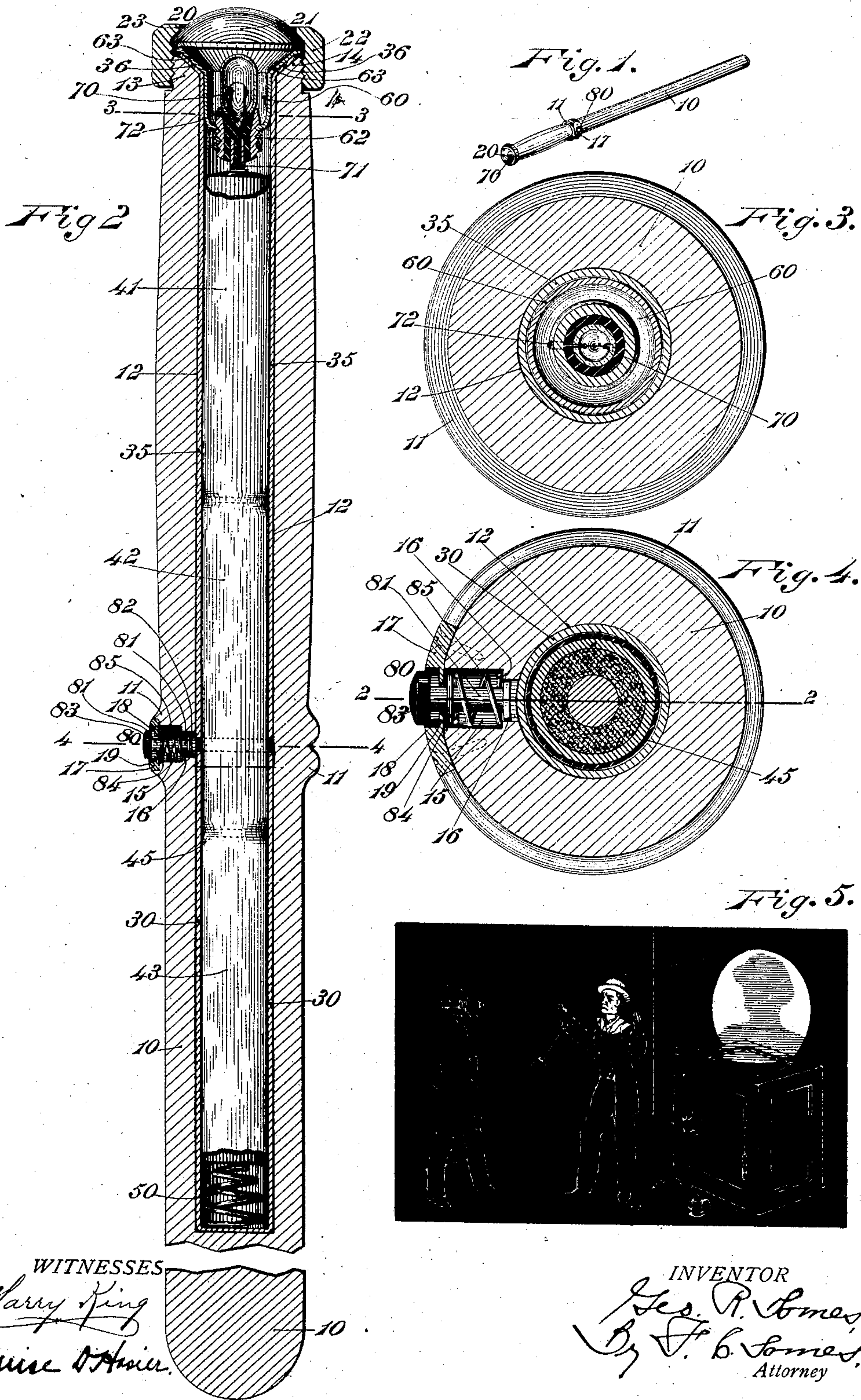


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PATENTED MAY 30, 1905.

G. R. SOMES.
ILLUMINATING POLICEMAN'S BILLY.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 28, 1904.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE RANLETT SOMES, OF LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

ILLUMINATING POLICEMAN'S BILLY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 791,376, dated May 30, 1905.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE RANLETT SOMES, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Laconia, in the county of Belknap, in the State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clubs, which I term an "Illuminating Policeman's Billy," of which the following is a specification.

10 This invention relates to that class of personal weapons of offense and defense which can be carried in a belt about the person and are usually employed by policemen and known as "policemen's billies;" and the object of the
15 invention is to provide a device of this character having means for emitting rays of light to enable the policeman to locate the law-breaker for the proper delivery of a blow while the billy is in position for striking and
20 to illuminate the face of the criminal or other party to be assaulted and enable the policeman to subsequently identify such party in case he should escape without arrest and to enable the user to throw out rays of light
25 therefrom at any time when required by simply pressing a button conveniently disposed adjacent to the handle of the club. To accomplish this purpose, the billy is provided with a chamber at its handle end extending
30 longitudinally of the club and closed at its outer end by a translucent cover or lens which is preferably also transparent, said chamber containing an electric battery and an electric lamp in connection therewith adapted to throw
35 light-rays outward through the cover at the end of the club.

40 Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings represents, on a small scale, a perspective view of a policeman's club embodying one form of this invention. Fig. 2 represents, on a much larger scale, a longitudinal section thereof, a portion of the body being broken out to accommodate the figure to the size of the drawing-sheet. Fig. 3 represents, also on an enlarged scale, a transverse section of the club
45 near its upper end on line 3 3 of Fig. 2 looking downward. Fig. 4 represents, also on an enlarged scale, a transverse section on line 4 4

of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 illustrates the use of the illuminating-club in the hand of a policeman 50 operating on a safe-burglar.

The same reference-numbers indicate corresponding parts in the different figures.

This invention comprises a short club 10, adapted to be carried in a body-belt and preferably provided near its upper end with an exterior annular rib 11, forming a handle between it and said end, which handle is grasped by the policeman when the club is in use. This club is provided in its upper portion 60 with a longitudinal battery-chamber 12 and at its upper end with a nipple 13, preferably screw-threaded on its exterior and provided with a bevel 14 at its outer end. The body of the club is provided at or adjacent to its handle, preferably in the rib 11, with a side hole 15, communicating from the exterior with the battery-chamber. This hole is contracted near its inner end, forming a shoulder 16. A plate 17 is attached by screws or otherwise 70 to the body of the club over the side hole 15 and is provided with a hole registering with said hole 15, with a recess 18 for receiving a button and with a shoulder 19, forming a seat for the button. 75

The club 10 is provided at its outer end with a closure 20 for the battery-chamber, which closure is translucent and preferably transparent. This closure may be of any suitable construction. When constructed as 80 herein shown, it comprises a cover 21, preferably of glass or other translucent and preferably transparent material adapted to be applied at the outer end of the club and serving to close the battery-chamber, and a coupling 22, consisting of a ring screw-threaded on its interior and adapted to fit the nipple 13 and provided on its top with an inward flange 23, adapted to engage and clamp the cover 21 and hold it over the outer end of the club. 85 The cover is preferably in the form of a lens, flat on its inner surface and convex on its outer surface to better diffuse the rays of light emitted through it. 90

A casing for containing the battery, lamp-socket, and lamp is disposed in the longitudi- 95

nal battery-chamber 12. This casing is preferably constructed in two parts separated or insulated from each other, and when so constructed it comprises a lower tube 30, closed
 5 at its lower end and open at its upper end and disposed in that part of the battery-chamber which is below the side hole 15 in which the push-button is disposed, and an upper tube 35, which is open at its opposite end and
 10 provided with a flaring flange 36 at its upper end, said upper tube being disposed in the upper portion of the battery-chamber 12 and extending from the side hole 15 to the top of said chamber, its flaring flange resting on the
 15 bevel 14 of the nipple 13. These sections of the casing are composed of conductive material or otherwise provided with means for conveying the electric current.

A battery is disposed in the battery-chamber 12, and this battery preferably comprises a plurality of battery-cells, as 41, 42, and 43, disposed one above another and connected in series. Any suitable battery may be employed, preferably a battery composed of dry
 25 cells. Insulation 45 is disposed between the battery or battery-cells and the casing or its conductor, and this insulation may consist of a coating or wrapping or any suitable material covering the walls of the cells, or said
 30 walls may consist, in whole or in part, of insulating material.

A spring 50 is disposed in the battery-chamber 12 between the bottom thereof and the lower end of the battery, and this spring
 35 serves the double purpose of connecting the lower pole of the battery with said casing and of pushing the battery outward and holding it in contact with the lamp, as hereinafter described.

A lamp-socket 60 is disposed at the outer end of the battery-chamber. This socket may be of any suitable construction. As shown, it comprises a metallic cup having at its lower
 40 end a screw-threaded nipple 62 and at its upper end a flaring flange 63, which rests against the flaring flange 36 of the upper section 35 of the casing.

An incandescent electric lamp 70 is disposed in the lamp-socket 60, the base of the lamp
 50 being preferably screw-threaded to fit into the nipple 62 in any ordinary manner. The filament of the lamp is connected with a bottom terminal 71, which touches the upper pole of the battery when screwed in its socket, and
 55 with a lateral terminal 72, which touches the wall of the socket 60 when the lamp is in its normal position.

A push-button or contact device 80 of any suitable construction adapted to make electrical connections of the lamp with the bat-
 60 tery is disposed in the handle portion of the billy, meaning hereby in or adjacent to the handle or where it is within reach of the thumb or finger of the hand which grasps the billy.

The push-button shown in the drawings is 65 adapted to electrically connect the sections 30 and 35 of the casing or other suitable conductors and is properly mounted in the side hole 15. When constructed as shown, this push-button comprises a conductive spindle 70
 81, having at its inner end a contact-plate 82, adapted to span the space between the upper end of the lower section 30 of the casing or other conductor and the lower end of the upper section 35 or other conductor and a but- 75
 ton-head 83 at its outer end, preferably composed of insulating material and adapted to play loosely within the recess 18. The spindle 81 is provided with a stop 84 inside the
 80 attaching-plate 17, which stop may be in the form of a shoulder or otherwise. A spring 85 is disposed between the shoulder 16 of the side hole 15 and the stop 84 of the push-button spindle, and this spring operates to hold
 85 the contact-plate 82 of the push-button normally out of contact with the sections of the casing to keep the circuit open.

In the use of this illuminating policeman's billy, which is of special value at night, the policeman grasps it at the handle, with his
 90 thumb on the push-button 80. When the billy is raised to strike a blow, the push-button may be depressed by the thumb, whereby the battery-circuit is closed and the lamp brought into operation. The construction and 95
 arrangement of the parts are such that the light-rays from the lamp are thrown forward while the billy is in a striking position ready to deliver a blow. By this means the policeman is protected by the position of the billy 100
 while searching for the law breaker by the aid of the lamp contained therein, and on the discovery of said law breaker the policeman is enabled to quickly deliver a blow by the same
 105 implement used in the disclosure, and all the time the left hand of the policeman, which has heretofore been sometimes used to carry a pocket-lamp on such occasions, is free for use in defending himself or for grasping the law
 110 breaker. Moreover, the illuminating-billy enables the policeman to observe the features of the law breaker, whereby he can be subsequently identified should he escape from the hands of the officer. The lamp attachment
 115 will also be found useful in other instances where a club of this kind is employed at night or in dark places. It enables the policeman to dispense with the pocket-lamp now used to some extent and places the means of illumination in position for instant use and where it 120
 is not liable to breakage.

I claim as my invention—

An illuminating policeman's billy having a longitudinal chamber in one end, a detachable translucent cover disposed over the chambered 125
 end of the billy for closing said chamber, a casing disposed in said chamber composed of sections separated or insulated from each other

and having conductive means, a battery disposed in said casing and having one pole connected with the lower section thereof, an electric lamp having one terminal connected with
5 the other pole of said battery and the other terminal connected with the upper section of the said casing, and a lateral push-button pro-

vided with means for closing a circuit between said sections.

GEORGE RANLETT SOMES.

Witnesses:

WM. M. STOCKBRIDGE,
FRED J. HUTCHINSON.