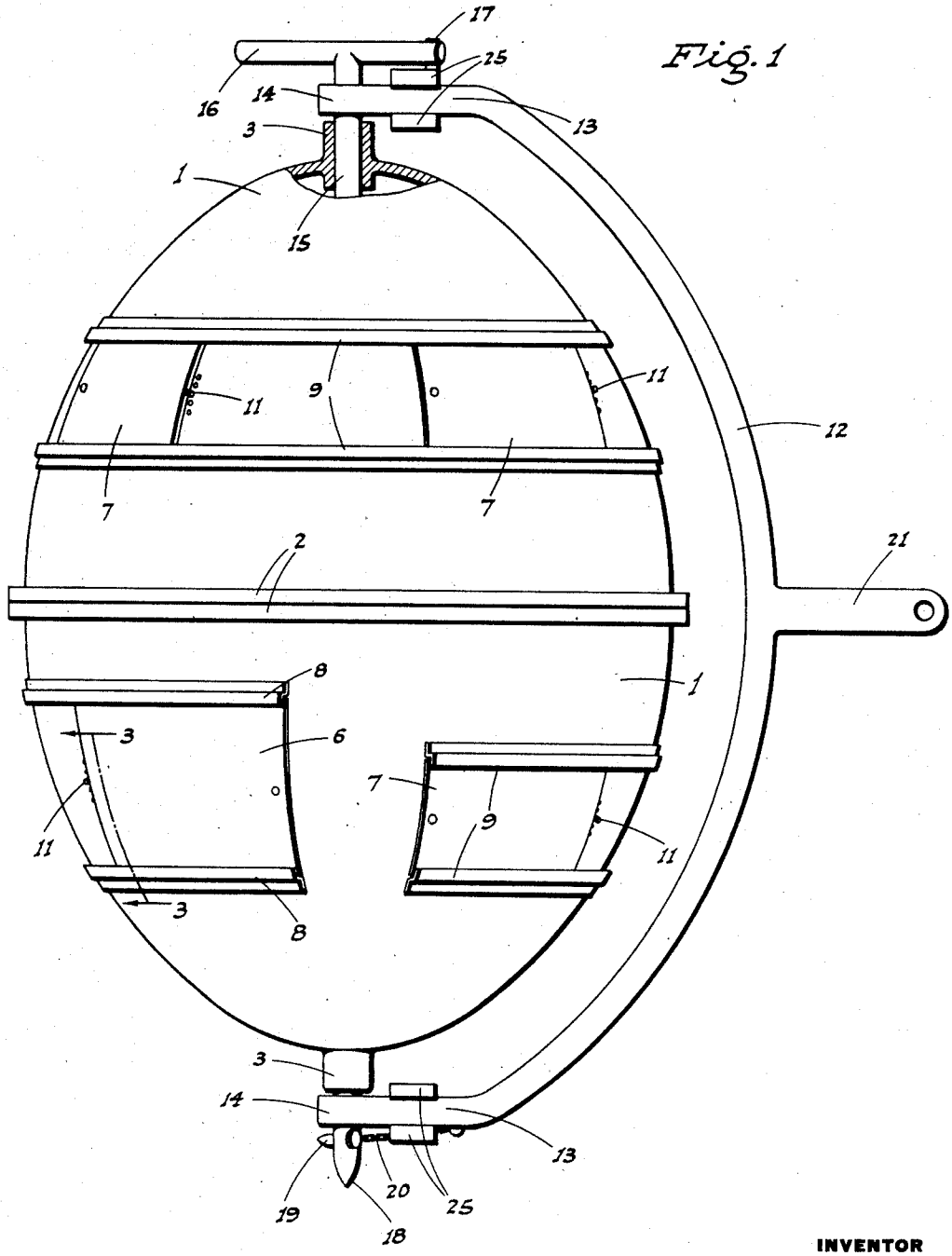
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TURRET UNIT

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Fig. 1



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Fig. 2

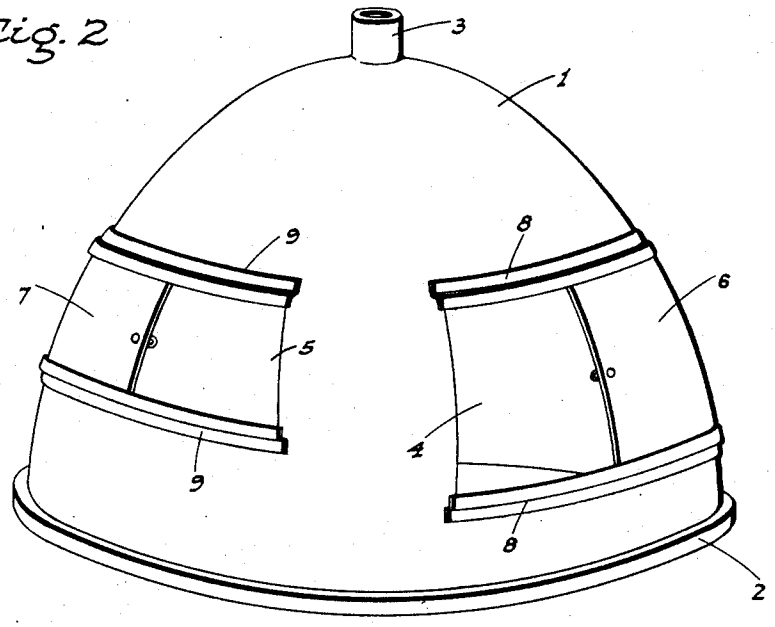


Fig. 3

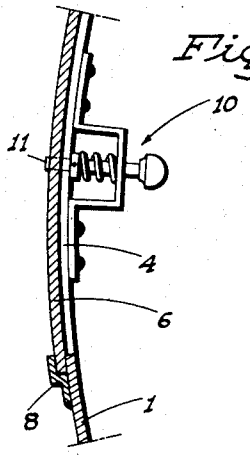


Fig. 4

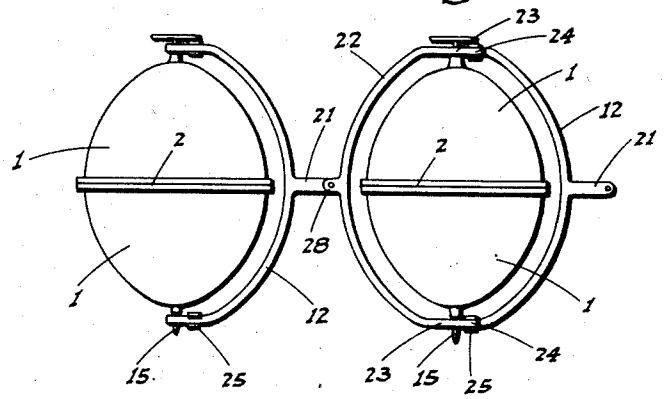
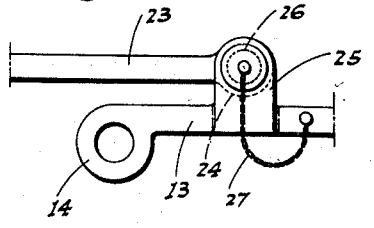


Fig. 5



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TURRET UNIT

Lee Elliott, Bakersfield, Calif.

Application January 16, 1951, Serial No. 206,165

5 Claims. (Cl. 89—36)

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This invention relates generally to military equipment.

It is a major object of the invention to provide a turret or "pill-box" which is mobile; i. e. a turret which can be readily transported to a fighting line and promptly set up for use. When in use, each turret serves as a shelter for soldiers, protecting them against enemy gunfire.

Another object of the invention is to provide a turret which, when connected in pairs and coupled to a draft yoke, can be hitched to and rolled as a unit behind a motor vehicle such as a "jeep" or truck. Thus, the turrets can be moved from place to place as conditions require.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel assembly for securing the pair of turrets, which are dome shaped, end to end within a draft yoke; the axis of the turrets extending transversely of the direction of travel, and there being road engaging rings about said turrets concentric to such axis.

An additional object of the invention is to provide means for connecting a number of the turret units in tandem for draft by a single motor vehicle.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a turret unit which is designed so that it may be easily manufactured in quantity, and without excessive cost.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a turret unit which is practical, and highly protective of military personnel therein; the unit thus being exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects are accomplished by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the turret unit as assembled for pulling behind a motor vehicle.

Fig. 2 is an elevation of one of the turrets as removed from the assembly and set up for use; the door and an adjacent firing port being shown open.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary cross section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic plan view, on reduced scale, showing a pair of the turret units as coupled together for draft in tandem relation.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary side elevation showing the manner of connecting a supplementary draft yoke to the draft arms of one turret unit for the purpose of coupling another turret unit thereto in tandem relation.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawings, the novel turret unit comprises a pair of identical, substantially dome-shaped turrets 1, fabricated of sheet metal of a gauge and character that is highly resistant to bullet penetration.

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Each dome-shaped turret 1 is formed, at its open or lower end, with a heavy-duty, radially projecting ring 2, while at the apex each turret includes a bearing sleeve 3 which extends axially of the turret.

About the face of the turret 1 and between its upper and lower ends, the same is formed with a circumferential door opening 4 and circumferential window openings or firing ports 5; the door opening 4 being adapted to be closed by sliding doors 6, while the firing ports 5 are adapted to be closed by sliding plates 7.

The sliding doors 6 and sliding plates 7 are carried in guideways 8 and 9, respectively, each such sliding door and sliding plate being adapted to be releasably locked in closed position by a spring-pressed, plunger-type latch 10, one of which is shown in detail in Fig. 3. The plunger-type latches 10 are mounted interiorly on the turret 1, and the plunger 11 of each such latch releasably projects through a corresponding hole in the related door 6 or sliding plate 7.

When each turret is in use it is seated on the ground, as in Fig. 2, serving effectively as a pill-box; firing from the same being accomplished by opening either the sliding doors 6 or sliding plates 7, as required.

For additional head room the earth within each turret 1 may be dug out in the nature of a "fox-hole" to increase head room in said turret.

The open bearing sleeve 3 affords adequate top ventilation for each turret 1 when it is in use; such sleeve also serving another purpose, as will hereinafter appear.

The radially projecting ring 2 assures against each turret 1 bogging into the ground when it is in use.

When it is desired to transport a number of the turrets 1 to a different location, a pair of such turrets are set on their sides; i. e. with their axes horizontal and with the rings 2 in abutment, in the manner shown in Fig. 1.

A draft yoke 12 is then disposed in straddling relation to the assembled turrets 1, in the manner shown in Fig. 1; such draft yoke including, at its rear ends, parallel draft arms 13 having bearing eyes 14 formed thereon.

The bearing eyes 14 are then alined with the adjacent bearing sleeves 3, and an axle 15, in the form of an elongated rod, is run axially through the turrets 1, extending at the ends through the bearing sleeves 3 and bearing eyes 14.

At one end the axle 15 is formed with a transverse handle 16 which facilitates manipulation of such axle; said handle 16 engaging against a stop 17 which projects from the adjacent draft arm 13.

At the other end the axle 15 is pointed, as at 18, to facilitate its insertion in the assembly, and a removable cross pin 19 extends through the

pointed end portion 18 of the axle to prevent its retraction when the turret unit is assembled. The removable cross pin 19 is connected to a retention chain 20.

The total axial extent of the turrets 1, including the bearing sleeves 3, is such that when the turrets are arranged end to end in the draft yoke 12, there is little end play between said sleeves and the draft arms 13, whereby the rings 2 are in close proximity, and provide—in effect—a metallic tire centrally of the ends of the assembly.

A central tongue 21 projects forwardly from the yoke 12 and is adapted to be attached to a motor vehicle whereby the described turret unit may be towed for movement from place to place.

The turrets 1 of each unit can be released from the assembly and set up quickly and readily; this being accomplished merely by removing the cross pin 19, withdrawing the axle 15, setting the draft yoke 12 aside, and then tipping the turrets to an upright position. The turrets are then immediately available for use, providing effective protection, for occupants, against enemy gunfire.

Under certain conditions it may be desirable to couple two or more of the turret units in tandem for towing by a single motor vehicle. In such event a supplementary draft yoke 22, as shown in Fig. 4, straddles the assembled turrets 1 of the foremost turret unit from the rear; such supplementary draft yoke 22 including forwardly projecting, parallel draft arms 23 having bearing eyes 24 on their forward ends. The bearing eyes 24 are engaged between pairs of upstanding attachment ears 25 which are secured on the draft arms 13, and a removable cross pin 26 engages through each set of the eyes 24 and ears 25; each cross pin 26 being maintained against loss by a retention chain 27.

The supplementary draft yoke 22 includes a central, rearwardly projecting hitch 28 to which the draft tongue 21 of the trailing turret unit is connected.

In the foregoing manner the turret units may be coupled in tandem, yet all are capable of being disassembled rapidly, as is necessary for use of the turrets.

When a number of the turret units are coupled train-like in tandem, they may be pulled behind any type of military vehicle, including tanks.

The turret unit provides for the fast and mobile transfer of metallic turrets or pill-boxes on war fronts, with the turrets capable of being set up, for use, solely by manpower, and on very short notice.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that there has been produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention, as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, the following is claimed as new and useful, and upon which Letters Patent are desired:

1. A mobile turret unit comprising a pair of initially separate turrets of substantially dome shape, said turrets being disposed with their axes horizontal and their open ends in engagement, a transverse axle, the turrets being quick-removably journaled on the axle, a draft yoke straddling the engaged turrets from the front, means quick-detachably connecting the rear ends of the yoke and axle, a central hitch on the yoke, and heavy-duty ground-engaging rings projecting radially from the turrets at said open ends, said rings being in matching abutment.

2. A mobile turret unit comprising a pair of initially separate turrets of substantially dome shape, said turrets being disposed with their axes horizontal and their open ends in engagement, a transverse axle, the turrets being quick-removably journaled on the axle, a draft yoke straddling the engaged turrets from the front, means quick-detachably connecting the rear ends of the yoke and axle, a central hitch on the yoke, the turrets having access and firing openings therein, movable closure members for said openings, and interiorly accessible means to releasably secure said closure members against movement from a closed position.

3. A mobile turret unit comprising a pair of initially separate turrets of substantially dome shape, said turrets being disposed with their axes horizontal and their open ends in engagement, bearing sleeves mounted axially at the apex of each turret, said sleeves being in alinement when the turrets are engaged at their open ends, an axle extending through the end-engaged turrets and projecting through said bearing sleeves, a draft yoke straddling the end-engaged turrets from the front, means quick-detachably connecting the rear ends of the draft yoke to corresponding end portions of the axle, and a central hitch on the yoke.

4. A mobile turret unit comprising a pair of initially separate turrets of substantially dome shape, said turrets being disposed with their axes horizontal and their open ends in engagement, bearing sleeves mounted axially at the apex of each turret, said sleeves being in alinement when the turrets are engaged at their open ends, an axle extending through the end-engaged turrets and projecting through said bearing sleeves, a draft yoke straddling the end-engaged turrets from the front, means quick-detachably connecting the rear ends of the draft yoke to corresponding end portions of the axle, said means including draft eyes on the yoke and the axle projecting through said eyes, and a central hitch on the yoke.

5. A mobile turret unit, as in claim 4, including releasable means arranged to normally prevent withdrawal of the axle from the turrets, bearing sleeves and draft eyes, a transverse handle on one end of the axle, and a stop, on the adjacent portion of the yoke, against which the handle engages.

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