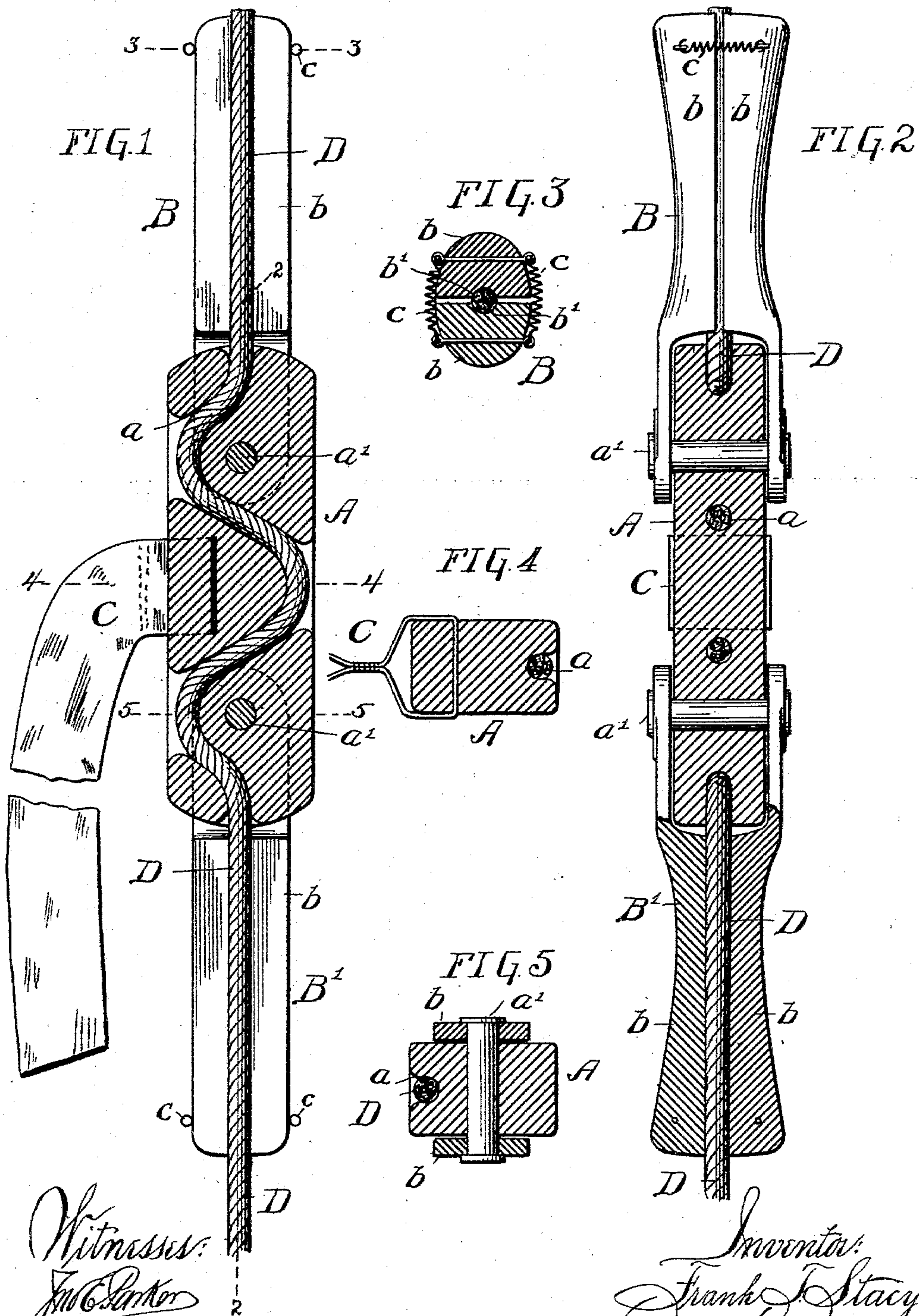


(No Model.)

F. T. STACY.
PORTABLE FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 561,733.

Patented June 9, 1896.



Witnesses:
Jno C. Barker
David B. Young

Inventor:
Frank T. Stacy.
By his Attorney,
Walter W. Calmore

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK T. STACY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PORTABLE FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 561,733, dated June 9, 1896.

Application filed November 23, 1895. Serial No. 569,911. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK T. STACY, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to certain improvements in fire-escapes, and has for its object to provide an improved form of portable escape of simple and compact construction, as more fully set forth hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of a portable fire-escape constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of the same on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1; and Figs. 3, 4, and 5 are sectional plan views on the lines 3 3, 4 4, and 5 5, respectively.

The device forming the subject of my invention comprises a main body portion or block A, upper and lower sets of handles B B', a body-strap C, and a rope D, arranged as described hereinafter.

The block A is provided with a tortuous passage *a*, terminating at the upper and lower ends of the block, and through this passage passes the rope D, one end of which may be secured to any fixed point, while the opposite end hangs down toward the ground.

The handles B B' each comprise two similar sections *b b*, each section being pivoted on a pin *a'*, passing through the block, and the inner adjacent faces of each section being provided with a semicircular groove *b'*, in which the rope D is guided. The free ends of the sections of the handles are preferably connected by small springs *c*, which hold them in contact with the rope and in proper relative position, while at the same time permitting the spreading of the sections to accommodate ropes of varying diameter.

Through the center of the block passes a band C, which is continued in the form of a loop adapted to pass around the body of the

operator and support him during the descent, the upper portion only of said band or loop 50 being shown in the drawings.

In operation the upper end of the rope D is secured to any stationary object, and after the opposite end of the rope is lowered the operator passes the looped band C around his 55 body, preferably under the arms, and then tightly grasps the lower handle B', forcing the two sections of the handle into contact with the rope and preventing a sudden descent. The pressure exerted upon the sec- 60 tions of the handle may be altered as desired, and as the friction upon the rope is reduced the weight of the body will carry the person downward. After the first person escapes or is lowered the rope, with the device at its 65 lower end, may be quickly raised and the lower end of the rope fastened in place, while the previously-secured upper end is loosened and thrown down to the ground, so that a second person may escape in the same manner 70 by then catching hold of the handle B, which is then the lowermost handle. In this manner much time may be saved, as it is not necessary to draw the rope through the block to render the escape serviceable after having 75 once been used.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A fire-escape comprising in combination, a 80 rope, a central block A, having a tortuous passage *a*, handles B, at the opposite ends of the block, each handle comprising grooved sections *b, b*, pivot-pins *a'* extending through said central block and handle-sections, 85 springs *c*, uniting the sections *b, b*, of said handles, and a body band or loop depending from said central block, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 90 in the presence of two witnesses.

FRANK T. STACY.

Witnesses:

HERBERT FOSS,
JOHN HIGGINS.