J. F. ROGERS.

PROJECTILE FOR DESTROYING BARBED WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 11, 1916.

1,200,525. Patented Oct. 10, 1916.

Fig. 1.

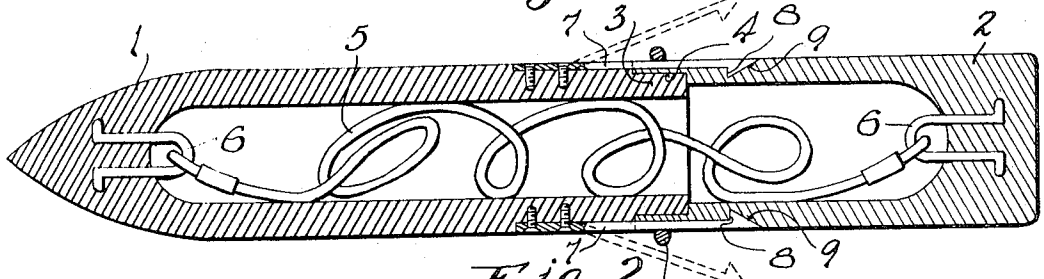


Fig. 2.

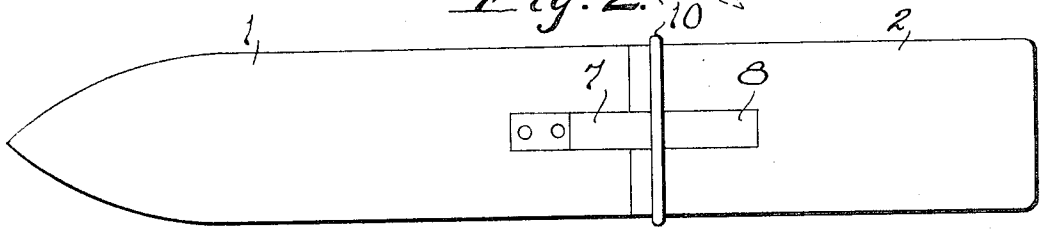


Fig. 3.

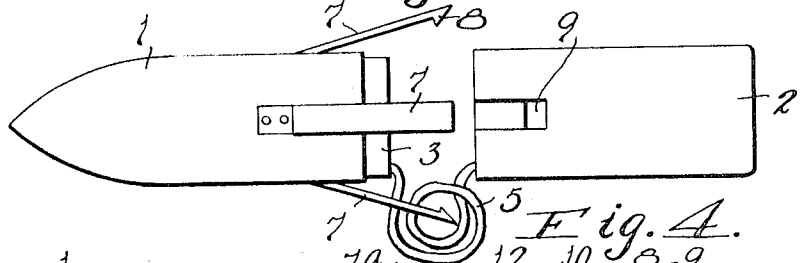


Fig. 4.

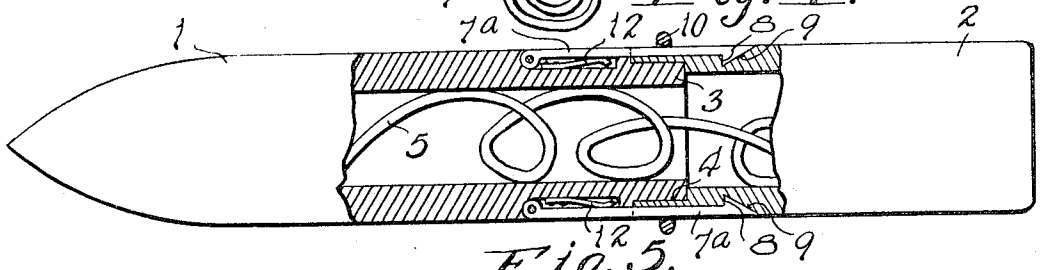
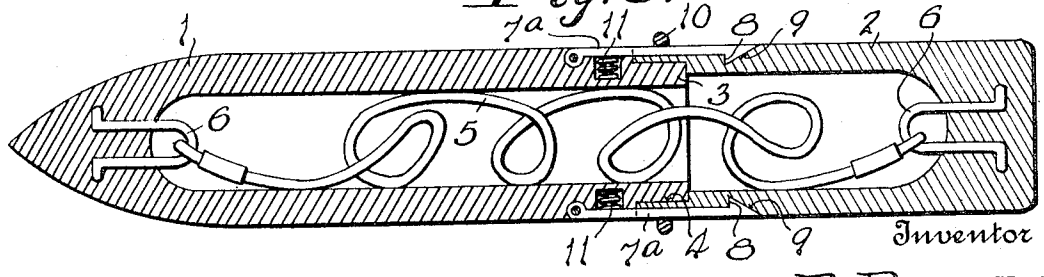


Fig. 5.



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PROJECTILE FOR DESTROYING BARBED-WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS.

1,200,525. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 10, 1916.

Application filed April 11, 1916. Serial No. 90,301.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. ROGERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wheeling, in the county of Ohio, State of West Virginia, have invented a new and useful Projectile for Destroying Barbed-Wire Entanglements; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The present invention relates to a projectile for destroying barbed wire entanglements and the like, and has for its object to provide a projectile of this character which embodies novel features of construction whereby it can be discharged from the guns in ordinary use, and will operate in an effective manner to destroy any object or obstruction having the general nature of a wire entanglement.

Further objects of the invention are to provide a projectile of this character which is simple and inexpensive in its construction, which can be handled without danger or difficulty, which can be absolutely depended upon to expand and sweep through a wire entanglement in the necessary manner to destroy the same, and which can be used in the ordinary guns without injuring the same or destroying the bore thereof.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel combinations and arrangements of the parts as will more fully appear as the description proceeds, the novel features thereof being pointed out in the appended claims.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view through a projectile constructed in accordance with the invention, the latch member being shown in operative position by solid lines, and in inoperative position by dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, on a reduced scale, showing the relative positions of the two sections of the projectile immediately after they leave the mouth of the gun. Fig. 4 is a side elevation showing a modified construction of latch member for holding the two sections of the projectile together, portions being broken away and shown in section. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing a still further modification of the latch member.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

In carrying out the invention a hollow projectile is used, said projectile having substantially the same shape or configuration as the ordinary projectiles and being divided transversely to provide a front or nose section 1 and a rear or heel section 2. These two sections 1 and 2 are of different weights, and are preferably formed of different material, the rear or heel section 2 being considerably lighter in weight than the front or nose section 1. One of the sections, in the present instance, the front section 1, is provided with a contracted flange 3 which is adapted to telescope within the rabbeted mouth 4 at the forward end of the heel section 2, thereby holding the two sections of the projectile in proper position with respect to each other when they are assembled and locked together preparatory to being discharged from the gun.

A flexible link member such as the steel cable 5 connects the two sections of the projectile, said cable being doubled up and housed within the hollow interior of the projectile when the two parts thereof are fitted together. The opposite ends of the cable are connected to steel hasps 6 which have the arms thereof partially embedded in the ends of the respective sections 1 and 2, the looped portions of the hasps projecting into the interior of the projectile sections to provide eyes for engagement with the ends of the steel cable 5. This cable 5 is of a sufficient length to permit the sections 1 and 2 of the projectile to follow different paths as they become separated from each other after leaving the mouth of the gun, the cable connecting the sections in such manner as to engage any wires or like obstructions which may be disposed between the paths or trajectories of the respective projectile sections. Owing to the fact that the section 2 is much lighter in weight than the section 1, it will naturally have a lower trajectory than the section 1, and the cable 5 will engage and tear up any wire obstructions or entanglements between the trajectories of the two halves of the projectile.

Spring latch members 7 are provided for locking the two halves of the projectile to-

gether while they are being handled, or are in the bore of the gun. These spring latch members 7 are shown as connected to the front section 1 of the projectile, and as formed with triangular heads or noses 8 adapted to engage corresponding recesses 9 in the rear or heel section 2 of the projectile. The exterior of the projectile is preferably recessed to receive the latch members 7, so that there will be no exterior projections to prevent the projectile from fitting properly into the bore of the gun, and the latch members 7 have a spring action which causes them to fly outwardly into inoperative position as soon as released. In the preferred construction the latch members 7 are formed of spring material and arranged to normally assume an inoperative position, although they can be readily sprung inwardly and caused to engage recesses 9 of the heel section 2 when it is desired to lock the two sections of the projectile together. When the projectiles are being handled, a ring or band 10 may be fitted loosely upon the exterior thereof and caused to engage the latch members 7 to hold them in operative position. When the projectile is placed in the bore of the gun from which it is to be discharged, the ring or band 10 can be removed, leaving the latch members 7 free to spring outwardly into inoperative position as soon as the projectile emerged from the mouth of the gun. The rear or heel section 2 would then separate from the front section 1 and describe a lower trajectory than the front section 1, the two sections being always connected by the cable 5 which would engage and tear up any wire entanglements with which it might be brought into contact.

A slight modification is shown by Fig. 5, in which the latch members 7^a are hingedly or pivotally connected to the projectile so as to be readily swung into or out of operative position. Coil springs 11 are shown as positioned under the latch members 7^a so as to normally tend to swing the same outwardly away from the recesses 9. A ring or band 10 is used, as in the previous instance, to hold the latch members 7^a in operative position while the projectiles are being handled and placed in the bore of the gun, although the coil springs 11 operate to swing the latch members 7^a outwardly and disconnect the two sections of each projectile as soon as the projectile leaves the mouth of the gun.

A further slight modification is shown by Fig. 4, in which the leaf springs 12 are substituted for the coil springs 11. In all other particulars the construction and operation is identical with that previously described.

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

1. A projectile of the character described, including a hollow body formed in separate front and rear sections having different weights so as to describe different trajectories, a flexible link member connecting the two sections and normally housed within the same, and normally inoperative spring latch members for locking the sections together, said latch members being arranged to be held in operative position by the bore of the gun and released as soon as the projectile leaves the mouth of the gun.

2. A projectile of the character described, including a hollow body formed in separate front and rear sections, a flexible link member connecting the two sections and normally housed within the same, and normally inoperative spring latch members applied to the exterior of one of the sections and adapted to engage the exterior of the opposite section to lock the two sections together, said latch members being held in operative position by the bore of the gun until after the projectile leaves the mouth of the gun, after which they immediately spring into inoperative position.

3. A projectile of the character described, including a hollow body formed in separate front and rear sections constructed of different materials and having different weights so as to describe different trajectories, a flexible link member connecting the two sections and normally housed within the same, and normally inoperative spring latch members carried by one of the sections for engagement with the other section to lock the two sections together, said latch members being arranged upon the exterior of the body so as to be held in operative position by the bore of the gun and immediately spring into inoperative position when the projectile is discharged from the gun.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN F. ROGERS.

Witnesses:
G. W. GARRISON,
ARTHUR A. FERNS.