J. J. SPENCE.

ARMOR UNIT FOR GUNNERS.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 15, 1915.

1,206,154.

Patented Nov. 28, 1916.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

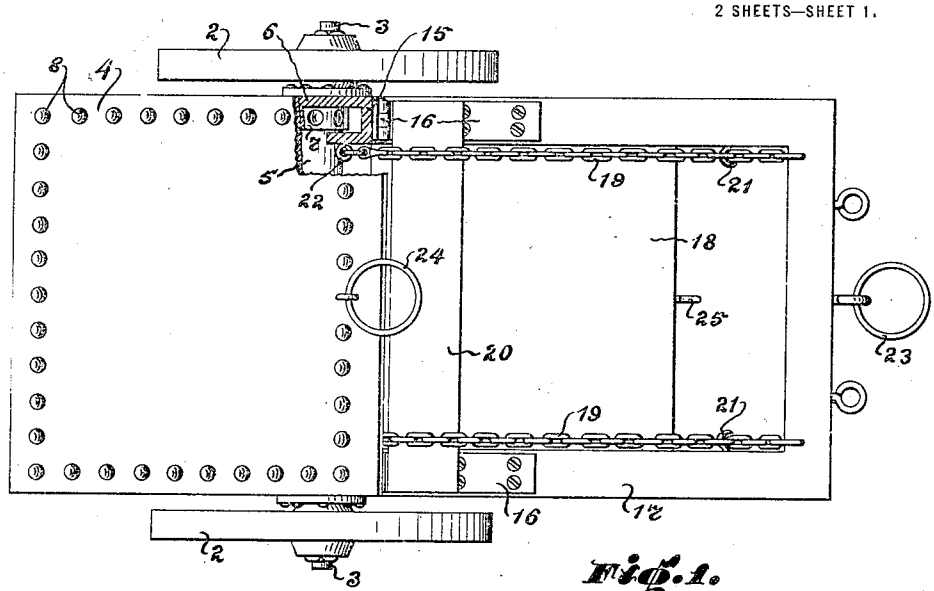


Fig. 1.

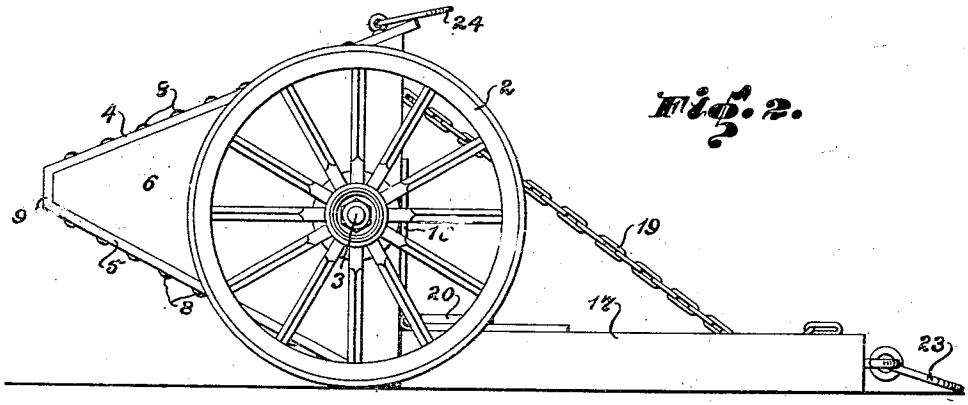


Fig. 2.

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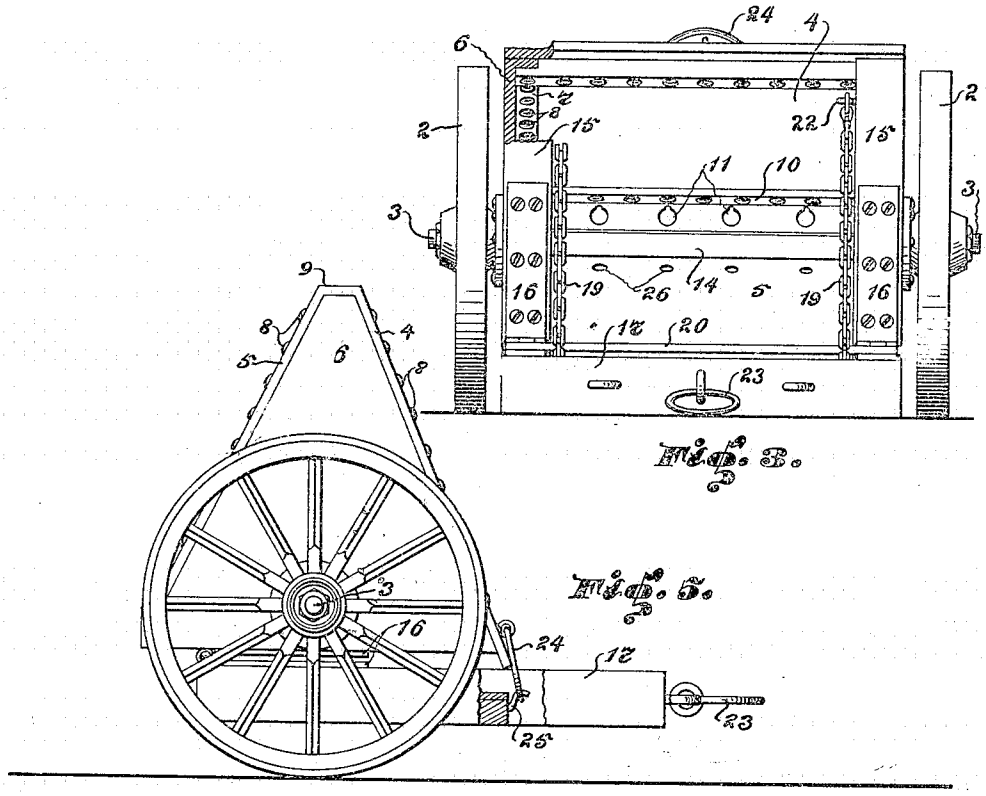


Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.

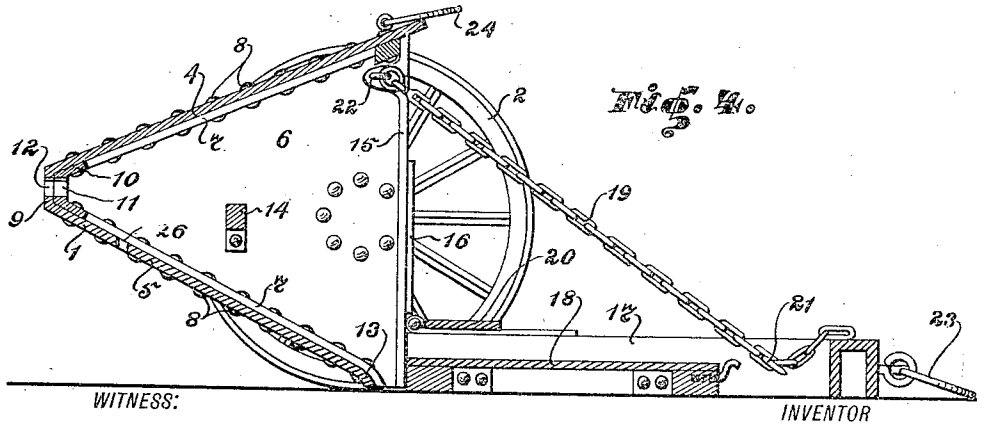


Fig. 4.

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JOHN J. SPENCE, OF GREENVILLE, TEXAS.

ARMOR UNIT FOR GUNNERS.

1,206,154. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 28, 1916.

Application filed November 15, 1915. Serial No. 61,494.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN J. SPENCE, citizen of the United States, residing at Greenville, in the county of Hunt and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Armor Units for Gunners, of which the following is a specification.

This invention pertains to new and useful improvements in gunners' armor units.

The object of the invention is to provide a portable structure adapted to be used singly or in batteries and constituting at once a protection during battles and warfare and a shelter at night and other times.

Another object of the invention is to provide an armor unit involving a triangular shaped housing mounted on ground wheels and provided with a plurality of port holes at its contracted end, and also having a bed frame which further provides a draft connection when the unit is being transported; together with means for securing the housing in its adjusted positions.

A further object is to provide a unit constructed to house several machine guns, rifles or other ordnance and the men for operating the same in such a manner that the men will be fully protected from the enemy and the housing so presented that projectiles will glance off of the same; also the provision of a portable unit, several of which may be assembled to form a rampart or line of defense; and one which will be readily mobile.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described that will be strong, durable, efficient and simple and comparatively inexpensive to construct, also one in which the several parts will stand unusual impact.

With the above and other objects in view the invention has relation to certain novel features of construction and operation, an example of which is described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the unit in firing position, Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, Fig. 3 is a rear elevation, Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of the unit as shown in Fig. 1, and Fig. 5 is a side elevation in transporting position.

In the drawings the numeral 1 designates a housing exhibiting longitudinally of the unit a triangular shape in cross-section. This housing is constructed of sheets of armor plate forming sides 4 and 5 respectively and ends 6. The ends 6 have inturned flanges 7 to which the sides are fastened by rivets 8 as shown. I prefer to form the sides 4 and 5 of a single plate, bending the same sharply transversely at its center to form a panel 9 which constitutes the contracted end or apex of the housing. Within this portion of the housing an angular transverse reinforcing member 10 contiguous to the plate, is suitably secured and provided with a transverse row of holes 11 which register with holes 12 in the panel and afford port holes through which the barrels of the machine guns or other ordnance may project.

Trunnions 3 have enlarged bases riveted to the ends 6 of the housing near the base or enlarged open end and engage in ground wheels 2 of heavy construction on which the unit may be transported. In Fig. 4 the lower end of the side 5 of the housing is shown curved downward and outward at 13 so that when the gunners are kneeling in the housing and on said side their insteps will not be subjected to the edge of the plate, but instead a smooth rounded surface will be presented and add much to their comfort. Transversely within the housing a gun rest 14 is mounted so as to support the guns in line with the port holes.

The ends 6 have lips 15 along their bases to which hinges 16 are riveted. The hinges are positioned on the lips so as to be attached to the upper side of a bed frame 17 and permit the latter to rest on the ground as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. Within the frame a platform 18 is counter-sunk and rigidly attached. A horizontal plate 20 is disposed over the frame on the hinges as shown and provides a seat or a shelf. For holding the housing in its firing position as shown in all figures except Fig. 5, chains 19 are secured to ears 22 at the ends of the lips opposite the hinges and are engaged on hooks 21 projecting inward from the sides of the frame in rear of the platform. It is obvious that the housing may be adjusted by engaging different links of the chains with the hooks.

In using this unit it is supposed to be drawn by some vehicle preferably a motor car and a draft coupling 23 is secured to the free end of the frame for this purpose. When the unit is transported the housing is swung up into the position shown in Fig. 5 and the housing fastened by a ring

24 engaged over a stud 25 mounted at the center of the rear edge of the platform. When it is desired to operate the guns the unit is uncoupled and the housing swung to the position shown for firing. While the unit is being transported the guns are suitably supported on the platform.

Trailing in the rear of a motor vehicle the unit affords a very efficient and practical implement of warfare. Men within the housing with the guns and ammunition are protected from the fire of the enemy as well as the weather and may remain in the housing for hours. One or more peep holes 26 are provided in the side 5 through which the enemy may be observed while retreating and at other times. Should it be desired to give battle the unit may be uncoupled and the housing lowered to the firing position after which with the machine guns operating through the port holes a devastating flow of bullets may be hurled at the enemy without exposure on the part of the men in the housing. It is evident that the unit could be pushed quite close to the lines of the enemy either before or after the housing is lowered and that it could be withdrawn in firing position if necessary. Several of these units could be arranged as a rampart affording protection to the men while trenches and other defences were being built.

The invention is presented as including all such modifications, changes and alterations as properly come within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A device of the class described comprising an armored housing, ground wheels disposed at opposite sides of said housing and eccentric with respect to the transverse axis of the latter, and a platform supported by said housing and normally acting to balance the latter vertically of the axis of said ground wheels.

2. A device of the class described comprising an armored housing, ground wheels disposed at opposite sides of said housing and eccentric with respect to the transverse axis of the latter, a platform hingedly secured to said housing at one end, and means connecting the opposite end of said platform with said housing whereby the same are retained in normally inoperative position.

3. A device of the class described comprising an armored housing, ground wheels disposed at opposite sides of said housing and eccentric with respect to the transverse axis of the latter, a platform supported by said housing and normally acting to balance the latter vertically of the axis of said ground wheels, and means for releasing one end of said platform, whereby the latter is lowered to ground simultaneously with the forward tilting of said housing to operative position.

4. A device of the class described comprising an armored housing, substantially triangular in cross section, said housing being provided with port holes at its apex, ground wheels disposed at opposite sides of said housing and eccentric with respect to the transverse axis of the latter, a platform supported by said housing and normally acting to balance the latter vertically of the axis of said ground wheels, and means for releasing one end of said platform, whereby the latter is lowered to ground simultaneously with the forward tilting of said housing to operative position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN J. SPENCE.