

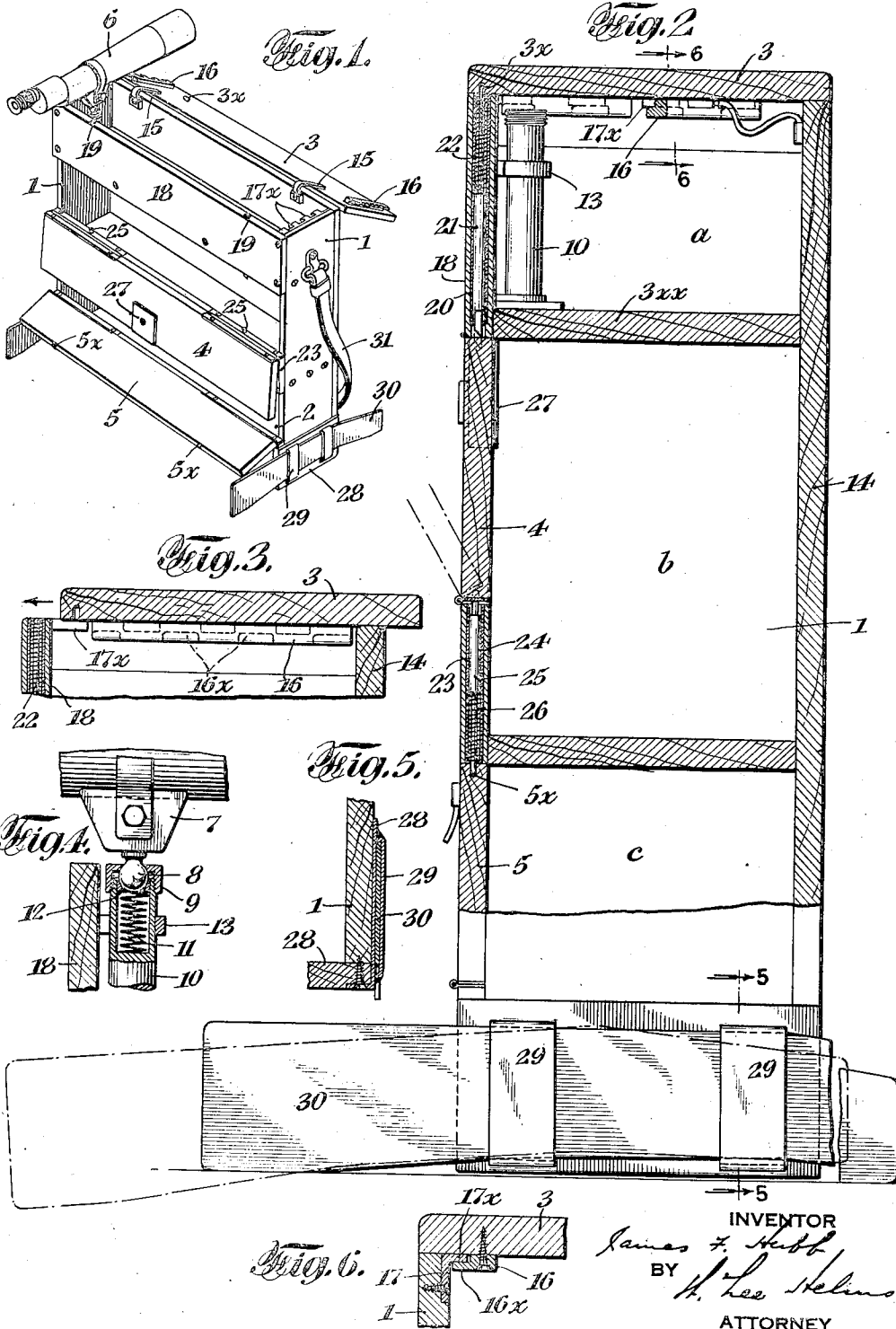
April 16, 1935.

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1,997,640

RIFLEMAN'S SEAT AND INSTRUMENT BOX

Filed Aug. 23, 1933



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1,997,640

RIFLEMAN'S SEAT AND INSTRUMENT BOX

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Application August 23, 1933, Serial No. 686,378

2 Claims. (Cl. 206—1)

The object of the present invention is to provide a joint seat and instrument box, particularly for riflemen, its characteristic being a relatively narrow structure having a series of compartments and a seat support which may be normally held in rigid closed position and which may be quickly thrown back to a position, preferably in a plane parallel with the rear vertical wall of the device to fully expose the upper compartment and enable operation of a spotting telescope contained in said compartment when the device is open ready for use on a firing range. One requisite of such a device is that the compartments must be capable of very quick opening and closing inasmuch as between rounds of fire at various positions relatively to the target, the device must be carried by the rifleman.

A further requisite is that although the device must be light and of small dimensions, it must be stable and held on the ground rigid against the action of the wind, inasmuch as it both affords a spotting telescope support and a resting seat for the rifleman intermediate firing periods.

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device open and ready for use.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged elevation, partly in section, showing in dotted lines, the position of a removable leg-bar in the removal and insertion of the same.

Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section of the upper portion of the device showing the position of the top immediately prior to a horizontal closing and latching movement thereof.

Fig. 4 is a detailed fragmentary view, partly in section, showing the spotting telescope saddle and the means for holding the telescope for universal movement.

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

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary section on the line 6—6, Fig. 2.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, it will be seen that the device is a rectangular structure of narrow width having end walls 1, a bottom wall 2 and three compartments a, b, c; compartment a having a seat-like cover 3; compartment b having a hinged door 4; and compartment c having a hinged door 5.

The walls and doors of the structure are preferably made of wood inasmuch as metal tends to absorb the rays of the sun and become hot to the touch, while wood such as ash or a semi-hard

wood, is light, strong, and resistant against heat absorption.

The top compartment is intended to receive the usual spotting telescope which is employed by riflemen at ranges after a shot and preceding the next shot in order to visualize and determine the position on the target at which a shot entered so that corrections may be made in sighting for the succeeding shot, and a wall or walls of the compartment support the spotting telescope 6 for universal movement in such position that the rifleman lying substantially in firing position with his head and shoulders raised, may conveniently operate the spotting telescope. To this end, I suitably strap the telescope to a saddle member 7 (Fig. 4) carrying at its lower end a ball 8 surrounded by an internally threaded collar 9. The ball is adapted to enter the top of tubular post 10, whereupon collar 9 is threaded upon the threaded upper end of the post and a spring 11 acting upon a washer 12 will frictionally engage the ball and will enable universal movement of the telescope. Post 10 may have a bearing support upon bottom wall 3x of compartment a and may be steadied by a strap 13 secured to the adjacent wall of compartment a.

By the means above described, the telescope may be quickly mounted in position and quickly detached from post 10 so that the seat-cover 3 may be restored to initial position.

The seat-cover 3 for compartment a is preferably so mounted that it may be swung back to lie in a plane parallel with the rear wall 14 of the structure. To this end, I employ, in the present embodiment, a plurality of strap hinges 15 and attach to the underface of the cover-seat, near each end thereof, a flanged or L-shaped latching member 16 provided with spaced teeth 16x adapted to pass between and below the teeth of a companion latching bar 17 secured to an end wall 1 of the device when the cover-seat lies in the position of Fig. 3. When the cover member is moved in the direction of the arrow, Fig. 3, teeth 16x will be moved in register with the teeth 17x of member 17 and in frictional engagement therewith so that when the said movement is completed, the cover-seat 3 will be firmly held against upward movement until its position is restored to that of Fig. 3.

It will be understood that when cover-seat 3 is moved to closed position, it may be locked in that position by a member projected upwardly into an aperture of the cover-seat. Two locking members are employed for the cover-seat, these

members being pins automatically thrown into and out of locking position.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, it will be seen that front panel 18 is formed with vertically extending apertures 19 to receive a tube or sleeve 20 within which is disposed a locking pin 21 somewhat reduced toward its upper end to receive a surrounding spring 22, the top of the spring engaging an annular shoulder formed by bending over the upper end of the tube 20. The lower end of pin 21 is somewhat reduced and bevelled, so that when the door 4 for compartment b is given a closing movement, the door will strike the bevelled end of pin 22 and move the same upwardly against the tension of spring 22 thereby carrying the end of pin 21 into a socket 3x formed in the cover-seat 3, the parts then lying in the position shown in Fig. 2.

The door for compartment c is automatically locked in closed position by the closing of door 4. To that end, panel 23 is formed with spaced apertures, preferably in line with apertures 19 of panel 18, each to receive a tube or sleeve 24 within which is disposed a pin 25 reduced toward its lower end for the reception of a spring 26, the lower end of the tube being bent inwardly to serve as a stop for the spring, the spring acting upon the pin to normally hold the same elevated so that the upper end of the pin 25 will be projected above panel 23. Thus, when door 4 is moved to closed position from its position shown in Fig. 1, its lower horizontal edge will engage the projected ends of pin 25 and push them downwardly against the tension of spring 26, each pin entering a socket 5x formed in the top of door 5.

Door 4 may be provided with a keylock indicated at 27. Thus, when cover-seat 3 is moved to closed position, followed by a movement of door 5 to closed position, the closing and locking of door 4 will automatically lock the entire device. The lock 27 may be a spring lock requiring a key only for opening.

The device having little inherent stability because of its narrow cross-section, I have provided at each end wall near the base thereof, a metal plate 28 having spaced loops 29 for the reception of a leg-bar 30 having a substantially straight edge central portion and end portions tapered downwardly, the width of one end portion being

about the same as the interior area of the loop in which it is received and the opposite end portion tapering in such manner that when the leg-bar is inserted with the end of smaller width formation, movement of the bar will continue until it reaches its proper predetermined position whereupon the bar will be frictionally held in such position, which frictional engagement will nevertheless permit quick removal of the bar at each end of the device preliminary to transporting it, the bars being placed in one of the compartments.

The construction of the device is such that when the leg-bars are removed and the doors closed, front and back walls will be free from projections so that the device may be carried close to the body, as through the use of a carrying strap indicated at 31.

In view of the limited time required in moving from one firing position to another, it is essential that the device be opened, closed and latched in a very short interval of time. My improvements enable closing and opening the device and mounting the spotting telescope, all within a few seconds time.

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

1. A rifleman's seat and instrument supporting device comprising a relatively narrow casing formed by opposed vertical end panels and three horizontal connecting members, a vertical wall closing the device at its rear face and three panel-like members at the front face of the device, the uppermost panel member closing a compartment bounded at its base by one of said horizontal connecting members and the lowermost panel members being hinged to the front of the device and each serving to close a compartment bounded at its base by one of said horizontal connecting members, a seat normally closing the top compartment and having hinged connection to a wall thereof and means for latching the seat and the front panel-like members in closed position.

2. A device constructed in accordance with claim 1 in combination with laterally extending stabilizing members detachably connected to the device at the base thereof.

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