H. S. WAGNER.

GUN SLING.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 23, 1919.

1,332,088.

Patented Feb. 24, 1920.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

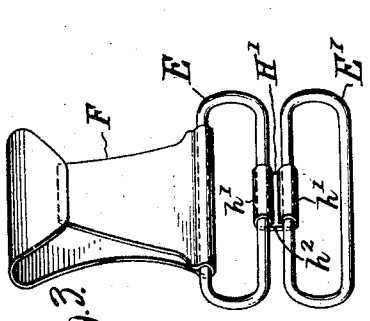


Fig. 3.

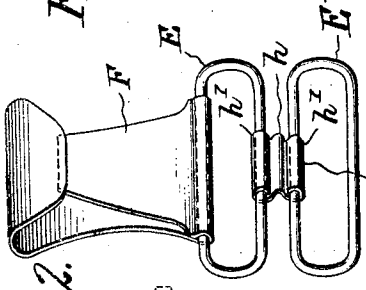


Fig. 2.

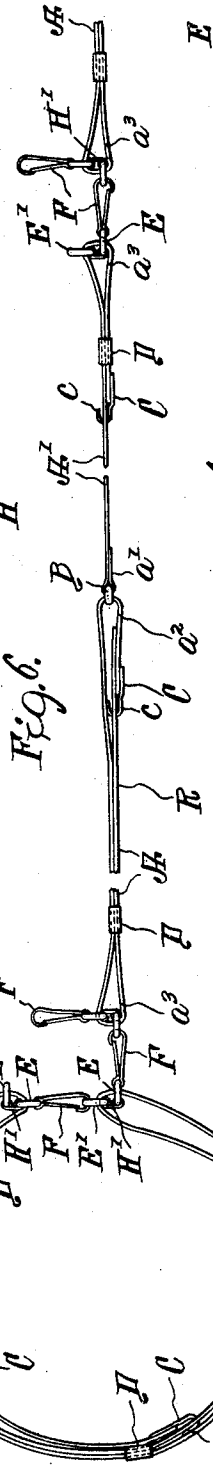


Fig. 6.

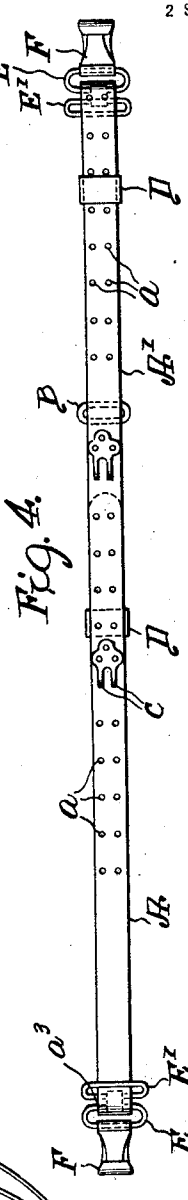


Fig. 4.

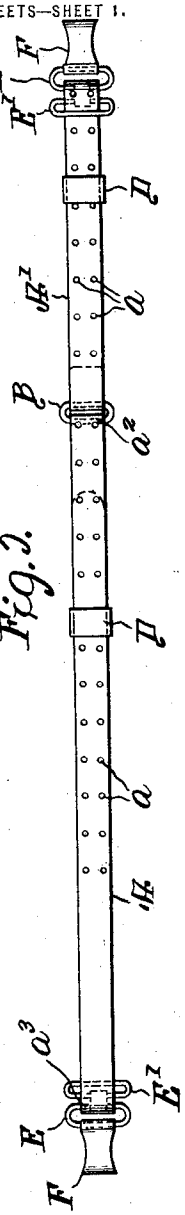


Fig. 5.

Fig. 1.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

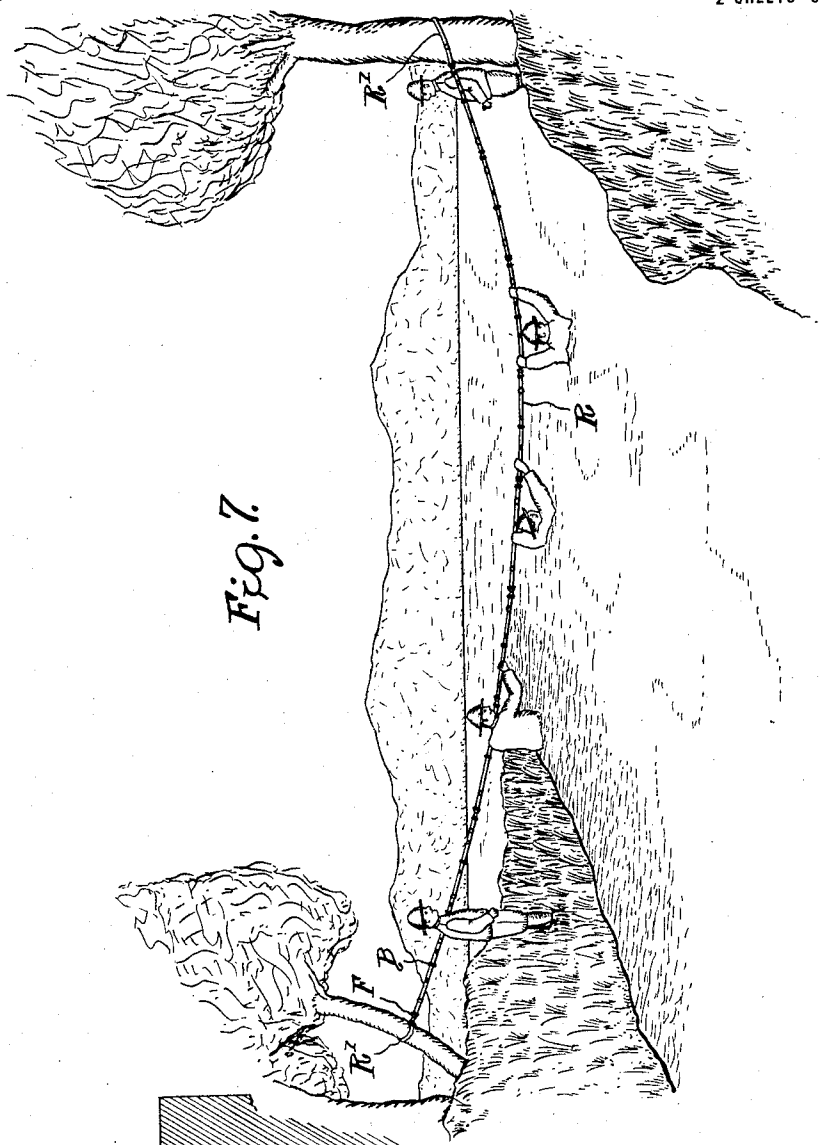


Fig. 7.

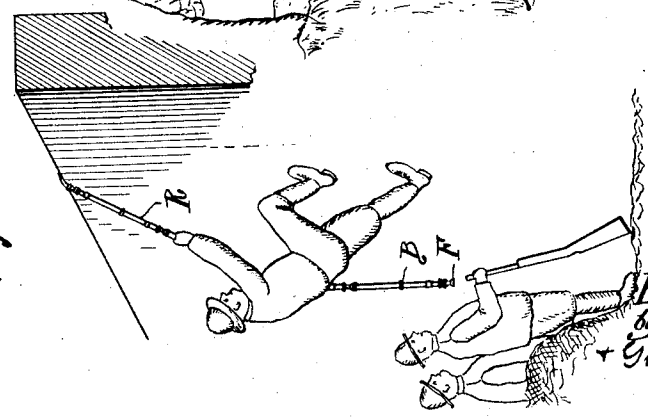


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GUN-SLING.

1,332,088. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 24, 1920.

Application filed July 23, 1919. Serial No. 312,822.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY S. WAGNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mount Airy, Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gun-Slings; 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.

My invention is intended to provide a gun sling for use with small arms, adapted primarily for the regular and ordinary use as a gun sling which may be quickly attached to or removed from the piece, but adapted secondarily to be quickly detached from the piece, and when so disconnected to form one link or length in an extended chain or rope which may be used for any one or more of the various purposes hereinafter described; or for other purposes for which a long line, or rope, or chain is ordinarily required in military or other operations in which the soldier is likely to be engaged.

It has been found in practice that in scaling walls a line of some sort is especially desirable, and also in crossing streams that are not fordable a life line is especially desirable; while such a line is also desirable for rescuing people who have broken through the ice in deep water, or persons carried away by the current in the water; or at times as a hauling line to assist in pulling a wagon or piece of artillery out of the mud, or over obstructions.

An a general rule when most needed such lines are least available, and it is the purpose of this invention to provide a sling designed so that a number of these slings may be quickly disconnected from their respective rifles and hooked together to form a long and strong line eminently suited for the purposes hereinbefore described.

My invention will be more fully understood after reference to the accompanying drawings, in which like parts are indicated by similar reference symbols throughout the several views, and in which:—

Figure 1 shows the gun sling as applied to an ordinary infantryman's rifle.

Fig. 2 is a view on a large scale of a snap hook, with links adapted to be connected to either end of the complete gun sling.

Fig. 3 shows a modification of the device shown in Fig. 2, in which the links are connected together in a somewhat different way.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the complete gun sling as detached from the gun, the parts being shown on a larger scale than in Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 shows an inverted plan view of the same gun sling on the same scale as shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 shows three gun slings connected together to form a hauling line, and a loop adapted to go around a tree, or post, or the body of a man.

Fig. 7 shows a series of gun slings used to form a life line to enable the soldier to safely cross a stream; and

Fig. 8 shows a series of gun slings connected together to form a scaling rope to assist the soldier in climbing over a wall.

As constructed according to my invention, each gun sling preferably consists of two straps A and A′ connected together by a link B, which is permanently attached to the end a' of one of the straps, such as A′, and the contiguous strap is rove through said link and the said link engages in a loop or bight a^2 of said strap, as shown most clearly in Fig. 6.

Each strap is provided with a series of perforations a to engage the tongues or claws c of the hooks C secured to the free end of each strap, so that each strap may be lengthened or shortened as desired.

In order to secure greater strength I preferably provide the hooks with two claws c to engage two adjacent holes in the corresponding strap, and the straps may also be provided with a sliding collar D so as to hold the parts in a more compact condition.

Links engage in the loops a^3 formed at the end of each of the straps, and connected to these links E, preferably hinged thereto, are the snap hooks F adapted to engage the usual rings G attached to the piece P, shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

Attached to these links E, as by means of the hinges H in Fig. 2, or H′ in Fig. 3, is a secondary link E′, through which the strap A or A′, as the case may be, also passes, so that the two links E and E′ and the corresponding snap hook F may be slid together backward or forward in the loop a^3 of the corresponding strap.

The two links E and E′ may be connected together in any convenient way, as by the strap of metal H, shown in Fig. 3, arched

in the center as at h and bent over at the ends as at h', thus forming a sheet metal hinge; or a similar hinge may be formed as shown in Fig. 3, where the plate H′ has its center portion h^2 plain and the ends h' bent over to engage the links E and E′, thus also forming a metal hinge. The purpose of this connection is merely to couple the links together, as no special strain is thrown on the hinge as will be hereinafter shown.

For ordinary purposes, the gun sling is applied to the piece as shown in Fig. 1, the snap hooks F engaging the corresponding rings G on the piece, and when the piece is not hung from the shoulder by the sling the two straps are doubled as shown in Fig. 1. When it is desired to use these straps as a sling for the piece, one or both ends of the strap are let out to the desired distance by disengaging the hooks C, and hooking them back in the corresponding strap.

In order to form a line of the gun slings for the various purposes stated, or for other purposes, the snap hooks F are disengaged from the piece, and the straps A and A′ being extended to substantially their maximum length, the hook F of one strap is engaged in the free link E′ of the adjacent strap to form a line R, and there may be an indefinite number of these slings hooked together in the manner shown to form a line of any desired length.

If desired to form a loop R′ in the end of said line, as shown in Fig. 6, the hook of the end strap may be caused to engage the free link E′ at the opposite end of said strap, thus forming a loop adapted to go around the body of a soldier, or around a tree, stump, post, or the like, which will thus form an anchor for this end of the line, the other end of the line so formed being free, or connected to a fixed object, such as a tree, shown in Fig. 7.

With troops on the march, if a stream that cannot be forded is encountered, it will be a simple matter for the soldiers to uncouple their respective gun slings, hook them together to form a rope R in the manner shown in Fig. 7, and then for a good swimmer to swim across with the end of the rope to some fixed object at the other side of the stream, and thus form a life line R, as shown in Fig. 7, by the use of which the entire body of troops may with safety and convenience cross the stream.

In a similar way if it is desired to scale a wall, a soldier may be helped over the wall, carrying a line of gun slings so formed, and after fastening the end of the line at the other side of the wall, a body of troops may use this line in scaling the wall, as shown in Fig. 8.

In a similar way a line may be quickly formed and thrown or carried to a drowning person; or tow lines may be provided for towing small boats; or hauling lines for use with wagons, wheel barrows, or the like.

Since a rifleman should always have his gun sling along with his rifle, a group of riflemen carry with them a sufficient number of gun slings which, when put together end to end and extended as described, would form a line of considerable length.

These gun slings, being made to stand rough usage and continuous wear, are ordinarily made of stout leather, each capable of sustaining a weight of several hundred pounds, which would be quite sufficient for the ordinary purposes of my invention; but if a line of extraordinary strength is desired, it would be a very simple matter to make the gun slings of somewhat stronger material.

While I have referred to the two component parts of this sling A and A′ as straps, they may be made either of leather, or heavy textile fabric, or any other suitable flexible material.

It will also be obvious that various changes in the construction and arrangement of parts might be made which could be used without departing from the spirit of my invention; and I do not mean to limit the invention to such details except as particularly pointed out in the claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A gun sling comprising two straps linked together at their abutting ends, and each provided with a loop formed in the free end thereof, pairs of links connected together and slidably mounted on said straps at the looped portions thereof, and snap hooks having their heels secured to one link only of each pair, leaving the other link of said pair normally free, substantially as described.

2. A gun sling comprising two straps with a link connecting same, one of said straps being secured to said link and the other strap being rove through said link, and each strap being provided with a series of perforations therethrough, hooks secured to the free ends of said straps and having claws adapted to engage in said perforations thus forming a loop in each of said straps at the end thereof opposite said connecting link, pairs of links mounted, respectively, over said straps within said loops and sliding freely on said straps, the two links of each pair being connected together, and snap hooks having their heels secured, respectively, to one link of each pair, leaving the other link of said pair normally free, substantially as described.

3. A line made of a series of gun slings connected together, each sling comprising

two straps linked together at their abutting ends, and each provided with a loop formed in the free end thereof, pairs of links connected together and slidably mounted on said straps at the looped portions thereof, and snap hooks having their heels secured to one link only of each pair, the other link of each pair being engaged by the snap hook of the contiguous gun sling, substantially as described.

4. A line made of a series of gun slings connected together, each sling comprising two straps with a link connecting same, one of said straps being secured to said link and the other strap being rove through said link, and each strap being provided with a series of perforations therethrough, hooks secured to the free ends of said straps and having claws adapted to engage in said perforations thus forming a loop in each of said straps at the end thereof opposite said connecting link, pairs of links mounted, respectively, over said straps within said loops and sliding freely on said straps, the two links of each pair being connected together, and snap hooks having their heels secured, respectively, to one link of each pair, the other link of each pair being engaged by the contiguous gun sling, substantially as described.

5. A line made of a series of gun slings connected together, each sling having a loop formed in each end thereof, pairs of links connected together and slidably mounted on said slings at the looped portions thereof, and snap hooks having their heels secured to one link only of each pair, the other link of each pair being engaged by the snap hook of the contiguous gun sling, substantially as described.

6. A line made of a series of gun slings having a loop in each end thereof, pairs of links mounted, respectively, over said slings within said loops and sliding freely thereon, the two links of each pair being connected together, and snap hooks having their heels secured, respectively, to one link of each pair, the other link of each pair being engaged by the contiguous gun sling, substantially as described.

7. A gun sling having a loop at each end thereof, pairs of links mounted, respectively, over said slings within said loops and sliding freely thereon, the two links of each pair being connected together, and snap hooks having their heels secured, respectively, to one link of each pair, leaving the other link of said pair normally free, substantially as described.

HENRY S. WAGNER.