

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES PROSPER EUGENE SCHNEIDER, OF LE CREUSOT, AND EMILE RIMAILHO, OF
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AMMUNITION WAGON OR CAISSON.

No. 868,224.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 15, 1907.

Application filed August 18, 1906. Serial No. 331,209.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES PROSPER EUGENE SCHNEIDER and EMILE RIMAILHO, residing, respectively, at Le Creusot, Saône-et-Loire, France, and at
5 54 Boulevard Maillot, Neuilly-sur-Seine, Seine, France, have invented new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Ammunition Wagons or Caissons, which is fully set forth in the following specification.

The present invention has for its object a caisson or
10 ammunition wagon permitting of transporting projectiles of different lengths in variable proportions, and also the corresponding charges; at the same time it is adapted to serve as a protection for the gunners. This caisson is composed of a fore carriage and a rear
15 carriage. The projectiles and the charges are arranged in the fore carriage in accordance with the same disposition as in the rear carriage, with some slight differences hereinafter pointed out.

The invention is represented in detail in the accompanying drawing in which:—

Figure 1 is a general perspective view of the complete caisson in marching order. Fig. 2 shows the rear carriage in perspective in battery position. Fig.
25 3 is a longitudinal section of the rear carriage caisson. Fig. 4 is a corresponding view in plan with the cover removed. Fig. 5 is a view in plan of the fore carriage caisson with the cover removed.

Referring to Fig. 2, the pole *a* pertaining to the rear carriage is represented supported in a horizontal or
30 approximately horizontal position by means of a prop or strut *b*; the pole being directed towards the mark or target. The rear carriage of the caisson is situated beside the gun to be served. The caisson comprises at its rear, two doors *c* very thick and mounted on vertical hinges. In the thickness of these doors there are
35 formed horizontally disposed cylindrical openings *d* adapted to serve as housings for the charges cartridge cases or cartridges *i*. When the doors are open, the interior of the caisson is visible; the doors constituting
40 lateral shields to the right-hand and the left-hand. A plate *e* adapted to be raised vertically around a horizontal hinge *h*, situated at the lower part of the caisson, may be let down horizontally between the doors, so as to form a table (Fig. 2). The leaves or doors *c* are
45 provided with latches or with a projecting rim *k* which serves to support the plate or table *e* in the horizontal position. The plate *e* may be let down into a vertical position as indicated by *e'* (Fig. 3) in which position it serves to shield the legs of the gunners, in order to
50 complete the protection in front; this protection being further assured by the front wall *t* and the cover *f* properly so called of the box forming a shield.

The projectiles *p* are arranged upright on the base in the recesses *m*, and placed on india rubber washers *n*.

The upper part of each projectile is fixed by means of
55 plates *g* formed with holes or apertures *o*. A single plate extending the whole width of the chest may be provided, or a separate plate may be arranged for each row or file of projectiles perpendicular to the axle. The plate or plates *g* is or are mounted on the plate *t*
60 by means of horizontal hinges *h'*. Several hinges of this kind are arranged at different heights on the said plate the levels at which they are hinged corresponding to the varying lengths of the projectiles it is desired to carry.

If one and the same gun is to be provided with projectiles of different lengths—short for shrapnel and long for explosive projectiles—the arrangement described above permits of transporting in the same
65 caisson projectiles of any desired proportions and of varying lengths, by engaging the several upper plates *g* with appropriately situated hinges so that the plates may be let down upon the ogival ends of the projectiles. The holes *o* formed in the plates correspond with
70 the forms of the ogival ends, so that the projectiles are supported in all directions. When the plate *e* is raised (this plate during firing serving as a manipulating table) it engages the plates *g* for fixing short projectiles and prevents them from rising. The fixing or locking
75 plates for long projectiles are engaged by a projection *u* on the front or inner wall of each of the doors. The cover *f* of the caisson covers up the whole and the rear doors *c* assure the closing by means of a suitable fastening, uniting between them all the movable parts. The caisson comprises a cranked axle, so as to lower
80 the center of gravity of the whole. It likewise comprises a brake for the wheels, a forage receptacle above the pole, and boxes in the said pole.

The fore carriage comprises three chests, *v* in the center receiving the cartridge cases, while the lateral
85 chests *x* and *y* receive the projectiles; both the cartridge cases and the projectiles are supported in the manner described with reference to the rear carriage.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. In an ammunition carriage, an ammunition chest having a removable top closure, a rear end double door provided with chambers for holding powder charges, the said top closure and leaves of said door when in open position constituting shields, a projectile-retaining plate having
90 one end movably supported by the front wall of the chest, means for locking said plate in position to retain the projectiles from displacement, an end or tail plate which may be swung into vertical position within the said chest, into a horizontal serving position and into a shield position,
95 and means for retaining the said plate in its serving position.

2. In an ammunition carriage, an ammunition chest having movable top and end closures, said closures acting as shields when the carriage is in serving position, an adjustable projectile-retaining plate revolvably supported on
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one wall of said chest, and locking means holding said plate in position to retain the projectiles in place when said chest is closed.

3. In an ammunition carriage, an ammunition chest having 5
movable top and end closures, said closures acting as shields when the carriage is in serving position, a projectile-retaining plate revolubly supported on one wall of said chest, and an end or tail plate revolubly supported on the bottom of the chest and engaging said retaining plate 10
to lock the same in a fixed position to retain the projectiles when the chest is closed.

4. In an ammunition carriage, an ammunition chest having movable top and end closures, the end closure being provided with chambers for holding powder charges, and 15
both closures serving as shields when the carriage is in serving position, and an adjustable projectile-retaining

plate revolubly supported on one wall of said chest for retaining projectiles in place when said chest is closed, and locking means for said plate.

5. In an ammunition carriage, an ammunition chest having 20
top and end closures, said closures acting as shields when the carriage is in serving position, a plurality of plates revolubly supported in different planes, for retaining projectiles of different lengths in place, and means for locking said plates in a fixed position. 25

In testimony whereof we have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES PROSPER EUGENE SCHNEIDER.

EMILE RIMAILHO.

Witnesses:

EUGÈNE E. NAUSE,

PIERRE GALEAN.