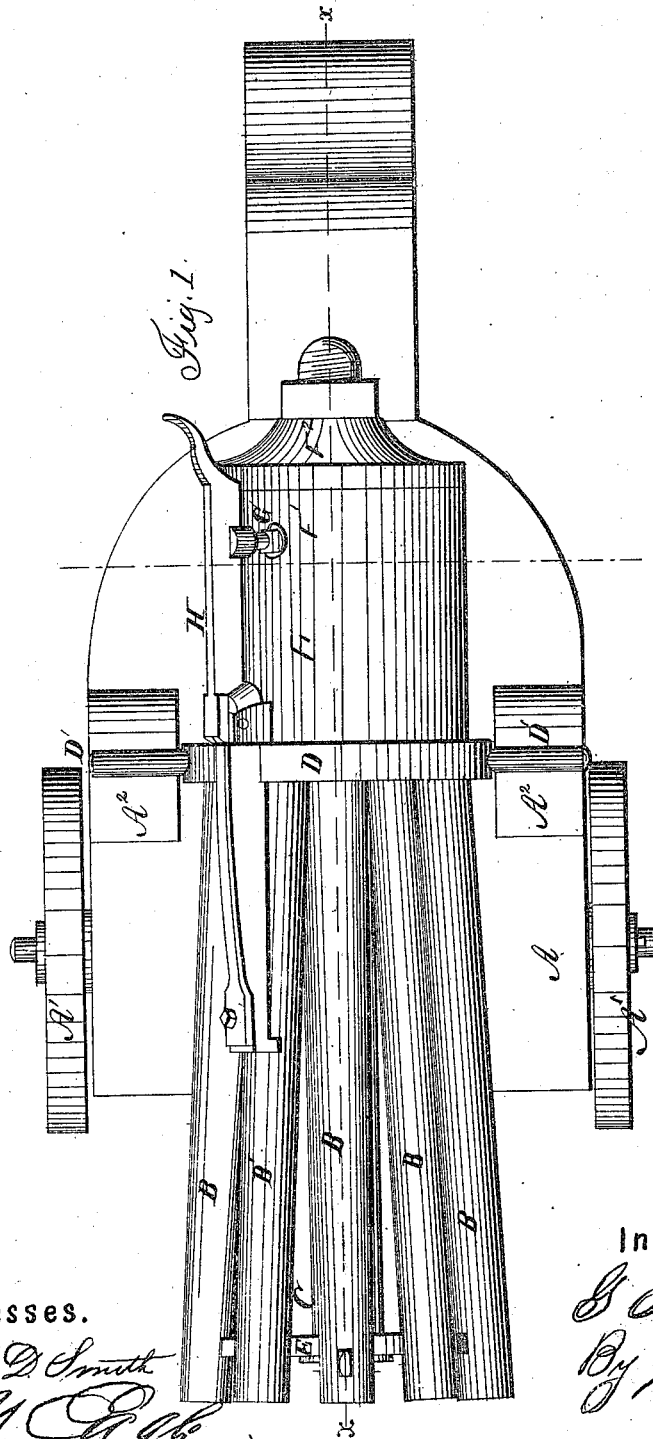


G. NATCHER.
Machine Gun.

No. 45,623.

Patented Dec. 27, 1864.



Witnesses.

E. D. Smith
J. H. R. R.

Inventor.

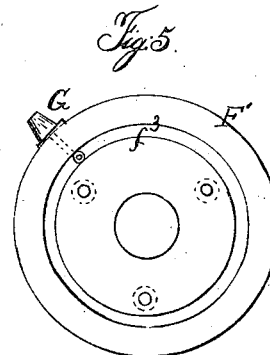
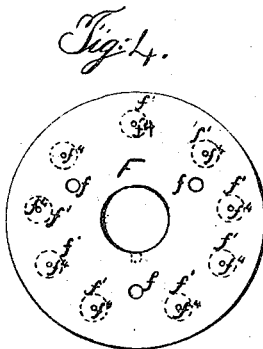
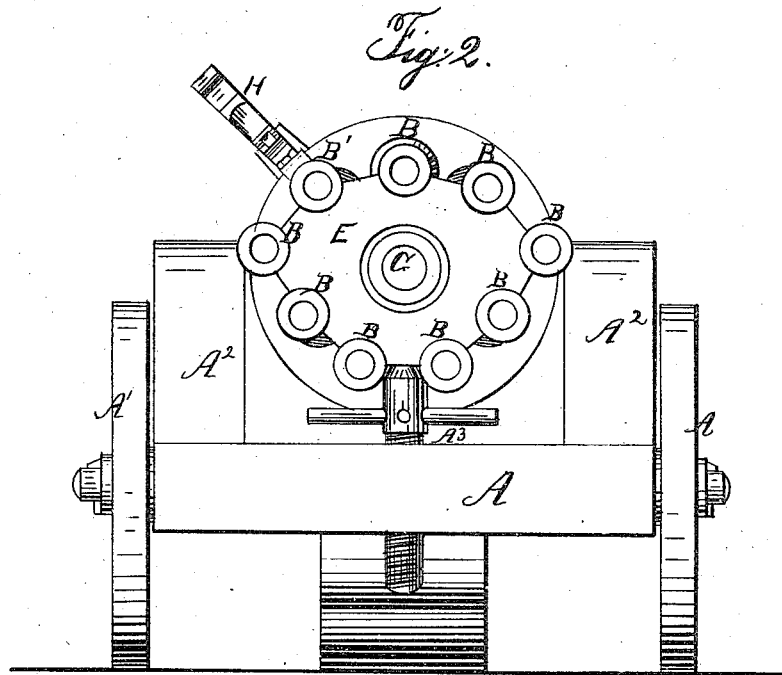
G. Natcher
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Machine Gun.

3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

No. 45,623

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Witnesses.

E. D. Smith
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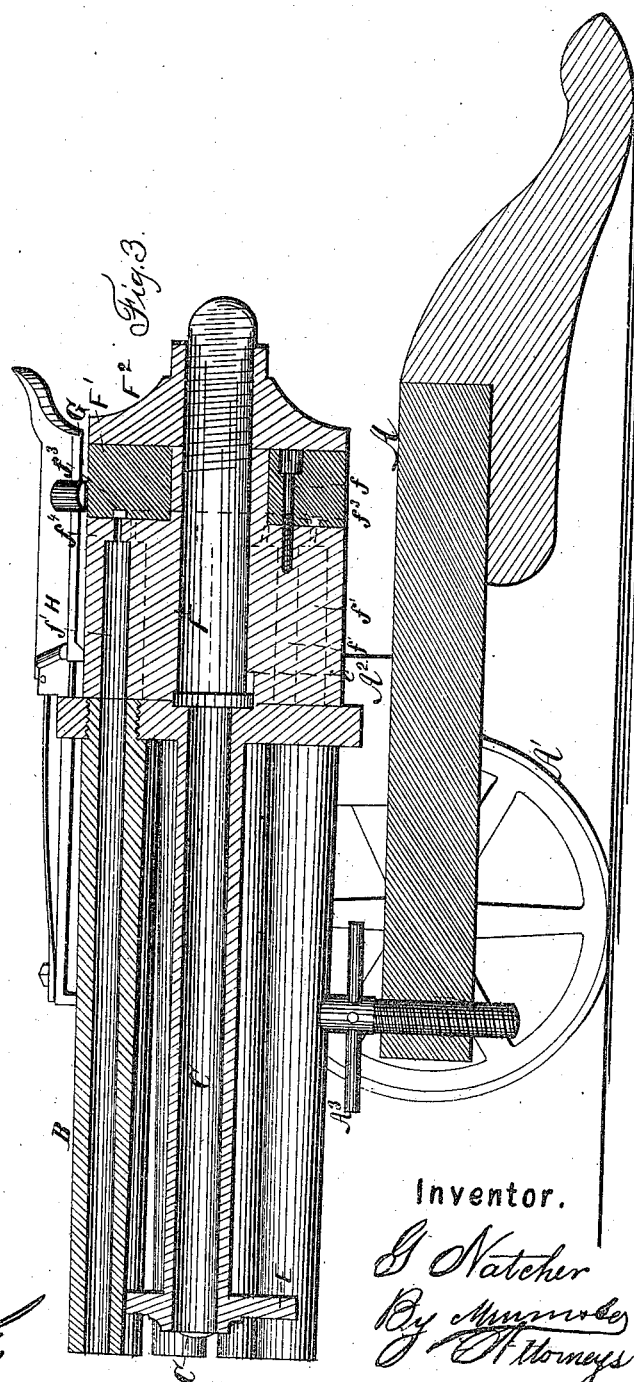
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G. NATCHER.
Machine Gun.

3 Sheets—Sheet 3

No. 45,623

Patented Dec. 27, 1864



Witnesses.

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Inventor.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GABRIEL NATCHER, OF SIDNEY, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN MANY-BARRELED CANNONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 45,623, dated December 27, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GABRIEL NATCHER, of Sidney, in the county of Shelby and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Battery; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan or top view of my improved battery. Fig. 2 is a front-end elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same in the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a sectional view, looking toward the front, the plane of section being indicated by the line *y y*. Fig. 5 is a sectional view, looking toward the rear, the section being taken in the same plane as Fig. 4.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

This invention relates to a gun or battery composed of a series of barrels which diverge horizontally, but whose horizontal planes are parallel with each other and which are employed in connection with a movable chambered breech-piece provided with a circular groove, which communicates with all the barrels and with a nipple in such manner that by the explosion of a single cap the entire number of barrels may be discharged simultaneously, all as will be hereinafter fully explained.

In order that others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains may be enabled to fully understand and use the same, I proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, A may represent a carriage or limber mounted on wheels, A' A' and supporting a series of guns or barrels, B, which are arranged round a central stem, C, and have their rear ends securely inserted into a circular head or disk, D, there being formed on this head the trunnions D' D', which rest in suitable bearings in the cheeks A² A² and adapt the range of the battery to be varied by an elevating-screw, A³, in customary manner. At front a scalloped plate, E, is interposed between the barrels to retain them in proper position asunder, said plate being securely fastened on the end of the stem C. The barrels B are arranged in such manner that

when discharged the projectiles will diverge horizontally from each other, but have a uniform range or trajectory. In other words, the relative vertical longitudinal planes of the axes of the barrels diverge, but the horizontal planes thereof occupy parallel positions. The stem C projects backward through the head D, and has loosely fitted upon it a chambered breech-piece, F, which is provided with a cap, F', both of which latter are securely held upon the stem by a circular nut, F², to receive which the rear end of the stem C is threaded, as shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 4 represents a rear view of the breech-piece F, and Fig. 5 a front view of the cap F', the latter being firmly annexed to the former by screws *f*. In the breech-piece F' are formed chambers *f'*, which correspond in size and number and communicate respectively with the bores of the barrels B.

G represents a nipper inserted into the cap F' and communicating with a circular groove, *f*³, in said cap F'. This groove *f*³ is concentric with the cap F' and breech-piece F, and communicates through ventages *f*⁴ with the bores of the several barrels B.

H represents a hammer for exploding the cap upon the nipple G.

From the above description it is manifest that the explosion of a cap upon the nipple G will cause all the barrels of the battery to discharge at once.

To place the battery in condition for loading it is only necessary to unscrew the nut F² and move the breech-piece F backward upon the stem C, so as to afford access to the chambers *f'*. The charges having thus been placed in the chambers *f'*, the breech-piece F is moved to its forward position against the head D and secured by the nut F², as before explained, when the battery is in condition to be discharged. On the stem C is formed a key, *c*, which is adapted to enter a corresponding cavity in the breech-piece F and indicate when the breech is in proper position for the chambers *f'* to communicate with the bores of the barrels. When the breech-piece is retracted for loading a current of air is allowed to pass through the barrels, and thus they are kept in a cool condition and danger of bursting from heat is obviated.

I am aware that it is common to construct batteries with one or more ranges of barrels diverging in horizontal planes; also, that it is common to discharge a series of barrels from a single nipple by means of a priming-groove; also, that it is common to construct a canon or battery with removable breech-blocks.

Having thus described my invention, the following is what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

A battery consisting of a circular or elliptical

range of barrels, B B B, diverging in horizontal planes, a removable chambered breech, F, adjusted to the said range of barrels by a shaft, C, and tongue c, and an annular groove, f³, to communicate fire to the range of barrels or chambers from a single nipple, G, all as herein described, and for the purposes specified.

GABRIEL NATCHER.

In presence of—

B. S. McFARLAND,

E. SMITH.