(No Model.)

J. JEWELL.

PORTABLE FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 503,971. Patented Aug. 29, 1893.

FIG_1_

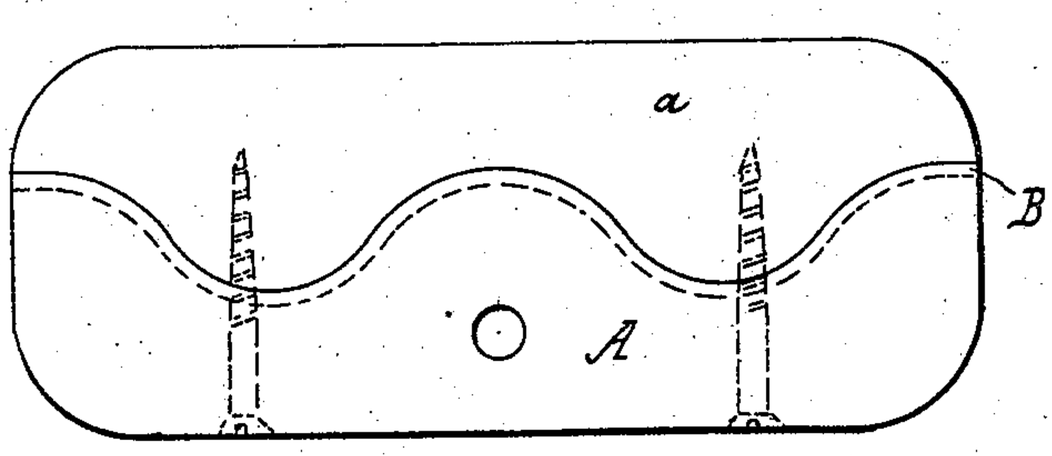


FIG_2_

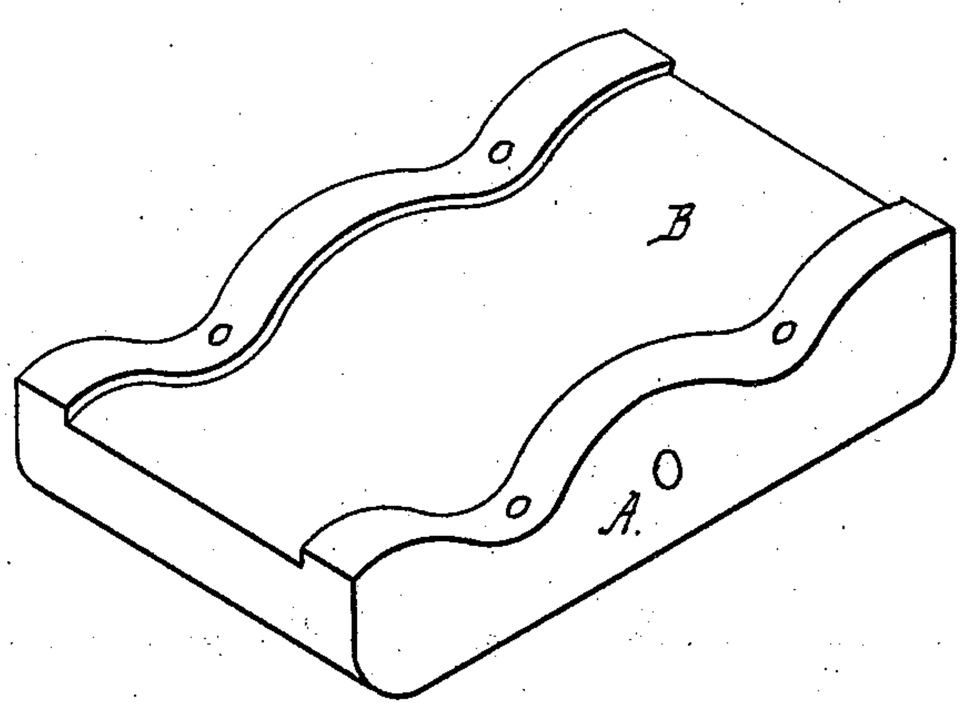
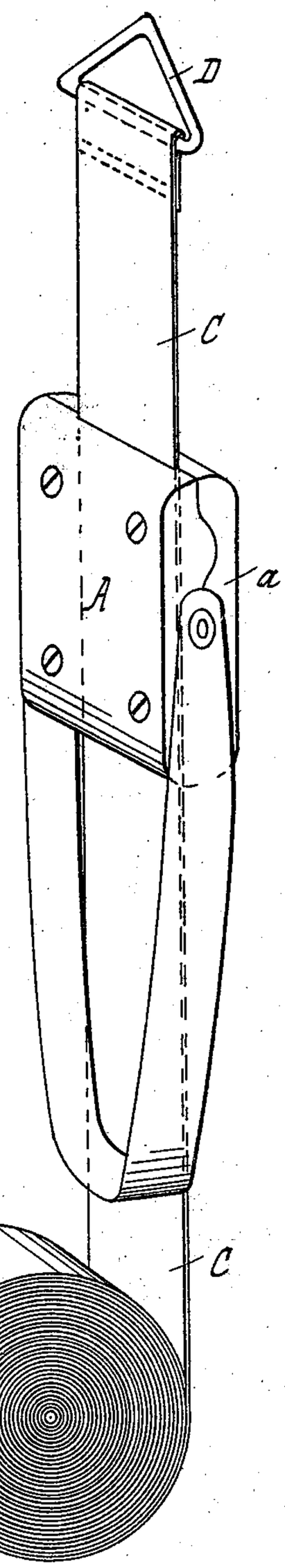


FIG_3_



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN JEWELL, OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JAMES HENRY HOWELL, OF SAME PLACE.

PORTABLE FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 503,971, dated August 29, 1893.

Application filed March 16, 1893. Serial No. 466,372. (No model.) Patented in England October 16, 1889, No. 16,270.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN JEWELL, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Bristol, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Fire-Escapes, (for which I have obtained a patent in Great Britain, No. 16,270, dated October 16, 1889;) 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.

My invention relates to improvements in portable escapes, by which a coil of fire-resisting flat rope or webbing is used as a means for descending from burning buildings, a conductor or block with a corrugated groove running through the center offering sufficient resistance to the passing of the web to enable a person to attach himself to the conductor and descend with perfect safety.

The construction of the conductor-block and the passage of the flat rope or web through its internal groove is fully illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a side view of the block, the curved line showing a division made by a saw or other means to form the corrugated interior. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of one of the divisions of the block, with a central groove which forms a passage for the flat rope or web, and Fig. 3 is a general view of the escape, ready for use.

The block A, *a*, is made of hard wood or other suitable material, and after being cut through as shown by the wavy line, a wide groove B is made in one of the sections, and then the two parts A, *a*, are strongly screwed together, or fastened in any other suitable manner. The web or flat rope C can then be put through the corrugated groove and the hook or ring D attached for suspending when required, the other end of the web being coiled or rolled ready for easy removal from one place to another; attached to the block is a sling or belt E to support a person or persons using the escape; the web may be made fire proof by saturating it with any of the chemical substances usually employed for that purpose.

The various parts of my improved appliance being provided as described, the coil of webbing is rolled as closely as possible and tied in a compact parcel with the ring on the outside, and suitable hooks or fastenings inserted in convenient places. The escape is then ready for use. In case of fire or other danger, when it is required to use the escape, the the ring is suspended to the support provided for it, the parcel is untied and the coil thrown out of the window into the street, and if persons take one end and hold it tolerably tight, a descent may easily be made, as the strain on the web will regulate the speed; if there are no persons on the ground to take the end of the web, as may frequently be the case in isolated districts, the person descending will take the web below the block in his hands and thus give the required strain to cause the friction of the web over the corrugations to check a too rapid descent.

The blocks may be made with any suitable number of corrugations, and of any depth, but those shown in the drawings are found by experience to be best adapted for the purpose.

What I claim is—

A portable fire escape, comprising a flat band of flexible and non-combustible material, a sliding block formed in two parts A *a*, one of the said parts being provided with a waved groove B, the screws for securing the said parts together and causing the said band to be clamped with a certain prearranged pressure in the said groove, and a sling attached to the said block, substantially as set forth.

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

JOHN JEWELL.

Witnesses:
C. F. BRASHER,
JNO. GREGORY WESTLAKE.