R. B. LANUM.

Grave-Torpedo.

No. 228,651. Patented June 8, 1880.

Fig. 1

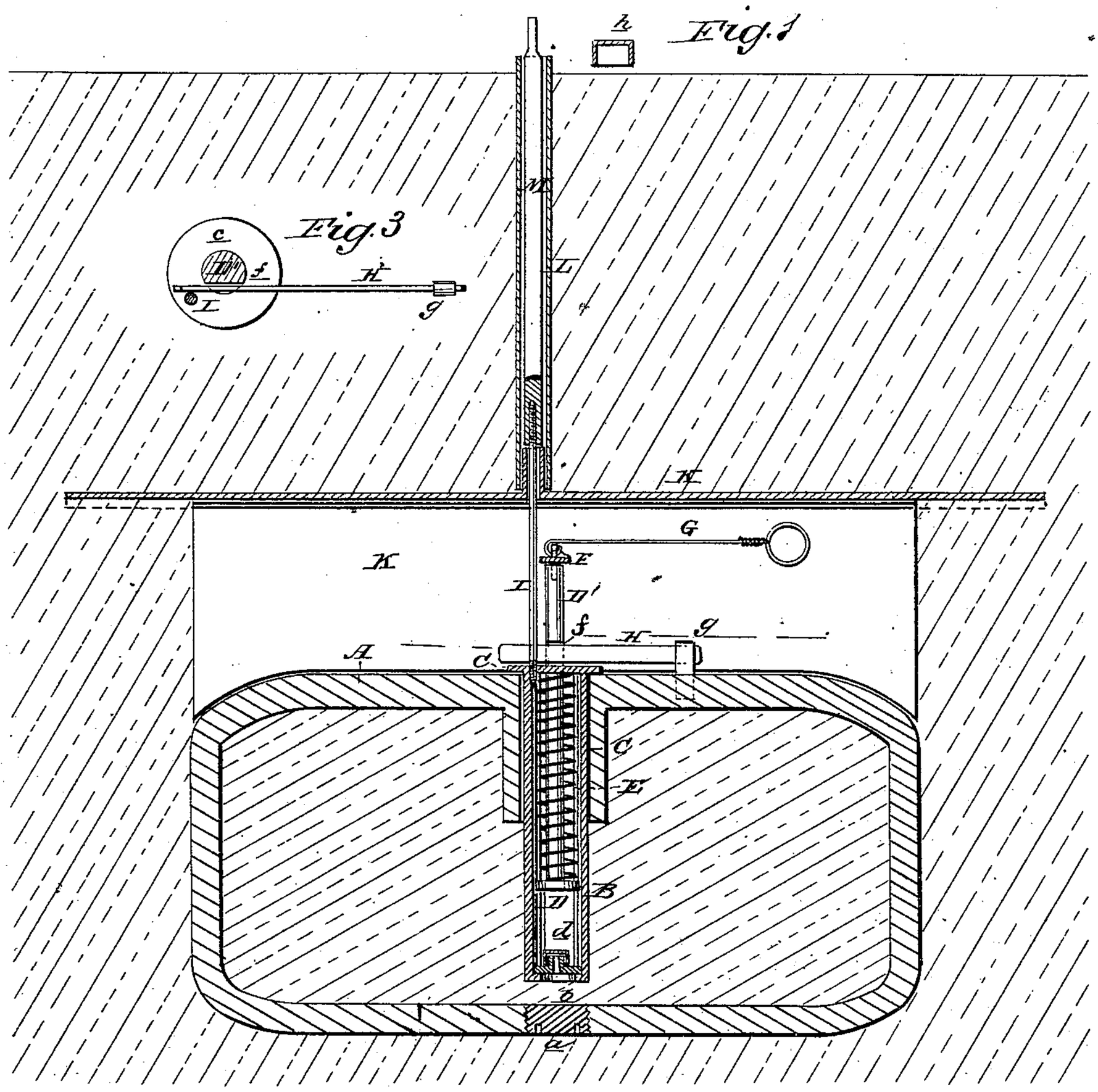
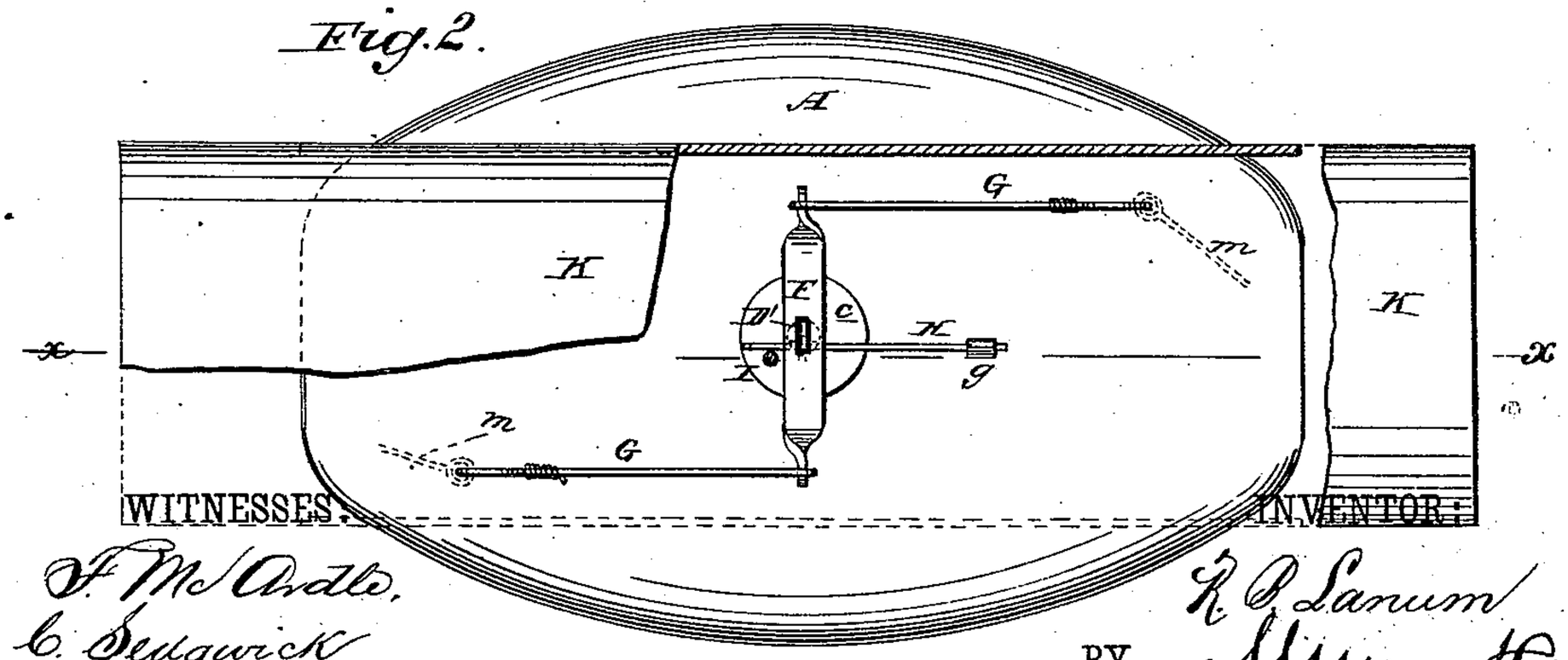


Fig. 3

Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD B. LANUM, OF CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO E. P. WRIGHT AND J. N. COOK, OF SAME PLACE.

GRAVE-TORPEDO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 228,651, dated June 8, 1880.

Application filed October 9, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD B. LANUM, of Circleville, in the county of Pickaway and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Grave-Torpedo, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is an elevation of the device, partly in section. Fig. 2 is a plan of the same, with the shield partly broken away that the mechanism of the device may be more plainly seen. Fig. 3 is a plan showing the shoulder formed in the hammer-shank.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to provide a torpedo so arranged that if placed in a grave it will explode if any attempt be made to rob the grave.

In the drawings, A represents a hollow metallic shell, that is to be filled with powder, provided with an opening, *a*, in its bottom, through which the powder is to be introduced, which opening *a* may be tightly closed with a screw-plug, *b*.

B is a metallic tube, provided with a flange or shoulder, *c*, that is inserted into the shell A, through the central guiding-tube, C, until the shoulder or flange *c* sets upon the face of the shell A. Within this tube B is a hammer, D, whose shank D′ is encircled by a spiral spring, E, and in the bottom of said tube B it is designed to fix a percussion cap or wafer, *d*, that shall be exploded by the fall of the hammer D, and cause the explosion of the charge in the shell A.

The shank D′ of the hammer D is cut away, so as to present a shoulder, *f*, on one face of it. Held by a stud, *g*, that is made fast on the face of the shell A, is the horizontal flat bar H, whose lower edge rests on the said shell A, and whose upper edge is made to engage under the shoulder *f* of the hammer-shank D′, and thereby hold the said hammer D drawn up and ready for a blow upon the cap *d*.

On the top of the hammer-shank D′ is fixed a cross-bar, F, to each end of which is fastened a draw-wire, G, and a slight pull upon either of these wires G will suffice to turn the hammer-shank D′ so that the shoulder *f* shall be disengaged from the bar H, in which case the hammer D will instantly be forced down upon the cap *d*, and the torpedo be thereby exploded.

In order that the torpedo may be safely handled when it is being put in the grave, a locking-pin, I, is screwed into the face of the flange *c* of the tube B, so as to press and hold the bar H under the shoulder *f* of the hammer-shank D′.

A shield, K, is set over the mechanism of the torpedo to protect it from the earth when buried, and the said shield K is provided with an upward-projecting tube, L, through which the locking-pin I and its extension-rod M may extend upward to or near the surface of the ground, where the cap *h* will cover the tube L.

With the bar H locked under the shoulder *f* of the hammer-shank D′ the torpedo can be handled with perfect safety; and in this condition it is to be placed within the grave with the body, and the train-wires *m* (shown in dotted lines, Fig. 2) are to be attached to the wires G, and be disposed in various directions throughout the grave, so that they (the wires *m*) shall be encountered on any attempt to open the grave. Then when the grave is filled the locking-pin I and extension-rod M are withdrawn, so that on any future unauthorized disturbance of its mechanism the torpedo will explode.

Should it, however, be desired legitimately to remove the body from the grave, the pin I and rod M can be inserted through the tube L and the bar H be again locked under the shoulder *f* of the hammer-shank D′, so that the removal may be made without danger to those engaged in it.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The hammer D, hammer-shank D′, provided with shoulder *f* and bar H, in combination with the spring E, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. In combination with the cap *c* of the tube B and the bar H, the locking-pin I, substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

3. In combination with the shell A and its mechanism, as herein described, the shield K, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

RICHARD BRYANT LANUM.

Witnesses:
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