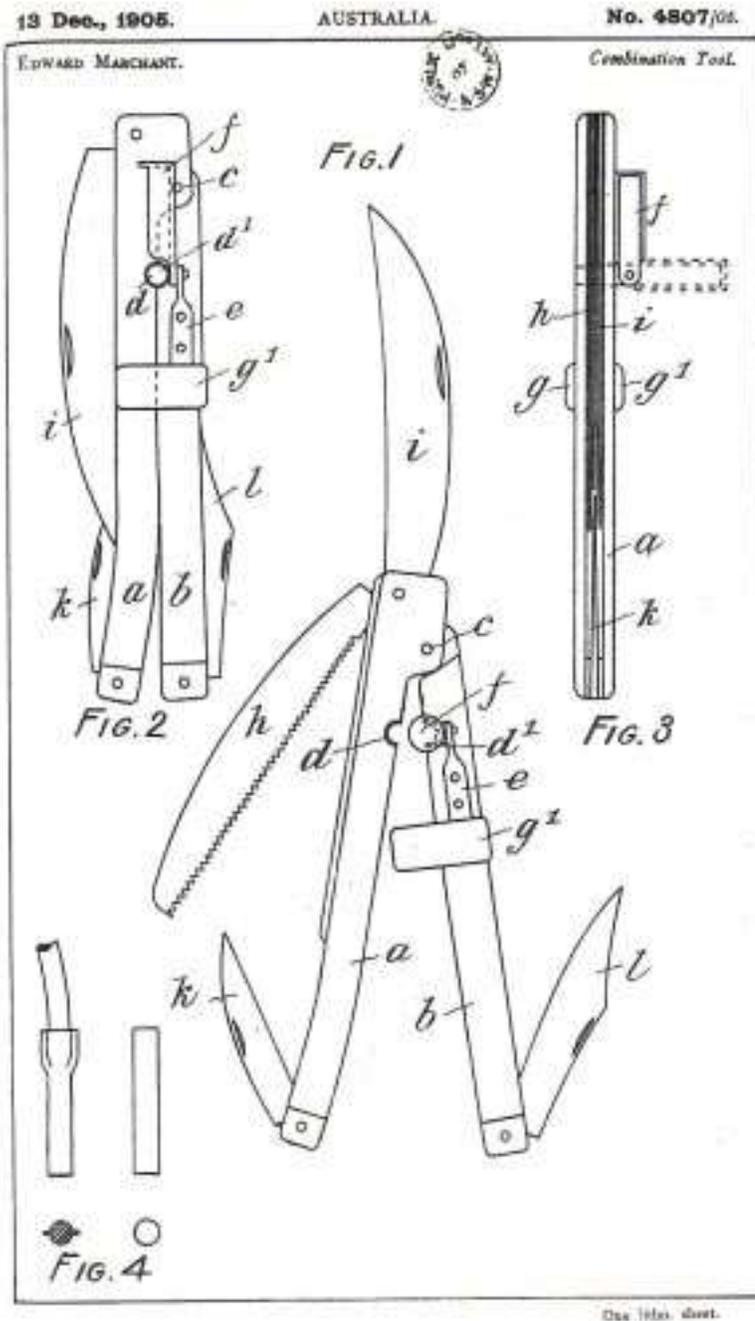


Improved Miner's Combination Pocket Tool

by Stephen J. McCabe



Another interesting patented combination tool from Australia was granted to Edward Marchant of Howell in the State of New South Wales, on 13th December 1905 Patent Number 4807/05 for "an improved miner's combination pocket tool."

The Australian Colonies had achieved Federation in 1901 and the individual Patent Offices around the country had finally become a Federal Department in May 1904.

Edward Marchant a miner states that his patent "relates to an improved combination tool for the use of miners and those engaged in similar pursuits which may be easily carried in the pocket and contains in the first place a closing appliance for detonators, that is pliers which will crimp the end of the detonator shell in such a way as to hold the inserted fuse firmly in position." The tool also contains a saw blade and three knife blades of different shapes and suitable for different purposes a miner would require and are all of the usual construction and spring loaded. The handle consists of two legs and hinged together with each leg forming a handle in itself for holding the different blades and at the same time constituting the handles of the crimper pliers for squeezing the detonator shell. Figure 1. Represents the combination tool in

side elevation showing all its different appliances more or less extended. Figure 2. Is a similar view of the tool in the closed position. Figure 3. Is a front view of Fig. 2. Figure 4. Shows a detonator before closing without the fuse and after closing with the fuse in position.

Examples of this tool are not known to the author although as Edward Marchant was a miner I believe the tool must exist in some sort of quantity. Perhaps the only disappointing aspect of this patent and the Hickie patent is that neither incorporated a thimble or holder to accommodate a candle.