June 17, 1924. 1,497,794

E. W. SAUNDERS

STEADYING DEVICE FOR PISTOLS

Filed Oct. 12, 1923 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

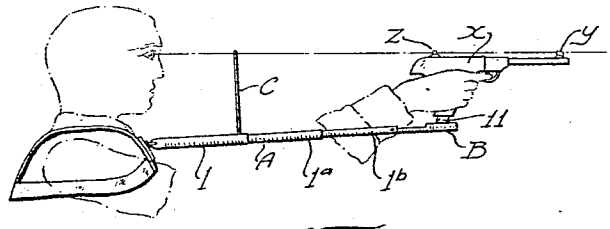

Fig. 1.

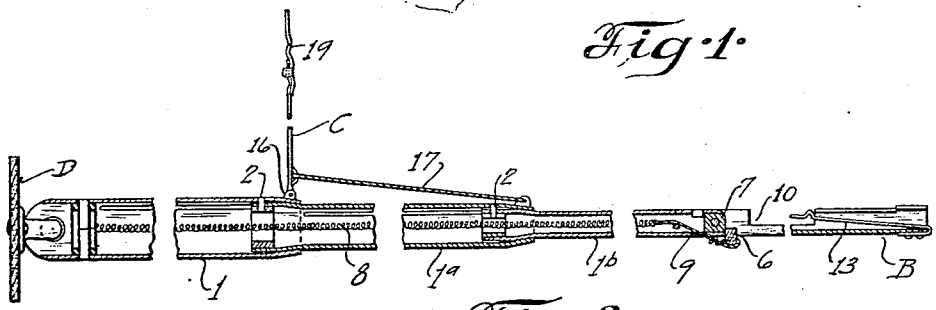

Fig. 2.

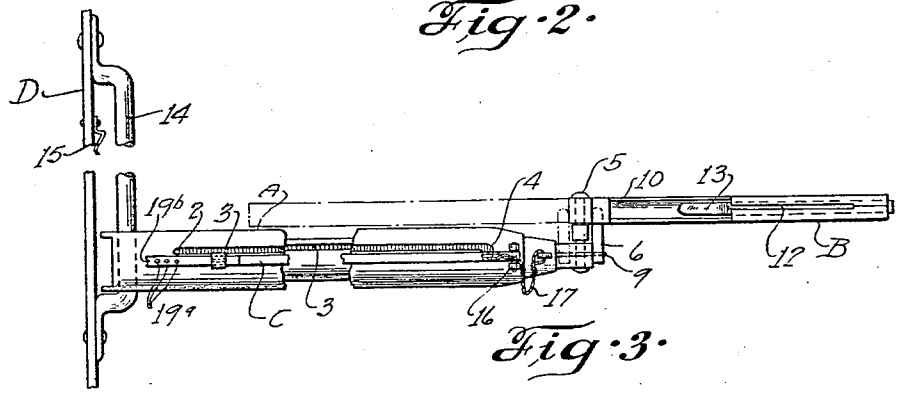

Fig. 3.

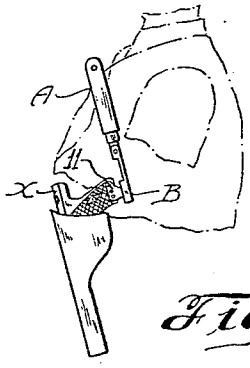

Fig. 4.

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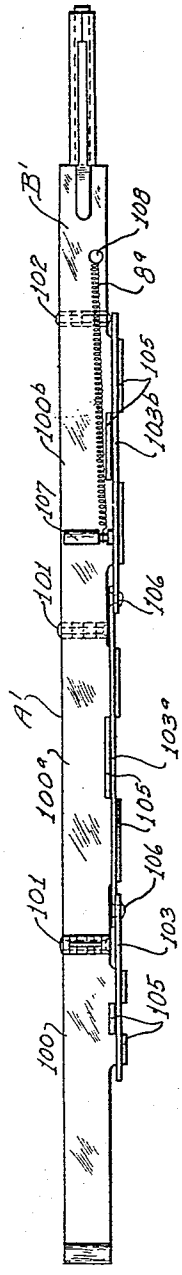

Fig. 5.

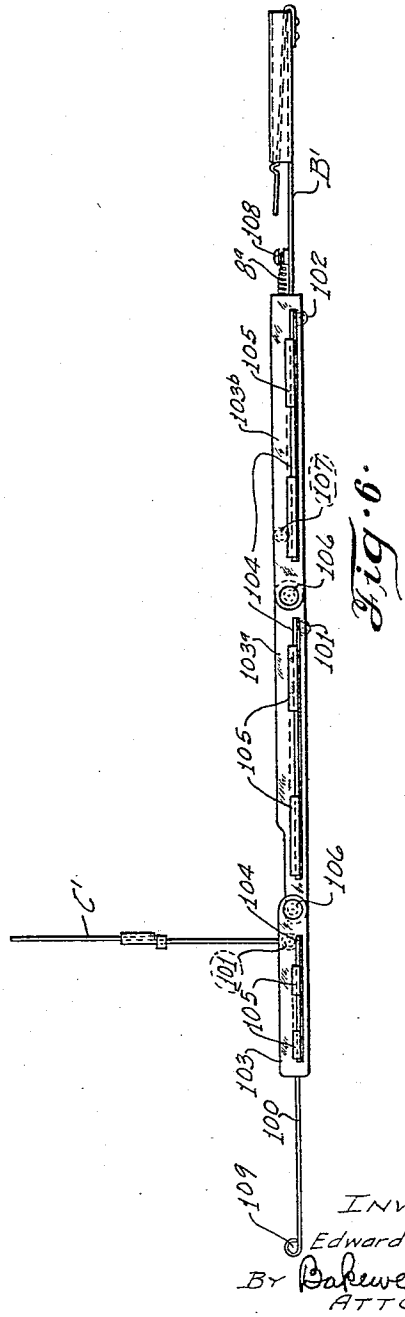

Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD W. SAUNDERS, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

STEADYING DEVICE FOR PISTOLS.

Application filed October 12, 1923. Serial No. 668,131.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD W. SAUNDERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Steadying Devices for Pistols, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to devices of the kind that are used for steadying a pistol or other fire arm of a similar nature while it is being aimed and fired.

The main object of my invention is to provide a device that will convert a pistol into a fire arm which is practically as efficient as a rifle.

Another object is to provide a pistol steadying device which is so constructed that the user can hold his head in an upright position with the pistol grasped in one of his hands in the same manner as a pistol is usually held while it is being aimed at an object.

Another object is to provide a pistol steadying device that is adapted to be braced against the chest of the user and which is so constructed that it tends to hold the barrel of the pistol stationary and in approximately horizontal alignment with the eye of the user.

Another object is to provide a pistol steadying device of the character just referred to, which is also equipped with a back sight that is arranged in close proximity to the eye of the user, thus producing a relatively long sight base, and consequently, enabling the user to aim the pistol accurately and hold it steady when the trigger is pulled.

And still another object is to provide a collapsible steadying device for pistols that can be folded compactly when it is not in use and which can be moved into its extended condition and locked, during the operation of raising the pistol into firing position. Other objects and desirable features of my invention will be hereinafter pointed out.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a side elevational view, illustrating my improved pistol steadying device arranged in operative position.

Figure 2 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional view of said device, showing it in its extended condition.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of said device, partly broken away, showing the main member of the device collapsed and the back sight folded down.

Figure 4 is a view, illustrating the device collapsed and mounted on the body of the user.

Figure 5 is a top plan view, illustrating another form of my invention; and

Figure 6 is a side elevational view of the device shown in Figure 5.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate the preferred form of my invention, A designates a member that is adapted to be arranged in a substantially horizontal position with its rear end braced against the chest of the person using the device, B designates a pistol support on said member located adjacent the front end of same and so constructed that it will serve as a support for a pistol *x* whose barrel is arranged in substantially horizontal alignment with the eye of the user, and C designates a back sight mounted on the member A adjacent the rear end of said member and so constructed that a sight opening in same can be arranged in approximately horizontal alignment with the front and rear sights *y* and *z* on the barrel of the pistol. The member A, the pistol support B and the back sight C on said member can be formed in various ways without departing from the spirit of my invention, but I prefer to form said parts in such a manner that they can be collapsed and folded compactly enough to produce a device of comparatively small dimensions that can be suspended from a breast piece D connected by straps or other suitable means to the chest of the user.

One convenient way of constructing the member A is to form it from a number of sections 1, 1^a and 1^b of light-weight metal tubing arranged in telescopic relation with each other and provided with interlocking devices that hold the different sections in fixed relation with each other when the member A is extended, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, such, for example, as pins 2 on the end section 1^b and intermediate section 1^a that project outwardly through elongated slots 3 in the intermediate section 1^a and inner section 1, each of said elongated slots having a lateral offset 4 at one end of same, so as to form a bayonet joint. If desired, the inner end of the pistol support B can be pivotally connected to the front end of the member A in such a way that it can be folded back and arranged in parallel rela-

tion with the end section of the member A at one side of same, as shown in broken lines in Figure 3, when the device is stored away and not mounted on the body of the user. In the form of my invention shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 the end section 1^b of the member A is provided with a laterally-projecting pin 5 and the pistol support B is pivotally mounted on said pin at such a point that it can be folded back lengthwise of the end section 1^b at one side of same, as shown in broken lines in Figure 3. When the pistol support B is swung forwardly into its extended position a stop 6 thereon strikes against an abutment block 7 arranged at the extreme front end of the end section 1^b of the member A, and thus maintains the pistol support B in proper relation with the member A. Preferably, a coiled contractile spring 8 is used for holding the stop 6 on the pistol support B in intimate engagement with the abutment block 7 when the support B is extended, said spring being arranged inside of the member A and secured at its front end to a cable 9 or the like that is fastened to the stop 6. The opposite end of the spring 8 is connected to the rear section 1 of the member A, and as said spring is normally in tension, it causes the sections of the member A to collapse or telescope one within the other as soon as the pins 2 on said sections are disengaged from the lateral offset end portions 4 of the slots 3 in which said pins are positioned.

The pistol support B may be constructed in various ways, so long as it is of such design that a pistol can be easily connected to or disconnected from same. In the form of my invention illustrated in Figures 1 to 3 the pistol support B is constructed from a tubular member having its upper side cut away or notched at 10, so as to permit an attaching device 11 on the lower end of the grip or handle piece of the pistol to be inserted in the notch 10 of the support B and moved longitudinally of said support towards the front end of same, said support being provided in its upper side with an elongated slot 12 that communicates with the notch or cut out portion 10 and the connecting device 11 on the pistol being of such form that when it is inserted in the slot 12 and moved longitudinally of same into engagement with the inner end of said slot, the pistol will be held in substantially rigid relation with the support B. As shown in Figure 2, the pistol support B is provided with a resilient retaining element 13 that prevents the connecting device 11 on the hand grip of the pistol from accidentally sliding out of the slot 12 in the pistol support B.

The breast piece D, previously referred to, is preferably combined with the member A in such a way that the member A can be swung upwardly and downwardly with relation to said breast piece, but will be held at right angles to said breast piece during the operation of aiming the pistol. One convenient way of accomplishing this desirable result is to provide the breast piece D with a horizontally-disposed bar 14 that passes through a hole in the end section 1 of the member A which is of the same diameter as said bar. When the device is not in use the member A will hang downwardly from the bar 14, as shown in Figure 4, and when it is desired to aim the pistol the member A can be extended and swung upwardly on the bar 14 into a horizontal position. By exerting sidewise pressure on the pistol the member A will shift transversely of the bar 14, without, however, affecting the right-angular relationship between said member and bar. When the device is not in use the member A is prevented from sliding back and forth on the bar 14 by means of a resilient catch 15 on the breast piece D that snaps into engagement with the end of the member A when said member is moved transversely of the bar 14 into one of its extreme transverse positions.

The back sight C can be constructed in various ways, but it is preferably pivotally connected at its lower end to a lug or bracket 16 on the top side of the inner section 1 of the member A and is joined by means of a cable 17 or other suitable flexible device to a bracket or lug 18 on the intermediate section 1^a of the member A. Accordingly, when the sections of the member A are extended the cable 17 will swing the back sight C upwardly into its operative position, as shown in Figure 2, thereby causing the upper portion of the back sight to be automatically positioned between the eye of the user and the sights on the pistol x. The upper portion 19 of the back sight is preferably constructed in such a way that it can be raised and lowered, and said upper portion is provided with a plurality of sight openings 19^a of different sizes and an upper notch sight 19^b, as shown in Figure 3, anyone of which can be used during the operation of sighting the pistol by simply raising or lowering the adjustable upper portion 19 of the back sight.

When my improved pistol steadying device is not in use it is small and compact enough to make it practicable to suspend it from a breast piece secured to the wearer's body. When it is desired to use the device, the user grasps the handle of the pistol and moves it downwardly, thereby causing the sections of the member A to be extended. Said member A is then swung upwardly into a horizontal position, and during this operation the user turns or rotates the handle of the pistol slightly so as to cause the pins 2 on the sections 1^a and 1^b of the member A to be arranged in the laterally-

projecting portions 4 of the slots in the member A in which said pins slide. The above operations cause the back sight C to swing upwardly into its operative position, and the pistol can then be aimed at the object being fired at by simply swinging the member A upwardly or downwardly on the rod 14 as an axis and sliding said member on said rod transversely of the breast piece, so as to bring the back sight C and the sights y and z on the pistol into longitudinal alignment with the eye of the user.

A pistol steadying device of the construction above described enables a user who has become accustomed to same to shoot a pistol with almost the same accuracy as a rifle, owing to the fact that the user can hold his head in an upright position with his eye in comparatively close proximity to the back sight C, the pistol being firmly supported by the pistol support B to which the pistol is connected. The fact that the pistol is non-rotatably mounted on a support B that extends parallel to a member A which is braced against the chest of the user and the fact that the said pistol support is mounted on the member A in such a manner that a rearward pull on the trigger of the pistol does not disturb the horizontal elevation of the pistol, greatly simplifies the aiming operation, as the only thing the user has to guard against, after the object has been sighted, is lateral movement or transverse movement of the pistol. In addition to the desirable features above pointed out, my device reduces the liability of a soldier losing his pistol when he is in action, due to dropping the pistol while riding on a horse, owing to the fact that the pistol is securely connected to a device which is fastened to the soldier's body.

While I prefer to construct the device in the manner previously described, it is not essential that the member A be formed of a plurality of tubular elements arranged in telescopic relation, or that the various sections of the member A be locked together by bayonet joints, for, if desired, the device can consist of a jointed member A′ composed of three flat bars 100, 100^a and 100^b pivotally connected together by hinges 101 in such a way that they can be arranged in superimposed relation, the end section 100^b having a pistol support B′ pivotally connected thereto by a hinge 102, as shown in Figure 5. In order to hold the various sections of the member A′ rigid when said member is in its extended condition, locking bars 103, 103^a and 103^b are associated with the sections 100, 100^a and 100^b, respectively, of the member A′. Said locking bars are arranged at right angles to the bars 100, 100^a and 100^b at one side of same and are provided with elongated slots designated by the reference character 104 that receive laterally-projecting lugs or extensions on the sections of the member A′, thereby causing said locking bars to be held in parallel relationship with said sections. Said lugs are provided with upturned ends designated by the reference character 105 that prevent the locking bars from becoming detached from the sections of the member A′ with which they co-operate, and said locking bars are pivotally connected together by hinges 106. When it is desired to collapse the member A′, the locking bars 103, 103^a and 103^b are moved longitudinally of said member, so as to bring the hinges or joints 106 of said bars into transverse alignment with the hinges 101 of the member A′, thereby permitting the sections 100, 100^a and 100^b of said member to be folded one upon the other. After the sections of the member A′ have been unfolded so as to extend said member, the locking bars are moved longitudinally so as to arrange the hinges or joints 106 of same out of transverse alignment with the hinges 101 of the member A′. In order that the locking bars will move automatically into position to lock the sections of the member A′ when said sections are unfolded or extended, a spring 8^a is connected at one end to a pin 107 on one of the locking bars and at its opposite end to a pin 108 on the pistol support B′, said spring being under tension when the member A′ is collapsed, so that it will be in readiness to move the locking bars into operative position and maintain them in such a position as soon as the sections of the member A′ have been unfolded. As shown in Figures 5 and 6, the inner section 100 of the member A′ is provided with an eye 109 that is adapted to be slidingly mounted on a horizontally-disposed bar or rod carried by a breast piece that is strapped or otherwise connected to the body of the wearer. When the device is not in use, the member A′ is maintained in its collapsed or folded condition and suspended from the breast piece on the body of the wearer, as shown in Figure 4. The pistol support B′ is provided with a slotted tubular member that is adapted to receive a connecting device on the lower end of the handle or hand grip of the pistol, and the section 100 of the member A′ is preferably provided with a back sight C′ that can be folded flat against said section 100 when the device is not in use and which can be arranged in an upright position at substantially right angles to said section, as shown in Figure 6, during the operation of aiming the pistol.

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

1. A pistol steadying device, comprising an extensible member that is adapted to be braced against the body of the user and pro-

vided with means for holding a pistol in a position substantially on a line with the eye of the user, a collapsible back sight on said member, and means for automatically moving said back sight into an operative position when said member is extended.

2. A pistol steadying device, comprising a member adapted to be braced against the chest of the user, and means for holding a pistol in approximately horizontal alignment with the user's eye, said member being composed of a plurality of telescoped sections, a spring that tends to hold said sections telescoped, and devices for holding said sections in rigid relation with each other when said member is extended.

3. A pistol steadying device, comprising a breast piece provided with a rigid supporting member arranged transversely of the user's breast, and a pistol supporting member mounted on said supporting member in such a way that it can be raised and lowered and moved longitudinally of said supporting member transversely with relation to the user's breast.

4. A pistol steadying device, comprising a breast piece provided with a horizontally-disposed bar, and a swinging member slidingly mounted on said bar and provided with means for holding a pistol in approximately horizontal alignment with the user's eye.

5. A pistol steadying device, comprising a breast piece provided with a transversely-disposed bar, a collapsible member pivotally mounted on said bar in such a way that it can be adjusted lengthwise of same, and a support on said member provided with means for enabling a pistol to be detachably connected to same.

6. A pistol steadying device, comprising a member adapted to be braced against the chest of the user and composed of a plurality of tubular sections arranged in telescopic relation, means for rigidly locking said sections together when said member is extended, and a pistol support pivotally connected to said member in such a way that it can be folded lengthwise of same.

7. A pistol steadying device, comprising a member adapted to be braced against the chest of the user and composed of a plurality of tubular sections arranged in telescopic relation, means for rigidly locking said sections together when said member is extended. a pistol support pivotally connected to said member in such a way that it can be folded lengthwise of same, and a back sight pivotally mounted on one section of said member and connected with another section of said member in such a way that it will move automatically into an operative position when said member is extended.

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