No. 693,336. Patented Feb. 11, 1902.

W. RHODES.

AMMUNITION CASE.

(Application filed Dec. 18, 1900.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

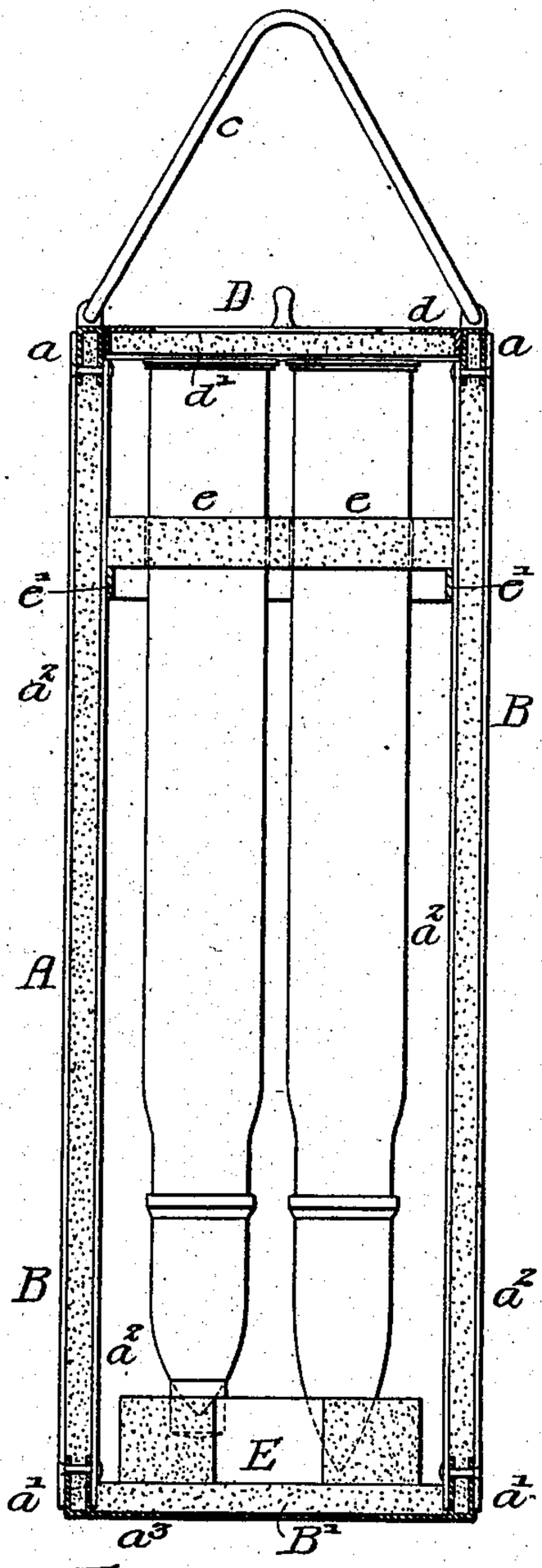


Fig. 2.

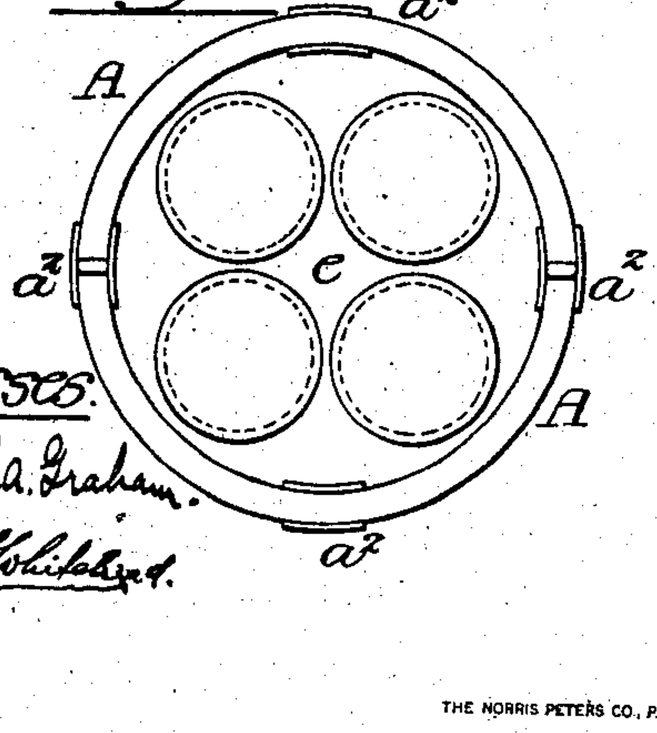


Fig. 3.

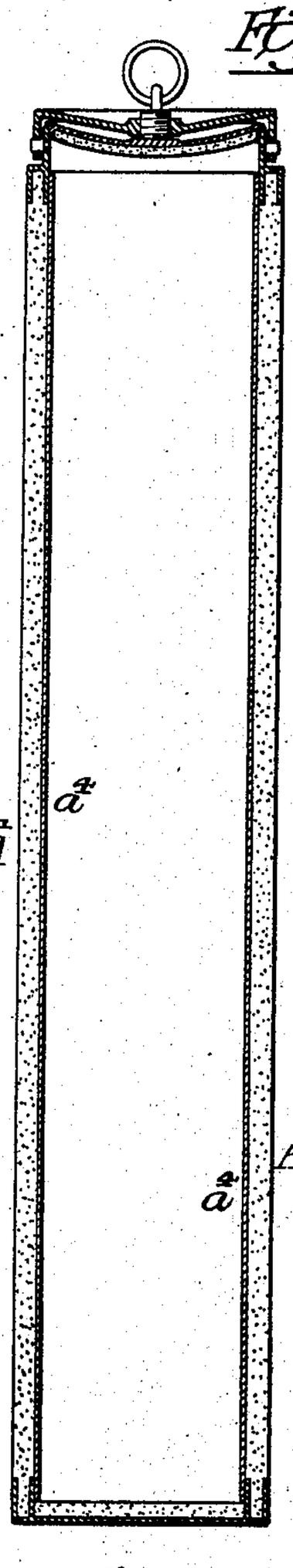
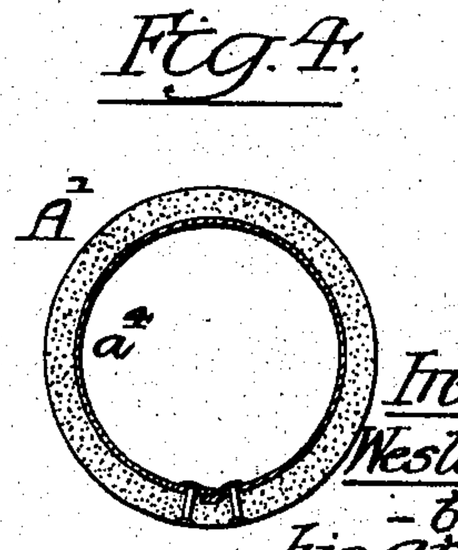


Fig. 4.



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No. 693,336. Patented Feb. 11, 1902.

W. RHODES.

AMMUNITION CASE.

(Application filed Dec. 18, 1900.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 5.

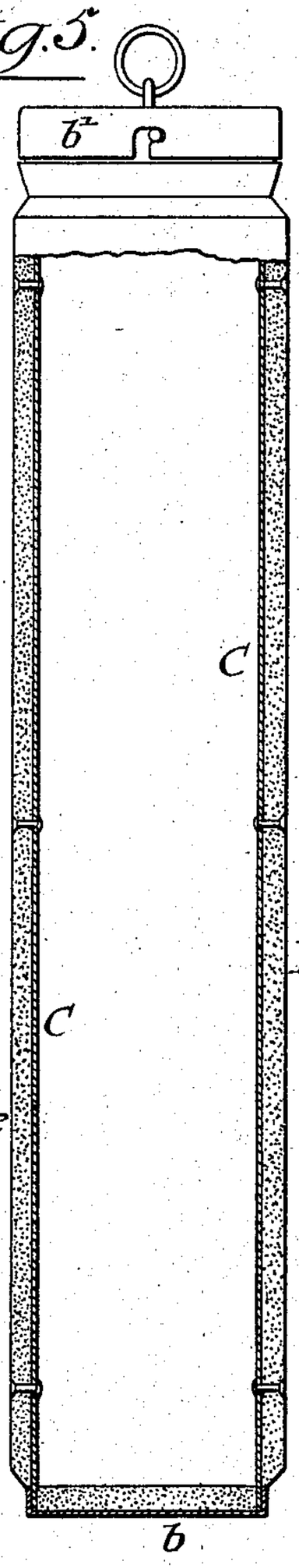


Fig. 6.

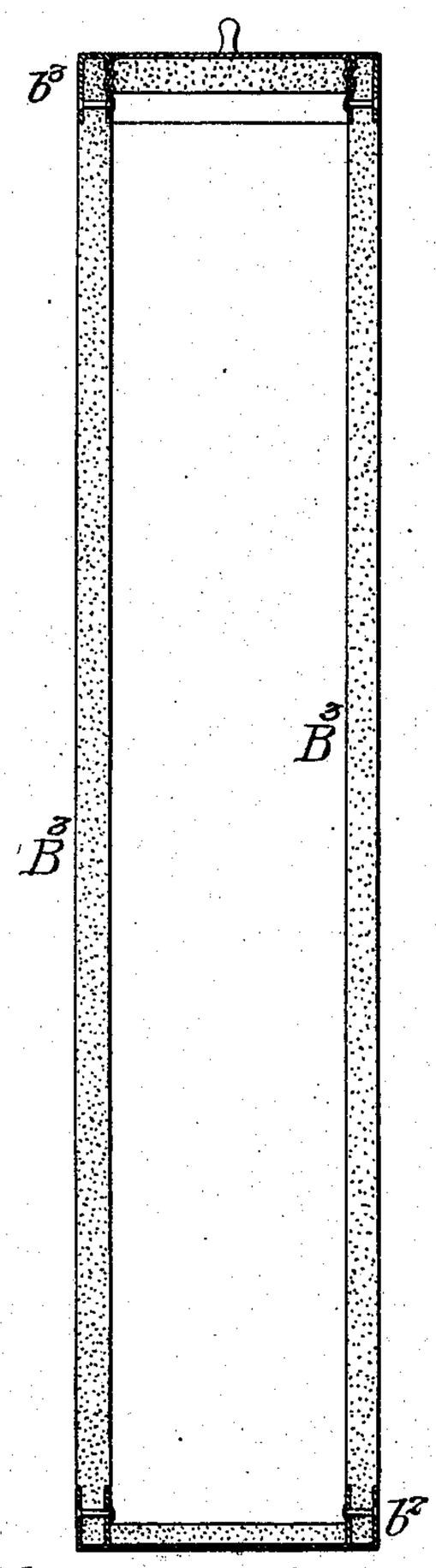
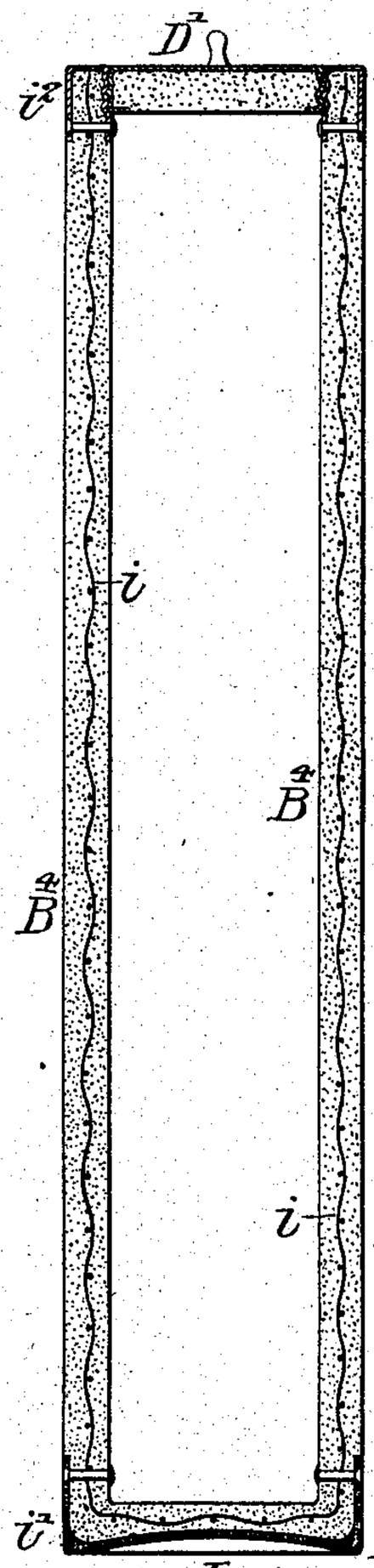


Fig. 7.



Witnesses:-
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AMMUNITION-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 693,336, dated February 11, 1902.

Application filed December 18, 1900. Serial No. 40,305. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WESLEY RHODES, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, having declared my intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Ammunition-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in cases, boxes, or tanks for containing ammunition for naval or field service.

The object of my invention is to provide a receptacle of non-combustible material which will withstand rough usage to which it is subjected and which will be perfectly water, spark, and dust proof. This object I attain in the following manner, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of an ammunition-case, showing the shells in position and illustrating my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view of Fig. 1 with the cover removed. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of a powder-tank. Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4 4, Fig. 3. Figs. 5, 6, and 7 are views of modifications of my invention.

Prior to my invention the cases, boxes, and tanks for containing ammunition were made of metal or wood, either plain or metal-lined. Wooden cases lined with metal are preferable in the navy, as there should be no contact between metal and metal in delivering the charge from the magazine to the guns; but the use of wood is objectionable, owing to the fact that it is inflammable, and it is not water or dust proof and readily splinters.

When a metallic case is used, the ammunition-hoist must be lined with wood, which is very objectionable, and great care must be exercised in the magazine. Furthermore, the metallic case is liable to be indented, causing the shells to stick in the case.

It has been found that smokeless powder when stored away gives off inflammable gases, so that any sparks arising from defective electrical wiring or from the friction of the mechanism of the ammunition-hoist or in the magazine may cause explosions in the magazine or hoist and thus endanger the ship.

By my invention I overcome the above objections, and I make a case or box that has the advantage of being non-combustible, water, fire, and dust proof, at the same time light and strong, and which cannot be splintered. The non-splintering feature is a great advantage, as the present wooden structures in deck or field service are often splintered by stray shots, and these splinters do great damage.

Referring in the first instance to Fig. 1, A is the casing. B is a body portion, of asbestos or equivalent material, having a metallic ring a at its upper end and a metallic base-ring a' at its lower end. The two rings are preferably secured together by vertical bars or rods a^2. Both rings a a' are flanged, as shown, and the lower ring a' has an internal flange a^3, upon which is mounted the bottom B', of asbestos or similar material. The ring a has preferably an internal screw-thread and has suitable ears to which the carrying-rope c may be attached. D is a cap having a flanged rim d and a body d' of asbestos or other suitable material. This cap is threaded and is arranged to screw into the threaded ring a of the casing.

Within the shell-carrying case at the bottom, as shown in Fig. 1, is a ring E, of asbestos, forming the shell-point protector, and near the upper end of the casing is a disk e, also of asbestos, having openings for the passage of the shells. This disk is supported by a suitable ring e', secured to the casing. In Figs. 1 and 2 I have shown the shells in position within the casing having their points protected. When the cover is applied, the shells are thoroughly protected, the casing being non-combustible, water, air, and dust proof, a non-conductor of heat, and incapable of being splintered, and it is also light and cheap to manufacture. The casing, moreover, can be substantially constructed for stowage and to withstand all handling through powder-magazines to hoists and on decks to guns without damage to the contents.

In Figs. 3 and 4 I have shown a powder-tank used for carrying a charge of powder. This powder-tank is made with a shell of as-

bestos or equivalent material A′, having a lining *a* of copper or other suitable metal. This lining is secured to a bottom plate and a cap-ring, and the lining and asbestos body may be secured together in any suitable manner.

In Fig. 5 I have shown a shell-case C, which is of the ordinary form, being made of metal and closed by a metallic bottom *b* and a removable metallic cap *b′*. I simply place over this case a shell of asbestos or other equivalent non-conducting material B^2 and rivet the shell to the metallic case by countersunk rivets, as shown.

In Fig. 6 I have shown a box or case in which the metal casing or rods are dispensed with, the entire casing being made of asbestos B^3 and secured to a bottom plate b^2 and a top ring b^3, the removable cap being screwed into or otherwise fastened to the top ring.

I have shown in the drawings one form of box having a movable cap at one end only; but it will be understood that both the bottom and top caps may be removable and the container may be of any shape, according to the character of the ammunition for which it is intended.

In some instances the asbestos casing may be made in strips secured to a metallic lining by rivets or other means of attachment; but I prefer to use when practicable a solid cylindrical body, as it is a much stronger and much more economical casing.

In Fig. 7 I have shown a case in which the asbestos or other non-conducting material B^4 is molded around a frame of wire *i*, and the bottom *i′*, top i^2, and cap are made of indurated fiber.

I claim as my invention—

1. As a new article of manufacture, an ammunition-case, consisting of a bottom or base section, a top ring-section, a shell or casing proper of asbestos to which the top and bottom sections are secured, and a detachable cover adapted to the top ring-section, substantially as described.

2. As a new article of manufacture, an ammunition-case, consisting of a bottom or base section, a top ring-section, both of which are filled or lined with asbestos, a shell or casing proper of asbestos to which the top and bottom sections are secured, a support for said shell or casing, and a detachable cover adapted to the top ring-section, substantially as described.

3. As a new article of manufacture, an ammunition-case, consisting of a bottom or base section, a top ring-section, each of said sections having annular flanges, a shell or casing proper of asbestos to which the top and bottom sections are secured, the ends of said shell being disposed between the flanges of said sections, and a detachable cover adapted to the top ring-section, substantially as described.

4. As a new article of manufacture, an ammunition-case of the character described for holding loaded shells, consisting of the bottom or base section, the top ring-section, both of which are filled or lined with asbestos, a guiding and supporting block of asbestos for the ends of the shells carried by the bottom section, a detachable cover adapted to the top ring-section, a shell or casing proper of asbestos suitably supported and interposed between the top and bottom sections, and a guiding-ring perforated for the passage of the shells fitting the inner wall of the casing near the top of the same, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WESLEY RHODES.

Witnesses:
WILL. A. BARR,
JOS. H. KLEIN.