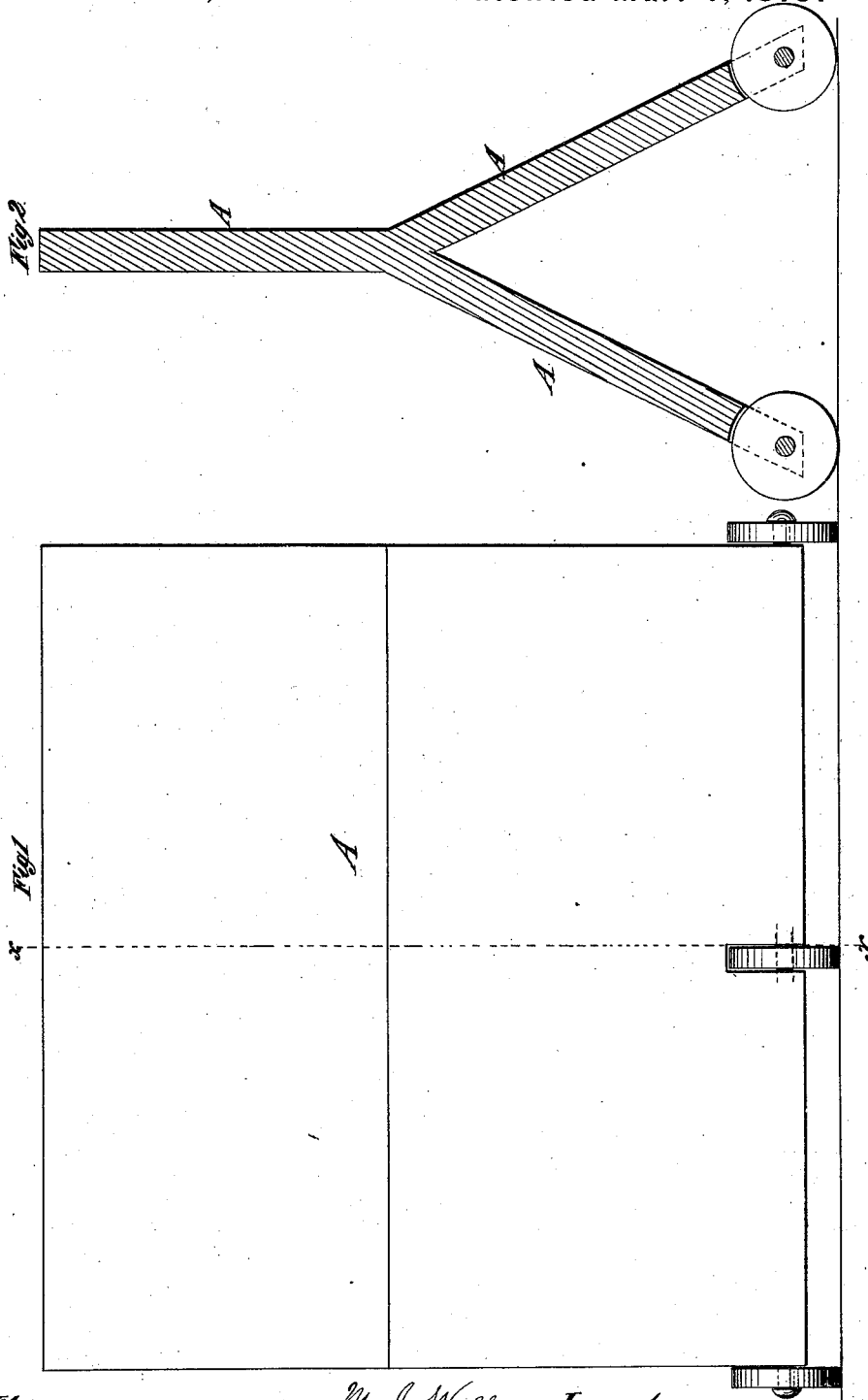


M. J. WELLMAN.  
Movable Breastwork or Shield.

No. 212,877.

Patented Mar. 4, 1879.



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARION J. WELLMAN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MOVABLE BREASTWORKS OR SHIELDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **212,877**, dated March 4, 1879; application filed June 1, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARION JULIANA WELLMAN, of the city of New York, have invented a new and useful Apparatus for Military Use as a Movable Intrenchment; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the drawings forming a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a vertical cross-section illustrating one of the simplest forms of my invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same.

The object of my invention is to provide soldiers in the field with a portable and movable intrenchment or shield, which they can move upon the enemy while the soldiers are behind it.

The drawings show a stout frame of wood or iron, A, having a perpendicular upper portion and scarp-shaped lower portions resting upon and moving on roller-wheels. The device is of a suitable length—say, fifteen to thirty feet—and about seven to eight feet in height. Instead of roller-wheels, suitable casters or sleds may be used, as the condition of the surface of the country to be traversed may require.

Each platoon or detail of a company may be provided with one or more of these intrenchments. They may be pierced with suitable apertures for the platoon to shoot through, and should be protected with any suitable armor, of metal, wood, or stone, earth, or fiber, as may be preferred. When used against small-arms, a steel or iron sheeting would suffice; if used against artillery, my intrenchment should be made proportionally heavier in its frame-work, and its armor should be much stronger.

The outer face should be provided with a layer of stone, earth, fiber, or clay, and in some cases be protected by an iron or steel facing. When used against small arms, the weight of the intrenchment will suffice to steady it; but it would need stout timber-braces on the rear side to steady it against the impact of cannon-shot. When made in a light form and faced with steel plates, it can be operated as a shield to a small body of sharpshooters, who, behind it, can advance in safety very close to the enemy.

Two or more of these intrenchments can be used to form a line; and a suitable number can be combined so as to make an inclosed works or fort. Four or three can be arranged to form a square or triangular room, over the top of which canvas or boards can be laid, thus forming a shelter better than a tent and safe against attack.

For many purposes my invention takes the place of earthworks; and when numbers of them are combined, and covered on top, they constitute comfortable barracks. They should be constructed in readily-adjustable pieces, secured by dowels or pins, so that they may be readily transported by men or horses, and be put together rapidly and in the dark. One of these intrenchment-pieces, A, can be laid upon the top of two others, thus constituting a bomb-proof. They may be provided with hooks for convenience in moving or securing them together.

A little experience in their use will show many obvious modifications in the construction and use of my invention.

I claim—

1. A movable intrenchment of wood, iron, stone, or other suitable material, having a perpendicular upper portion and scarp-shaped lower portions, so as to form a broad base to steady the intrenchment and preclude it from being easily overturned, provided with suitable apertures or loop-holes resting upon and moving on roller-wheels, or casters, or sleds, operated and arranged as specified, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination of two or more movable intrenchments, constructed, arranged, and operated as specified, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The combination of three or more movable intrenchments, constructed and operated as specified, to form a square or triangular barrack or shelter, substantially as set forth.

MARION J. WELLMAN.

In presence of—  
CHANDLER HALL,  
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