

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ASA WEEKS, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

DEVICE FOR LAUNCHING ROCKET-TORPEDOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 274,068, dated March 13, 1883.

Application filed January 15, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ASA WEEKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Detaching Torpedoes; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 represents a transverse vertical section of a steam launch or boat having my invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of my improved detaching-davit when in the position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1, the rocket-float being indicated by dotted lines.

The present invention and its object have been described in a pending application filed by me April 19, 1882, which object is the detaching of a rocket-float, when desired, from shipboard or from coverts on the shore.

A represents the davit. It comprises the curved bars B, pivoted at *a*, and rigidly connected by a series of bracing, *b*, and counter-bracing *c*. The outer ends of these bars have bearings which receive the swiveling hook-detaching device C, composed of rod D and rod E. The former rod extends beyond the curved bars at either side, one end having attached the pendent rod E, and the other, *e*, projecting a distance equal to the length of rod E. The socket-piece F connects the two rods D and E in the relative positions shown.

G represents a steam-launch or other boat for carrying the davits A. It has one or more protected recesses behind an arm or plate, H, within which the davit and the suspended rocket-float I rest and are sheltered from a

forward shot. This position is shown in Fig. 1. The davit A is pivoted to the side of the boat, at *a a*, to adjusting-blocks J J, secured by bolts to the sides of the vessel. These blocks admit of vertical adjustment of the davit.

The projecting rod *e* and rod E are of the same length, as before stated, and receive the supporting loops or eyes *i i* of the float I. These loops are seen in end view in Fig. 1 and in side view (dotted lines) in Fig. 2, the rocket-float I also being shown in dotted lines.

K is a line for operating the davit. The davits serve the purpose of launching the rocket-floats from behind their protected recesses when desired, and, also, they give the floats a free forward clearing motion from the davits in line with the object aimed at. Fig. 1 represents in dotted lines the davits and rocket-floats swung outwardly and cleared for action. Upon ignition of the rocket-floats an impetus is given them which causes the rockets to move forward and their loops *i i* to slide from off the rods *e* E. When the rocket-floats are behind the armor-plate on deck they rest within the davit formed by the curved bars B.

What I claim is—

1. A torpedo-boat having detaching-davits carried in an armor-plate or protected recess provided at the side or sides of the boat, behind which the torpedo-floats are swung upon their davits in the protected recesses when not required to be lowered for action.

2. A swinging detaching-davit provided with guide-rods, substantially as described, consisting of two rods journaled to the outer end of the davit, each of which is free at one end for the detaching of the rocket-torpedo.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ASA WEEKS.

Witnesses:

F. B. BROCK,
R. D. O. SMITH.