W. J. HUFF.

RELEASING HOOK FOR LIFE BOATS AND THE LIKE.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 25, 1911.

1,027,481. **Patented May 28, 1912.**

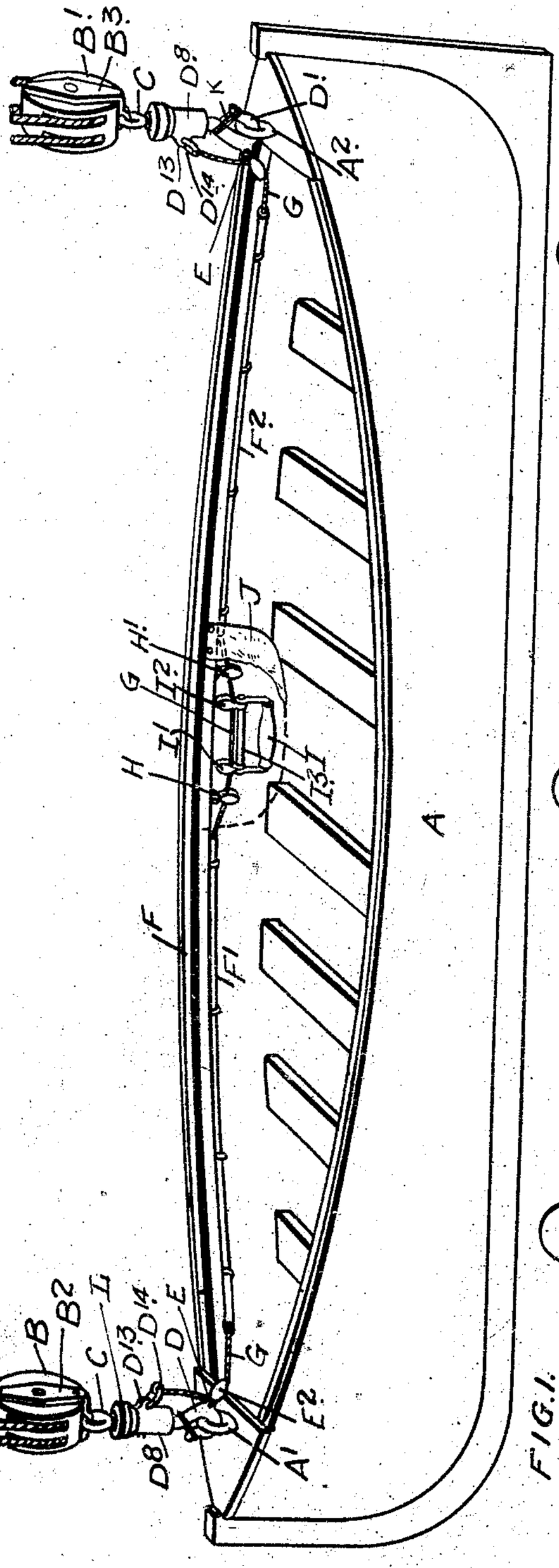


FIG. 1.

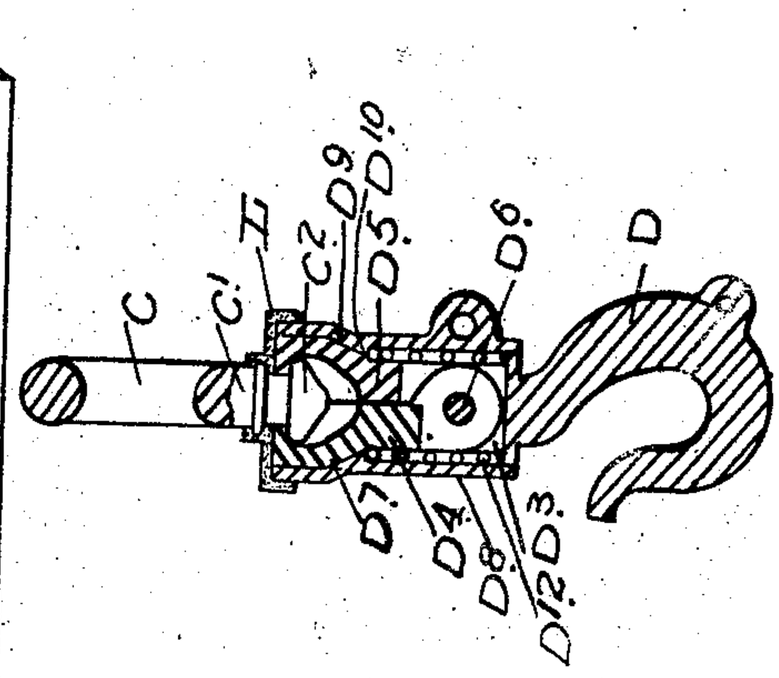


FIG. 4.

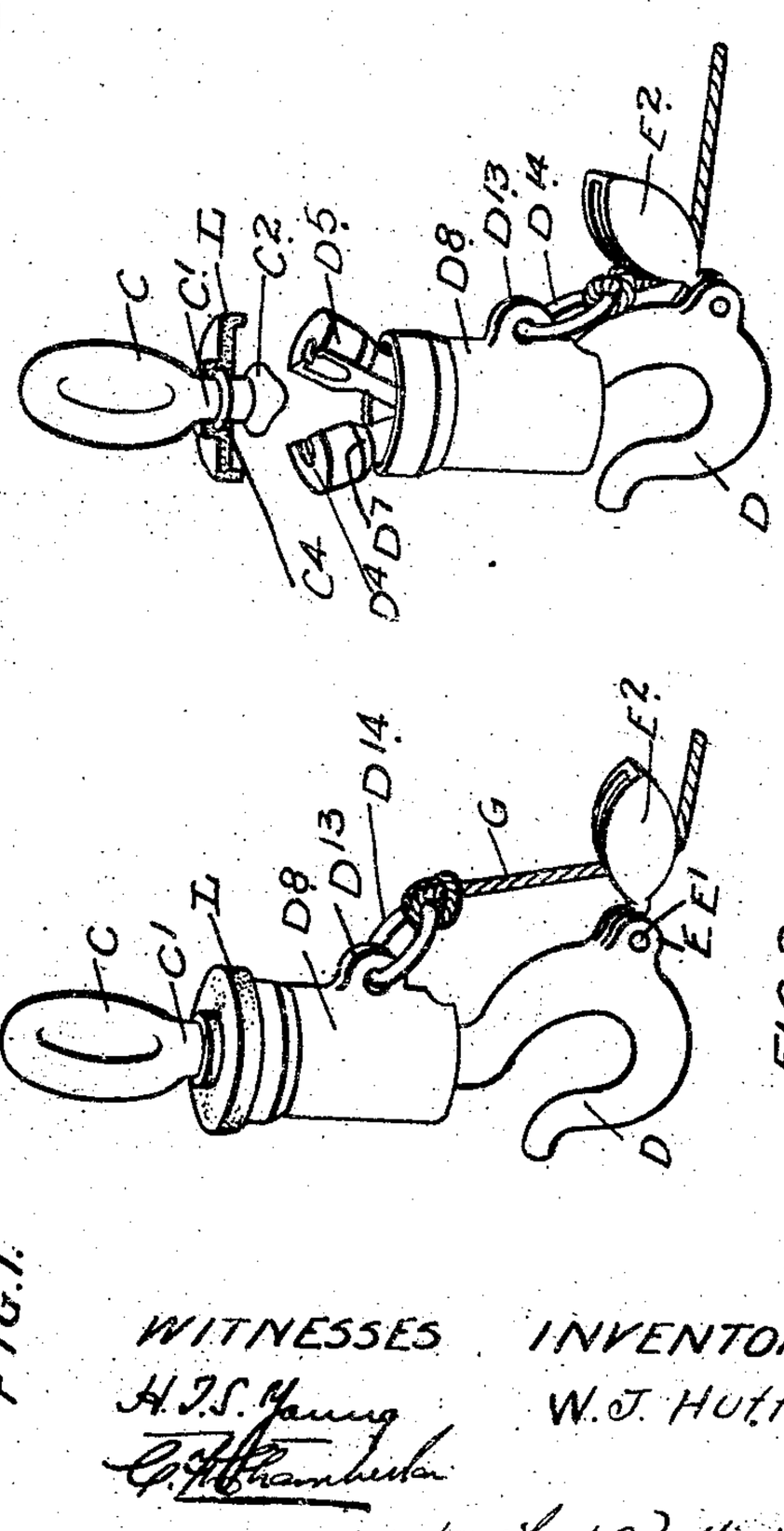


FIG. 3.

FIG. 2.

WITNESSES
H. J. S. Young
C. F. Brandenburg

INVENTOR.
W. J. Huff

By Fred B. Fetherstonhaugh
Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM JOHN HUFF, OF TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA.

RELEASING-HOOK FOR LIFE-BOATS AND THE LIKE.

1,027,481. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 28, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JOHN HUFF, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Releasing-Hooks for Life-Boats and the Like, of which the following is the specification.

My invention relates to improvements in releasing hooks for life boats and the like and the object of the invention is to provide a simple device conveniently located in the boat for simultaneously operating the releasing means of the hook at each end of the boat so as to simultaneously and instantaneously free the boat at each end immediately the boat reaches the water and it consists essentially of an eye connected to each davit tackle and provided with a depending head, a suitable eye at each end of the boat, a hook engaging each eye, a spring held sleeve connected to the shank of the hook containing gripping jaws designed to grip the depending head of the eye connected to the davit tackle, a cable connected to each of the spring held sleeves of the boat supporting hooks and extending down beneath the gunwale of the boat through a tube leading from each end to the center of the boat so as to leave the central portions of the cable exposed, a supporting block depending beneath the gunwale in proximity to each inner end of the cable containing tube, a handle provided with blocks supported by the central portion of the cord between the aforesaid blocks depending from the gunwale as hereinafter more particularly described by the following specification.

Figure 1, represents a general perspective view of a boat showing my supporting hooks and releasing means connected thereto. Fig. 2, is an enlarged perspective detail of the boat supporting hook and the davit tackle eye releasably connected thereto. Fig. 3, is a similar view to Fig. 2 showing the releasing jaws in the released position and the davit tackle eye removed. Fig. 4, is a vertical section through Fig. 2.

In the drawings like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each figure.

A is a life boat provided at the bow and stern portion with eyes A′ and A².

B and B′ are blocks depending from the davits and forming part of the tackle thereof.

C C are eyes connected in the usual manner by the straps B² and B³ to the blocks B and B′. Each eye C is provided with a depending stem C′ terminating in a head C².

D and D′ are hooks designed to engage with the eyes A′ and A². Each hook D and D′ is provided with upwardly extending lugs D³ between which are pivoted gripping jaws D⁴ and D⁵ by means of the cross pin D⁶. It will be noticed on referring to Fig. 4 that the upper end of the jaws are enlarged and provided with flaring portions D⁷.

D⁸ is a sleeve provided with a correspondingly flared portion D⁹ and a shoulder D¹⁰. Between the shoulder D¹⁰ and the top of the hook extends a spiral spring D¹². Each sleeve D⁸ is provided with an eye D¹³ in which is held a ring D¹⁴. Each hook D and D′ is provided with a lug E between which is swung upon a cross pin E′ a block E².

F is the gunwale of the boat beneath which are supported tubes F′ and F². The tubes F′ and F² extend from points in proximity to the bow and the stern of the boat to points in proximity to the center of the boat.

G is a cable extending from the eye D¹⁴ forming part of the releasing means of the hook D beneath the block E² of the hook D and through the tube F′ to the tube F² through which it passes to the eye D¹⁴ forming part of the releasing tackle of the hook D′. It will be noticed that the central portion of the cable G extending between the inner ends of the tubes F′ and F² is exposed.

H and H′ are blocks swung beneath the gunwale of the boat in proximity to the inner ends of the tubes F′ and F² and over which the central portion of the cable G passes so as to support the same.

I is an operating handle swung upon the cable G between the blocks H and H′ and is supported thereon by the blocks I′ and I². swung upon the cross bar I³ of the handle I.

J is an apron secured to the gunwale of the boat and designed to hide the handle from sight so that the passengers in the boat will not be able to see the same. When it is desired to release the boat all that it is necessary to do after the boat has been lowered into the water is to pull upon the handle I thereby drawing upon the cable G simultaneously from each end thereby depressing each sleeve D⁸ against the pressure of the springs D¹² and thereby releasing the jaws D⁴ and D⁵ so as to free the head C² forming

part of the davit tackle eye C thus freeing the boat simultaneously and instantaneously at each end. To prevent the hooks D and D′ and D² from coming out of the eyes A′ and A² when the hooks are freed, I wind suitable wire K around the hooks as shown in Fig. 1 so as to prevent the hooks from coming out of the eyes. To prevent water getting into the sleeve D⁸ I provide a rubber cap L fitting over the top of the sleeve and around the stem C′ and of the eye C. The stem C′ is provided with a rib C⁴ so that there will be a closer connection between the rubber cap and the stem.

From this description it will be seen that I have devised a very simple device whereby a life boat when lowered into the water may be instantaneously and simultaneously released at both ends thereby minimizing the danger of the boat capsizing in rough water.

What I claim as my invention is.

1. A releasing hook for life boats, comprising an eye member having a depending head at one end, a hook member having upwardly projecting lugs between which are pivotally mounted gripping jaws designed to engage said depending head, and a sliding spring-held sleeve inclosing said gripping jaws, with means for operating same, substantially as described.

2. A releasing hook for life boats comprising an eye member having a depending head at one end, a hook member having two upwardly projecting lugs between which are pivotally secured a pair of gripping jaws for engaging said depending head, upper ends of said jaws enlarged and provided with flaring portions, a sliding spring-held sleeve inclosing said gripping jaws and provided with a corresponding flaring portion and shoulder designed to embrace said gripping jaws, and means for operating spring-held sleeve.

WILLIAM JOHN HUFF.

Witnesses:
B. BOYD,
H. PRESTON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."