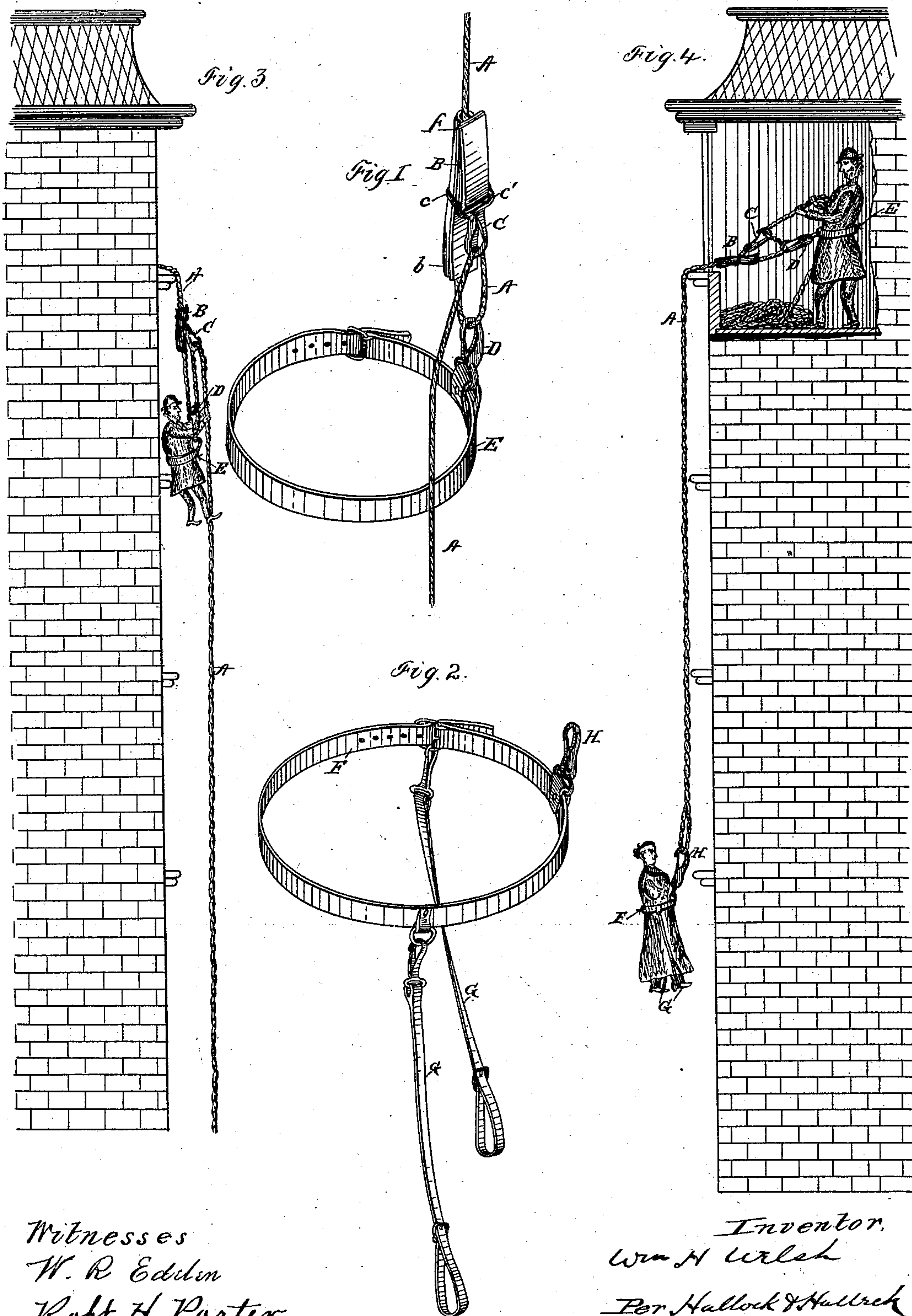


(No Model.)

W. H. WELSH.  
FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 287,598.

Patented Oct. 30, 1883.



Witnesses  
W. R. Eddles  
Robt. H. Porter.

Inventor,  
Wm H Welsh  
Per Hallock & Hallbeck  
Att's



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. WELSH, OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA.

## FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 287,598, dated October 30, 1883.

Application filed February 19, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. WELSH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Erie, in the county of Erie and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes; 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.

This invention relates to fire-escapes; and it consists in the construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter specified.

The device is shown in the accompanying drawings, as follows:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing the escape-line, the friction-block, and the belt. Fig. 2 is a like view, showing a harness to be used on a person that is to be let down by the escape. Fig. 3 is a view showing a person letting himself down. Fig. 4 is a view showing a person being let down.

The essential feature of the device is the parts shown in Fig. 1. This consists of a line, A, a friction-block, B, a belt, E, and two loops, C and D, through which the line passes. The line A may be any kind of a cord desired. The friction-block B will be made of leather or other pliable material. It has a loop or channel, *b*, for the line to pass through, and to it a loop, C, is attached. The belt E is made of any suitable material, and the loop D is attached to it. The loops C and D will be made of iron, and as good a thing to use for that purpose as any other is a common harness snap-hook, as shown in the drawings. The loop C should, however, have a second eye, *c*, which passes around the friction-block and presses against the outside of the channel-loop *b*, so as to press the line in the channel and give as much friction as possible; but this is not essential, for the channel may be made to fit the line so tight as to give all the friction required; or the friction-block can be held in the hand and compressed, if desired.

The line passes first through the channel *b*, then through the loop D on the belt, then back to the friction-block and through the loop C, and thence to the hand of the operator.

By this device a person can let himself down by securing one end of the line in the building, and throwing the other out loose, as is shown in Fig. 3; or he can let another person down with it, as seen in Fig. 4. The passage of the line through the various loops *b*, C, and D gives so much friction that very little power is required to secure a slow and gentle descent.

The harness shown in Fig. 2 is designed to relieve the person being let down of the strain of the belt. It consists of a belt, F, with stirrups G G and suspending-hook H.

The operation of the device need not be further explained, as it is clearly seen from the drawings.

What I claim as new is—

1. In a fire-escape apparatus, the combination, substantially as shown, of the line A, friction-block B, belt E, and loops C and D.

2. In a fire-escape apparatus, substantially as shown, the combination, with the line A, of the block B, having channel *b*, of pliable material, and the loop C, with part *c*, adapted, as shown, to press upon the said channel when weight is applied to said loop C, substantially as shown.

3. In a fire-escape apparatus, the combination, substantially as shown, of the line A, friction-block B, belt E, loops C and D, and the harness F G H.

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

WILLIAM H. WELSH.

Witnesses:

JNO. K. HALLOCK,  
PATRICK H. COONEY.