exhausted. In such cases, with blocks and counters such as I have invented, the want can be readily supplied by turning some of the surplus pieces over and sketching suitable symbols upon the prepared surfaces. We are thus enabled to improvise game material, and, of course, double the capacity of the outfit. Such blocks will lend themselves to the universal illustration of text-books and afford a valuable adjunct to their study.

Suppose we find a diagram in a book representing the proper way an army should be drawn up, having a village on its right, a stream on its left, and in the center of its position a strong commanding height. It is readily to be understood that by selecting from our outfit blocks representing these general features we may rapidly lay out upon a table the main features, and then acquire a more lasting impression of the principles involved in such a diagram. The same illustration would have been as readily spread out if no diagram had existed in the book, for in that case we would follow the text, using suitable pieces where they were in the outfit, and improvising them upon the slated surfaces where they were not.

Such blocks may be employed upon and in combination with the slated game-board, which, in turn, may receive unlimited illustrations. When it is desirable to represent bodies of troops in strategical relations with topographical conditions the proper pieces at hand or improvised may be arranged in order, and the slated sides of others turned up and properly designated with colored crayons, so as to distinguish among infantry, cavalry, and artillery, and also between two hostile armies. These pieces may also be cut to suitable scales to represent tactical bodies.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, in Fig. 1, A A′ shows one of my blocks. A is one face, and A′ the reverse. The side A has the topographical grass-symbol printed permanently thereon. The other side, A′, is slated and ready to receive any device or symbol. In Fig. 2, B B′ shows a similar block, the face B representing a swamp, and B′ being slated. In Fig. 3, C C′ and D D′ show two blocks, each having a section of a river. The sections may be spliced together to make the river continuous. The opposite sides, C′ and D′, are slated. These blocks may be cut to scales, so as to lend themselves to tactical formations. Thus, with the slated sides C′ and D′ turned up, these two pieces may represent ranks of four men, platoons, companies.

In Fig. 4, E E′, F F′, and G G′ represent other forms of such blocks or counters, E hav-

ing a permanent first lieutenant's shoulder-strap upon it; G, the cap-ornament of a staff officer. E′ and G′ are slated, and both faces of F and F′ are slated.

In Fig. 5, H I J K shows a game-board, one-half, H I M L, ruled with squares or other figures. L M J K shows how the board would look if there were no rulings upon it, which will sometimes be the case.

N in Fig. 6 represents a battery of six guns, O in same figure representing its caissons.

Former devices for playing games and illustrating military and similar subjects, such as blocks, counters, and pieces, have almost always had a right and a wrong side, the right side having some distinguishing device permanently put upon it, and the wrong side being without value and generally rough, or, if utilized at all, then only to be as unalterably designated as the right side.

Now, in my invention, while I intend generally to utilize every side of a block, I do not intend to have them each marked with permanent devices. I finish off at least one face with slating, and in some cases all sides, and upon these faces the player may make such delineations as he wishes.

In the military game which I have invented I may also employ small metallic blocks, preferably of lead, representing bodies of troops, upon the slated board, which may or may not be used in connection with the slated blocks in playing games.

I may also employ such blocks and pieces in the study of historical battles, the map being rudely sketched upon slated board or a piece of slated cloth.

I do not lay claim to any particular prepared surface, (slating, silicating, &c.,) but simply to the application of such surfaces to game blocks and boards separately and combined, by the invention of which the application of an outfit is made very comprehensive. I do not limit the number of faces of such blocks, nor the number of such faces which shall be prepared with slating.

I claim—

1. The combined apparatus for military and other games, consisting of game-blocks topographically and tactically depicted upon one side and slated upon the others, and blocks or pieces slated upon one or all sides, and a slated game-board, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

2. In combination with the slated game-board, the blocks or pieces having a slated surface for temporary depiction, as and for the purposes described.

3. A set of game-blocks, counters, or pieces having upon one or more sides a surface-coating prepared to receive temporary illustrations, and on other sides a surface provided with permanent symbols, substantially as and for the purposes described.

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