

March 20, 1945.

L. A. POPE

2,371,775

BLACKOUT FLASHLIGHT

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Fig.1.

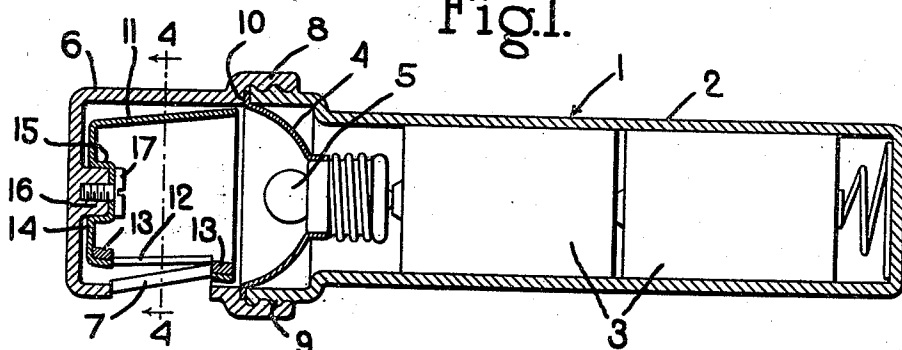


Fig.2.

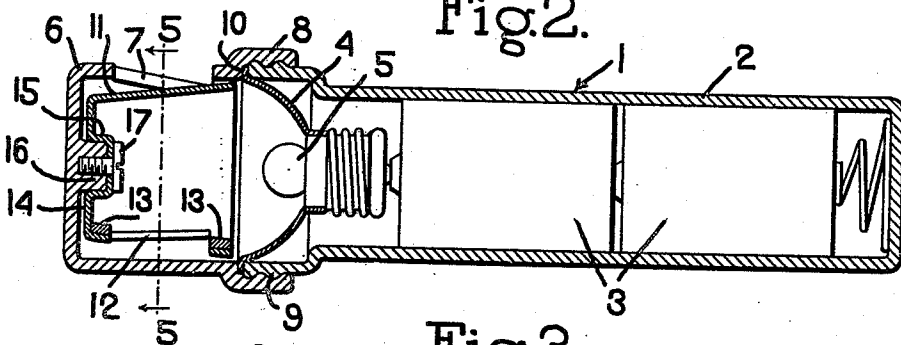


Fig.3.

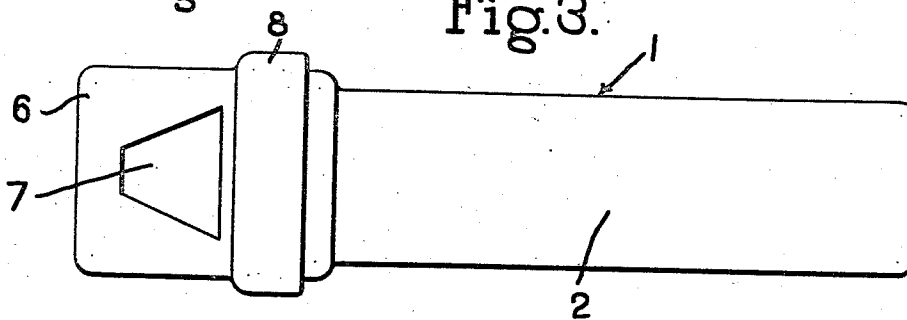


Fig.4.

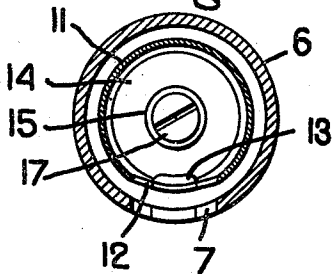
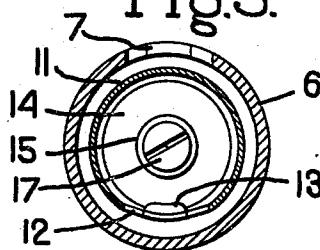


Fig.5.



Inventor.
Louis A. Pope
by *Herard Smith & Tennant.*
Attys.

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BLACK-OUT FLASHLIGHT

Louis A. Pope, Melrose, Mass.

Application October 30, 1942, Serial No. 463,923

2 Claims. (Cl. 240—10.6)

This invention relates to flashlights and has for its object to provide a novel flashlight for blackout use which is so constructed that light from the flashlight can be projected in a predetermined direction only, regardless of the position in which the flashlight is held, thereby making it impossible for the person holding the flashlight to either accidentally or intentionally project a beam of light therefrom in any other than the predetermined direction.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel flashlight which is provided with a hood having an opening through which the light is projected and which is also provided with gravity-actuated means to maintain the opening closed except when it is directed in said predetermined direction.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a flashlight of the above type with a gravity-actuated shutter located within the hood and which operates by gravity to prevent light from being projected through the opening of the hood except when said opening is directed in said predetermined direction.

For ordinary blackout use, the flashlight will be constructed so as to project the light downwardly only, so that a person using the flashlight may be able to illuminate the surface on which he is walking without having any of the light projected upwardly, but if the user of the flashlight accidentally or intentionally moves the flashlight into any other position than that in which it directs the light downwardly, the gravity actuated shutter will close the opening in the hood and thus cut off further projection of light from the flashlight.

In order to give an understanding of my invention, I have illustrated herein a selected embodiment thereof which will now be described after which the novel features will be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal section through a flashlight embodying my invention showing it held in an operative position in which the light from the bulb is directed downwardly.

Fig. 2 is a similar sectional view showing the position of the parts when the opening through which the light is projected is closed by the shutter.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the flashlight.

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4, Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5, Fig. 2.

In the drawing, 1 indicates the body of the flashlight which comprises the usual casing 2

containing the cells or batteries 3 and also containing the usual reflector 4 carrying the bulb 5. These parts may be such as are usually found in flashlights and form no part of the present invention.

The flashlight herein shown is provided with a hood 6 which is secured to the casing 2 at the bulb end thereof, said hood 6 being closed at its outer end but being provided with an opening 7 in one side through which light may be projected.

This hood may be secured to the casing 2 in any suitable way, and as herein shown, I propose to provide the hood with a base portion 8 which is interiorly screw-threaded and is adapted to be screw-threaded to the exterior screw threads 9 with which the flashlight casings are usually provided for receiving the retaining cap by which the lens is held in place. In the present construction this hood is provided with an interior shoulder 10 adapted to engage the edge of the reflector 4 and to hold said reflector clamped against the end of the casing.

Situated within the hood 6 is a shutter which is adapted to prevent light from being projected through said opening 7 except when the flashlight is held so that said opening is directed in a predetermined direction.

As stated above for ordinary blackout use, such predetermined direction will be downwardly so that the flashlight can be used to illuminate the path in which the user of the flashlight is walking, but cannot be used to project light in any other direction than downwardly.

This shutter 11 has a general cylindrical shape and is shown as pivotally mounted on the hood 6 so as to rotate freely about the axis of the flashlight. This shutter is shown as provided with an opening 12 in one side, and it is provided with a weight or weights 13 on said side which are sufficient to maintain the shutter in the position shown in the drawing with the opening 12 therein directed downwardly regardless of the position of the casing.

The shutter 11 is open at its end adjacent the bulb 5 and is shown as closed at the other end 14. This closed end 14 is provided with a bearing portion 15 which fits around a hub or boss 16 with which the hood 6 is provided, said shutter being retained on the boss by a screw 17 which extends through an aperture in the shutter end 14 and screws into said boss. This provides a construction in which the shutter is rotatably carried by the hood so as to have free rotation about the axis of the flashlight. However, because the shut-

ter is weighted as shown at 13, said shutter will be held by gravity in the position shown in the drawing with its opening 12 directed downwardly.

When the flashlight is held in the position shown in Fig. 1 with the opening 7 of the hood on the underside thereof, said opening will then register with the opening 12 of the shutter and light from the bulb 5 will be projected through the registering openings 12 and 7 and directed downwardly.

If the person holding the flashlight turns it either accidentally or intentionally so that the opening 7 of the hood is directed upwardly or in an upward direction as shown in Fig. 2, the projection of light from the bulb will be cut off, because during the turning movement of the casing from the position shown in Fig. 1 to that shown in Fig. 2, the weights 13 of the shutter will maintain the shutter in a position with its opening 12 directed downwardly, and the shutter will, therefore, cut off the light from the upwardly directed opening 7 of the hood.

In order to have any light from the flashlight, it is necessary to hold it in the position shown in Fig. 1 with the two openings 7 and 12 registering with each other and directed downwardly. Whenever the casing of the flashlight is turned so that the opening 7 in the hood is pointed in any other direction than downwardly, the gravity-actuated shutter 11 will cut off light from the opening 7 and thus prevent any light from being projected from the flashlight.

The invention has been above described as embodied in a flashlight which is constructed to direct the light downwardly only, because the shutter is so made that its opening is always directed downwardly. The particular or predetermined direction in which the light is projected depends upon the position of the opening in the shutter, and if this opening is in the side or the top of such weighted shutter, then the flashlight will operate to project light laterally or upwardly only.

My invention, therefore, provides a flashlight having gravity actuated means to prevent the

light from being projected in any direction except a predetermined direction regardless of the position in which the flashlight is held.

While I have illustrated a selected embodiment of the invention, I do not wish to be limited to the constructional features shown.

I claim:

1. A flashlight for blackout use comprising a casing containing the usual batteries and bulb, a cylindrical hood mounted on the bulb end of the casing and provided with a closed outer end and an opening in one side through which light from the bulb may be projected, a shutter within the hood and rotatively supported thereby to turn about the axis of the hood, said shutter also having a closed outer end and an opening in one side and further being weighted on said side whereby the shutter always maintains by gravity a position with its opening directed downwardly and light can be projected from the flashlight only when it is held with the opening in the hood registering with the opening in the shutter.

2. A flashlight for blackout use comprising a casing having the usual batteries and bulb, a cylindrical hood mounted on the bulb end of the casing and provided with a closed outer end and an opening in one side through which light from the bulb may be projected, a hollow shutter element associated with the hood and situated concentrically thereof, means mounting said shutter element for rotating movement about the common axis of said hood and shutter, said shutter having an opening in its side wall which may be brought into register with the opening in the side of the hood by relative turning movement of the hood and shutter about said common axis, and a weight mounted on the shutter on the side thereof having the opening therein whereby the shutter will be held by gravity in a position with its opening directed downwardly and light can be projected from the flashlight only when it is held with the opening in the hood registering with the downwardly directed opening in the shutter.

LOUIS A. POPE