C. FENTON.

TARGET FOR SMALL ARMS PRACTICE.

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1,415,823.

Patented May 9, 1922.

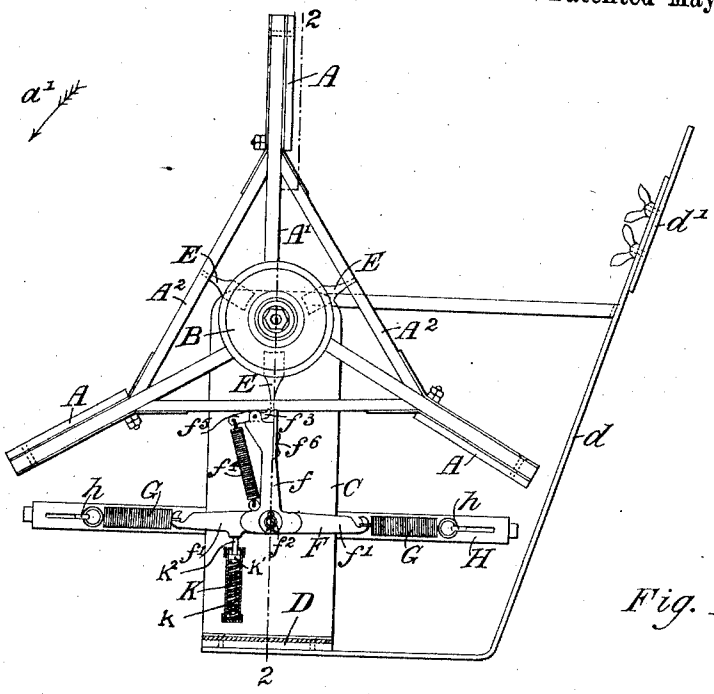


Fig. 1.

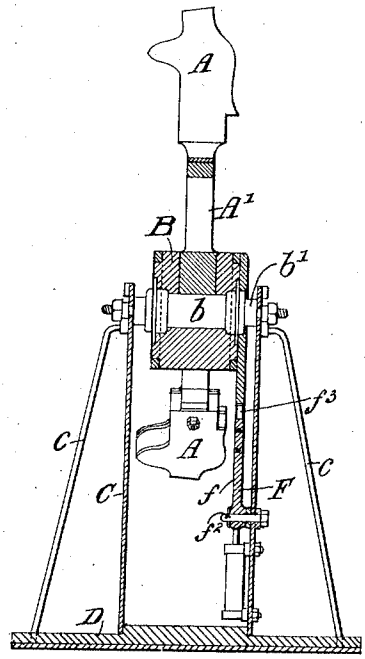


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TARGET FOR SMALL-ARMS PRACTICE.

1,415,823. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 9, 1922.

Application filed July 7, 1920. Serial No. 394,589.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CECIL FENTON, a subject of the King of Great Britain, and residing at The Uplands, Brocton, in the county of Stafford, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Targets for Small-Arms Practice, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to targets for small arms practice and consists, as broadly stated, in a plurality of target plates of which only one is exposed at a time, and when struck by a bullet disappears, another of the target plates automatically moving into its exposed position following upon the disappearance of the target plate which has been struck, and there being a constant succession of disappearances and exposures in this manner so long as each target plate which is exposed is struck by a bullet.

The target plates are mounted to be capable of turning about a fixed axis, and when one target plate is struck by a bullet, the target plates turn together about the axis, the one which has been struck disappearing and another then coming into the exposed position and remaining therein until struck, and so on continuously.

A convenient practical application of the invention is described by reference to the drawings herewith, of which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a target constructed and operating according to this invention, with the nearer standard removed; and

Figure 2 is a section taken in the planes indicated by the irregular line 2. 2. of Figure 1.

Three target plates A, each of which constitutes a target proper, and may be of any desired shape such, for instance, as representing, or roughly so, a human form, are fixed to the outer ends of arms A^1, conveniently of wood, which are fixed at their inner ends to a nave or boss B which turns about a fixed axis which is carried in the upper ends of standards C which are supported upon a bed D. Three fingers E project from the nave B in a plane which is at one side of the path in which the target plates A turn and are arranged to be opposite to the spaces, respectively, which lie between the arms A^1. An inverted T-lever F, having an upward arm f and normally horizontal arms f', is pivoted at f^2 to one of the standards C, and the arms f' are engaged, respectively, with the inner ends of springs G which are connected at their outer ends with eye-pieces h which are rigid with a bar H which is fixed to the same standard. If a target plate A, which at the time stands up vertically, is struck by a bullet, it turns the set of arms A^1 in a backward direction of rotation, that is to say in the direction of the arrow a', the force of the impact causing a finger E, which at the moment of striking was against one side of the upper end of the arm f of the T-lever F, to turn the lever, against the force of the springs G, sufficiently to allow it to free itself from the end of the arm, after which the arm is turned back again by the reaction of the springs, and this movement of rotation continues until the next succeeding finger E comes against the side of the upper end of the arm f and turns such arm to a limited extent against the force of the springs G. The fingers E, T-lever F, and the strength of the springs G, are so proportioned as to ensure that when a finger E turns down and comes against the arm f following the striking of a target plate by a bullet, it will not move the lever sufficiently to disengage itself therefrom; and, after the arm f has been moved in this manner by a finger E, it will be brought back to its normal position again by the springs G. When a finger E has come to rest against a side of the arm f another of the target plates is up in its exposed position for being hit by a bullet. There would be a tendency, however, that each finger E would be back from the arm f when the arm had come to rest, and to ensure that the finger will remain close to the arm f, pending the exposed target plate being struck by a bullet, a spring pawl f^3 is pivotally connected with the arm f, which, as a finger E is nearing the arm f is depressed by the finger, against the force of a spring f^4 which is connected at one end with the lower portion of the T-lever F and at the other end with a tail f^5 of the pawl, and as the finger comes against the arm f the pawl rises up behind it and prevents it moving back in relation to the arm.

The lever F is prevented from moving back sufficiently to release the pawl from the finger E in reacting after being struck by a finger and is quickly brought to rest, by a spring buffer K which is pressed upon by one of the arms f' as the lever turns backwards after it has been turned by a finger. The buffer K comprises a cylindri-

cal casing containing a spring coil spring k pressing upwards against a piston k' carried upon the lower end of a downwardly depending arm k^2 which is carried by one of the arms f'.

A removable steel bearing piece f^5 forms the portion of the arm f against which a finger E strikes.

The arms A′ are shown to be strengthened by braces A^2 which, in effect, constitute a frame of triangular construction.

The nave B is shown to be carried by a socket b which is provided with ball bearings and revolves upon a fixed axle b'.

Each standard C is shown as formed as a plate which is strengthened by a slanted rod c.

d is a plate which is slanted up from the bed-plate D to form a shield which prevents the apparatus being injured by a stray bullet, and d' is a plate which may be adjusted in relation to the plate d, to adjust the effective height of the shield.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A target for small arms practice, comprising a plurality of target plates, a structure mounted upon a pivot axis and carrying such plates, and means which ensure that when one of the plates is in position and is struck by a bullet, the structure is caused to turn through such an angle only that the next following plate is brought into position, the first mentioned target plate passing out of sight.

2. A target for small arms practice, comprising a plurality of target plates, a structure mounted upon a pivot axis and carrying such plates, a projection on said structure and a moveable abutment with which said projection is adapted to engage to limit the turning movement whereby when one of the plates is in position and is struck by a bullet said abutment permits the structure to turn through such an angle that the said plate passes out of sight and the next following plate is brought into position.

3. A target for small arms practice, comprising a plurality of target plates, a structure mounted upon a pivot axis and carrying such plates, a projection on said structure and a spring supported abutment with which said projection is adapted to engage, but which is capable of yielding under the impact caused by a bullet striking a plate, allowing the projection to pass out of engagement, whereby when one of the plates is in position and is struck by a bullet said abutment permits the structure to turn through such an angle that said plate passes out of sight and the next following plate is brought accurately into position.

4. A target for small arms practice, comprising a plurality of target plates, a structure mounted upon a pivot axis and carrying such plates, a projection on said structure and a spring supported abutment with which said projection is adapted to engage but which is capable of yielding under the impact caused by a bullet striking a plate allowing the projection to pass out of engagement, and a spring pawl with which the projection interlatches as it nearly approaches the abutment whereby, when one of the plates is in position and is struck by a bullet said abutment permits the structure to turn through such an angle that said plate passes out of sight and the next following plate is brought accurately into position, and prevented from turning back in relation to the abutment.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name this 14th day of June, 1920, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CECIL FENTON.

Witnesses:
THOMAS GIBSON,
FRANK A. HUGHES.