

A Miniature Fort for Every Soldier

He can carry it with him when he goes out to lick the Germans

A MAN down in the well-known city of Myrtle, Miss., has evolved a truly beautiful modification of the many portable breastworks and bullet stoppers, in that he has added to this laudable effort, also a battery of revolvers, making the whole merely a miniature Maubeuge or Namur.

The invention consists of a steel plate that in operative position, stands vertical, staunchly facing the foe. This plate and also the decoy plate in front of it are pierced with port-holes for the revolvers which are mounted in battery behind it. The decoy plate, located a short distance ahead of the main plate, is backed by coil springs. This is one of the important points. What happens?

Sit back and hold tight while we tell you that the springs back of the front or decoy plate are compressed by the blow of the bullet fired by incautious Hans or Fritz, whereupon the recoil of the springs hurls back plate and bullet, promptly smiting said Hans or Fritz on the rebound, with his own bullet!

With the breast-work raised to its vertical position, covering two soldiers, there appear, swinging from their clips, with their muzzles pointing grimly through the port-holes as the carronades of Bainbridge pointed through the sides of the old "Constitution," six revolvers, which the inventor says are "preferably of the automatic type." He doesn't know that automatic revolvers outside of a freak type built years ago in England, are largely figments of the inaccurate newspaper man's imagination, automatic

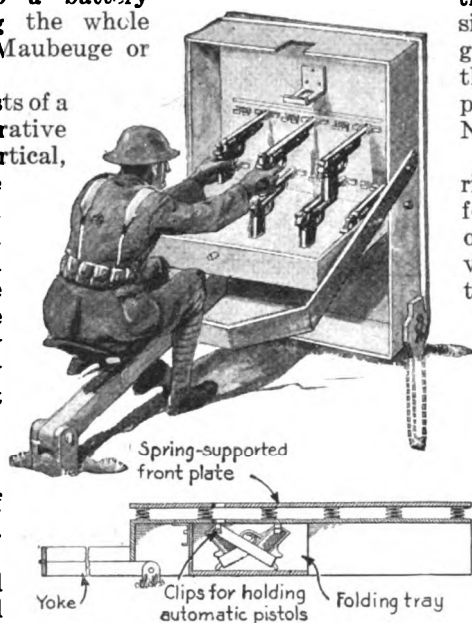
pistols being more generally used. Still this inventor specifies automatic revolvers, and we let him have his way.

Let an incautious Teuton dare to stick so much as a finger from his shelter, and the two soldiers start the six automatic revolvers going, something like the Swiss Bell Ringers playing The Chimes of Normandy.

If, in spite of this terrible instrument of defense, the foe still insists on coming over, the inventor has arranged it to fold down flat on the ground, the revolvers pivoting to lie out of the way, and the whole covered up by the then prone decoy plate. The inventor calls attention to the fact that in this position it is not in the way of retreating troops. What would they be doing out ahead of such a fort? Echo does not answer.

The device is said to be light and easily carried. Imagine any one lugging a little steel fort that can resist mauser bullets!

The inventor says that these portable breastworks are really intended for use during a retreat. The troops can stop at any point, erect these breastworks and open fire on the enemy by means of the revolvers. Alas! he does not state what happens if the enemy unfairly stops 300 yards away, beyond which pistols are not accurate. He fails to mention one very great advantage of his shield, during a retreat. Here it is: So long as the troops continue to carry them there will be no danger of their breaking into a run and turning the retreat into a rout.



The upper picture shows the portable fort in use. Below is a diagram showing its ingenious construction