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Witnesses:



Demetrios Stergianoopoulos, Inventor,

By his Attorney



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## SMALL FIREARM.

1,166,557.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, DEMETRIOS STERGIANOPULOS, a subject of the Kingdom of Greece, residing at the city of Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Small Firearms, of which the following is a clear, full, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in small fire-arms and has for its object to provide protective means at the muzzle end of the weapon.

Referring to the drawings—Figure 1 is a side view of a rifle embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a similar enlarged fragmental view of the muzzle end of the rifle, partly in section. Fig. 3 is a view of Fig. 2 looking toward the left. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 with certain parts removed, and Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

My improvements may be used with almost any type of gun. The rifle 1 shown in Fig. 1 while of a particular type is for illustrative purposes only. There are many different types of fire-arms of the smaller class, that is to say, the class that is carried by man to suit the various purposes for which they are intended. In almost every instance the fore sight, as shown at 2, is placed in an unprotected position at the muzzle end of the barrel 3 and is often subjected to exceedingly rough usage. This is especially true of the army rifle which is equipped with a bayonet. It is of course essential to the accurate firing of the rifle that the sight be maintained in a perfect condition, and it is the purpose of this invention to so protect the fore sight that it will not be injured by the rough usage that such rifles often are subjected to.

I provide what might be termed a housing for the fore sight comprising side and front guards which will serve to protect the sight from the attack of the enemy, as well as from other blows or knocks that it might be subjected to. The side guards 4 are preferably made of strong metal such as steel and connected together by a yoke or band 5 which is shaped so that it will snugly embrace that portion of the rifle in line with the fore sight and support the two guards 4 in upright position on each side of the sight. The guards are preferably of sufficient area to extend beyond the sight on all sides to amply protect it. I preferably pro-

vide the guards with relatively large orifices 6 tapered inwardly to a knife-edge for the purpose of permitting ample light to reach the sight.

The rifle here shown is provided with a bayonet 7 which may be detachably secured to the stock of the rifle in any desired manner. In the present instance, the bayonet is provided with a shield plate 8 which has a pin 9 projecting from it, for entering a corresponding socket in the end of the rifle, as shown in Fig. 2. The handle 10 of the bayonet is provided with an inverted T-shaped groove 11 open at the end which engages a correspondingly shaped lug 12 which projects from the rifle. A lock pin 13 extends through the handle 10 and is provided at one end with an upwardly and inwardly extending finger 14 which projects through an opening 15 and into the groove 11. The other end of the pin 13 is provided with a push-button 16 for forcing the finger out of the groove 11, and a tension spring 17 is provided for returning the finger to its locking position within the dove-tailed groove and maintaining it therein. The pin is positioned to seat behind the lug 12 and thereby lock the bayonet in position. All that is necessary in removing the bayonet is to press the head 16 until the finger 14 clears the groove 11, whereupon the bayonet may be simply drawn forward until it is free from the rifle. It is obvious that the reverse of this operation will quickly secure the bayonet to the rifle.

The front guard 18 is preferably made detachable, and to this end I form it of a suitably stiff steel plate having an orifice 19 for mounting it upon the barrel of the rifle and another orifice 20 for mounting it on the blade of the bayonet. These orifices should preferably be of sizes respectively to produce an easy fit of the barrel and blade within them. I prefer in the present instance to secure the plate 18 to the bayonet so that both may be removed separately from the rifle when desired or the guard may be removed separately, although I do not wish to be limited to any specific form of securing means.

The guard is provided with a rearwardly extending pin 21 which extends into a hole of the plate 18. This plate is provided with a chamber 22 below the hole. A headed pin 23 extends into the chamber through the bottom thereof and has its upper end pro-



jecting into the path of the pin 21 to engage a socket formed therein for locking the guard firmly in position. A spring 24 is provided for maintaining the pin 23 in active position and for returning it thereto when depressed by forcing the head downwardly when it is desired to remove the guard.

The guard is provided with an opening 25 exposing the top edge of the sight which of course is necessary in order to leave the path of sight unobstructed. I do however prefer to extend the guard upwardly on either side of the said opening, and in fact to extend it for a considerable extent on all sides of the barrel so that it will not only shield and guard the sight but also act as a protective shield to the person using the rifle both as against bullets from the enemy as well as from attacks by bayonets, swords, etc. I further provide orifices 26 which will serve to receive the point of a weapon and temporarily prevent it from passing the guard. While I have shown in the present instance orifices for this purpose I wish to

include any surface configurations that will serve a similar purpose.

Having thus described my invention I claim—

1. In a rifle, a fore sight, and a guard in advance thereof, disposed transversely of the rifle barrel and provided with an opening opposite the top edge of the sight.

2. In a rifle, a fore sight, and a guard in advance thereof, disposed transversely of the rifle barrel, said guard being extended for a considerable extent beyond all sides of the rifle and having an opening opposite the upper edge of the sight.

3. In a rifle, a fore sight, and a guard in advance thereof, disposed transversely of the rifle barrel, said guard being extended for a considerable extent beyond all sides of the rifle and having an opening opposite the upper edge of the sight and openings disposed throughout its area.

This specification signed this 13th day of May, 1915.

DEMETRIOS STERGIANOPULOS.

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