lowered to ground level. All the components are stacked for the removal from the building site by forklift and crane.

The objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein, by way of illustration and example, an embodiment of the present invention is disclosed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the invention may be said to reside in a bracket assembly comprising a body securable to a supporting structure and a load bearing support carriage which depends from the body and is movable between at least upper and lower positions relative to the body whilst depending therefrom.

In the context of this specification the carriage is a movable part of the bracket that bears the formwork.

In one form, the formwork comprises a formwork panel. In an alternative, the formwork comprises sheets of material, such as aluminium or plywood sheets for instance.

It will be apparent to a person skilled in the relevant art that the bracket may be employed to support other objects. For instance, it may be employed to support a platform or mezzanine floor or further tructural elements (such as beams) supporting the same.

In a further aspect then, the invention may be said to reside in a bracket assembly comprising a body adapted for securement to a supporting structure and a support providing carriage which is movable to provide support at or between at least upper and lower positions relative to the body.

In one form, the body of the bracket assembly is adapted for releasable securement to the formwork supporting structure.

In one form, the formwork supporting structure is a portion of a formwork supporting frame.

In one form, the formwork supporting structure is a beam of the formwork supporting frame.

In one form, the body is shaped like a u-shaped saddle which is sized and adapted to seat over the formwork beam.

CLAIMS:

1. A bracket assembly for a hardware assembly for forming an elevated concrete slab or the like, the bracket assembly comprising a body securable to a supporting structure and a load bearing support carriage which depends from the body and is movable between at least upper and lower positions relative to the body whilst depending therefrom.

2. The bracket assembly of claim 1, wherein the support carriage has a range of movement extending between its upper and lower positions, and the support carriage acts to provide support for at least a portion of the load throughout this range of movement.

3. The bracket assembly of claim 1, wherein the support carriage acts to provide support for the load in its upper position only.

4. The bracket assembly as in ether of claims 2 or 3, wherein the carriage is slidably attached relative to the body of the bracket so as to be slidable between the upper and lower positions.

5. The bracket assembly as in ether of claims 2 or 3, wherein the carriage is pivotably attached relative to the body so as to be pivotable between the upper and lower positions.

6. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the bracket comprises means for releasably securing the support carriage in at least the upper position.

7. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the body of the bracket assembly is adapted for releasable securement to the supporting structure.

8. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the body comprises a pair of spaced apart side portions connected by a bridging portion.

9. The bracket assembly of claim 8, wherein from each side portions there depends a load bearing support carriage.

10. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein body is shaped like a u-shaped saddle which is sized and adapted to seat over the supporting structure.

11. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the formwork supporting structure comprises a portion of a frame or stand.

12. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the formwork supporting structure or portion thereof is a beam..

13. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the load is a formwork for concrete casting.

14. The bracket assembly of claim 13, wherein the formwork comprises a formwork panel.

15. The bracket assembly of claim 13, wherein the formwork comprises sheets of material, such as aluminium or plywood sheets for instance.

16. The bracket assembly as in any one of claims 13 through 15, wherein in the upper position the carriage supports the formwork for forming an elevated concrete slab in place for concrete casting, and in the lower position the carriage is spaced apart (i.e. separated) from the slab.

17. The bracket assembly of claim 16, wherein in the lower position, the carriage is so spaced apart from the slab that the formwork can be separated from the slab and the carriage.

18. The bracket assembly as in any one of claims 1 through 12, wherein the load is any one or more of a platform or mezzanine floor or further structural elements (such as beams) supporting the same.

19. A bracket assembly comprising a body adapted for securement to a formwork supporting structure, and a carriage which is movable between at least first and second positions relative to the body, wherein in at least the first position the carriage is adapted to support formwork for forming an elevated concrete slab in place for concrete casting, and in the second position the carriage is spaced apart (i.e. separated) from the first position.

20. A hardware assembly for forming an elevated concrete slab, the hardware assembly comprising a plurality of the bracket assemblies of any one of claims 1 through 17, where these brackets assemblies support formwork for forming an elevated concrete slab, the hardware assembly being adapted to provide support for the slab which is further to that provided via the bracket assemblies and formwork.

21. A method for forming an elevated concrete slab using the hardware assembly of claim 18, the method comprising the steps of pouring the slab and allowing this to cure at least somewhat before

shifting the carriages of the bracket assemblies to their lower positions so that the formwork can be removed without disturbing other slab supporting hardware, which can remain in place to support the slab until such time as this is sufficiently cured as to be self-supporting.

lowered to ground level. All the components are stacked for the removal from the building site by forklift and crane.

The objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein, by way of illustration and example, an embodiment of the present invention is disclosed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the invention may be said to reside in a bracket assembly for a hardware assembly for forming an elevated concrete slab or the like, the bracket assembly comprising a body adapted for releasable securement to a supporting structure, the bracket assembly further comprising a support carriage which depends from the body and is movable between at least an upper position and a lower position relative to the body whilst depending therefrom, and wherein in use, the body supports the hardware assembly, and the support carriage acts to provide support for formwork for concrete casting in the upper position, and wherein after the concrete slab has been formed, the support carriage can be moved from the upper position to the lower position, whereupon the formwork can be removed for use elsewhere, whilst leaving the concrete slab supported by the hardware assembly, until such time as this is sufficiently cured as to be self-supporting, when the hardware assembly can be removed.

In the context of this specification the carriage is a movable part of the bracket that bears the formwork.

In one form, the formwork comprises a formwork panel. In an alternative, the formwork comprises sheets of material, such as aluminium or plywood sheets for instance.

It will be apparent to a person skilled in the relevant art that the bracket may be employed to support other objects. For instance, it may be employed to support a platform or mezzanine floor or further structural elements (such as beams) supporting the same.

In one form, the formwork supporting structure is a portion of a formwork supporting frame.

In one form, the formwork supporting structure is a beam of the formwork supporting frame.

In one form, the body is shaped like a u-shaped saddle which is sized and adapted to seat over the formwork beam.

CLAIMS:

1. A bracket assembly for a hardware assembly for forming an elevated concrete slab or the like, the bracket assembly comprising a body adapted for releasable securement to a supporting structure, the bracket assembly further comprising a support carriage which depends from the body and is movable between at least an upper position and a lower position relative to the body whilst depending therefrom, and wherein in use, the body supports the hardware assembly, and the support carriage acts to provide support for formwork for concrete casting in the upper position and wherein after the concrete slab has been formed, the support carriage can be moved from the upper position to the lower position, whereupon the formwork can be removed for use elsewhere, whilst leaving the concrete slab supported by the hardware assembly, until such time as this is sufficiently cured as to be self-supporting, when the hardware assembly can be removed.

2. The bracket assembly of claim 1, wherein the support carriage is slidably attached relative to the body of the bracket so as to be slidable between the upper and lower positions.

3. The bracket assembly of claim 1, wherein the support carriage is pivotably attached relative to the body so as to be pivotable between the upper and lower positions.

4. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the bracket comprises means for releasably securing the support carriage in at least the upper position.

5. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the body comprises a pair of spaced apart side portions connected by a bridging portion.

6. The bracket assembly of claim 5, wherein from each side portion there depends a support carriage.

7. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein body is shaped like a u-shaped saddle which is sized and adapted to seat over the supporting structure.

8. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the supporting structure comprises a portion of a frame or stand.

9. The bracket assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the supporting structure or portion thereof is a beam.

10. The bracket assembly of claim 1, wherein the formwork comprises a formwork panel.

11. The bracket assembly of claim 1, wherein the formwork comprises sheets of material, such as aluminium or plywood sheets for instance.

12. The bracket assembly of claim 1, wherein in the upper position the support carriage supports the formwork for forming an elevated concrete slab in place for concrete casting, and in the lower position the carriage is spaced apart (i.e. separated) from the slab.

13. The bracket assembly as in any one of claims 1 through 9, wherein the load is any one or more of a platform or mezzanine floor or further structural elements (such as beams) supporting the same.

14. A hardware assembly for forming an elevated concrete slab, the hardware assembly comprising a plurality of the bracket assemblies of any one of claims 1 through 12, where these brackets assemblies support formwork for forming an elevated concrete slab, the hardware assembly being adapted to provide support for the slab which is further to that provided via the bracket assemblies and formwork.

15. A method for forming an elevated concrete slab using the bracket assembly as in any one of claims 1 to 12, the method comprising the steps of pouring the slab and allowing this to cure at least somewhat before shifting the support carriages of the bracket assemblies to their lower positions so that the formwork can be removed without disturbing other slab supporting hardware, which can remain in place to support the slab until such time as this is sufficiently cured as to be self-supporting.