

Description

The present invention relates to a method of and apparatus for use in reinforcing a piling structure to prevent substructures, and hence buildings supported thereon, from settling. This invention also relates to a precast concrete pile suitable for use in the method.

In the construction industry a commonly used method of pile driving for foundation construction is to drive hollow, concrete piles having a conical, closed end into the ground by means of a pile driver. However, since a concrete pile of this type generally has a smooth outer surface, friction between the pile and the surrounding soil is lessened. Therefore, unless driven substantially into hard solid strata such as a bed of firm rock, the pile tends to settle, while the accompanying settlement of the foundation supported on these piles can have damaging effects on the building or structure resting thereon, e.g. at best cracks in the walls, and at worst the collapse of the building in case of earthquake shocks. This usually happens to buildings constructed on a beach, where the soil is loose and unstable.

It is the aim of the present invention to substantially overcome or at least mitigate the above disadvantages, associated with the conventional methods.

An alternative form of hollow concrete pile is disclosed in FR—A—585 914, this pile being provided with tapered holes with plugs therein, the plugs being removed after installation of the pile in the ground by the injection of mortar under pressure which subsequently forms claws in the surrounding ground.

According to one aspect of the present invention a precast concrete pile comprises a hollow cylindrical body with a conical closed end, and formed with frangible portions in the form of a plurality of spaced-apart concavities disposed in its inner or outer peripheral wall in an upwardly spiralling order.

The invention in another aspect provides a hydraulic sealing apparatus, comprising a hydraulic cylinder in which is fitted a piston, a piston rod attached at one end to the piston and having a channel in its lower section, a fixed disc attached to the bottom end of the hydraulic cylinder, a corresponding movable disc spaced from the fixed disc and fixed to the free end of the piston rod for concerted movement therewith, a resilient rubber packing interposed between the fixed and movable discs, a supply line connected to the said channel to allow passage of mortar into the hollow space of a precast concrete pile in which the apparatus is in use inserted, and a pair of oil supply lines connected to the hydraulic cylinder to control vertical movement of the piston.

The invention in a further aspect provides a method of reinforcing a piling structure, comprising driving a precast concrete pile into the ground by means of a pile driver, holding in

suspension at a desired level within the hollow body of the pile a hydraulic sealing apparatus which comprises a hydraulic cylinder fitted with a resilient rubber packing thereunder, filling the hydraulic cylinder with oil to cause radial swelling of the rubber packing to such an extent that the deformed rubber closes the clearance between itself and the inner periphery of the pile body and thus defines therewith a sealed hollow space under the rubber packing, pumping mortar through a mortar supply line into the sealed space of the pile until frangible portions of the pile burst open from increasing internal pressure thus enabling the internal mortar to penetrate the surrounding ground with the subsequently hardened masses of mortar serving as a set of claws protruding outwardly from within the pile body to prevent settlement thereof, cutting off the mortar supply and injecting oil into the hydraulic cylinder to cause the rubber packing to return to its original condition.

The invention will be further described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, partly broken away, of an embodiment of a concrete pile in accordance with the invention;

Figures 2A and 2B are sectional views, partly broken away, of another two embodiments of concrete piles in accordance with the invention;

Figure 3 is a schematic representation of one manner of carrying out the method of the invention, in which mortar is to be pumped into a pile body;

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3, in which the injection of mortar is completed; and

Figure 5 illustrates in elevation and partly in section a hydraulic sealing apparatus for use in carrying out the method of the invention.

Referring first to Figure 1, there is shown a hollow, precast concrete pile 1 which comprises an elongate, cylindrical body having at one end a conical closed tip 2 and at the other end an opening 3. An inner peripheral wall 4 surrounding a hollow space 5 of the pile body 1 is formed with thin and frangible portions in the form of a plurality of spaced-apart concavities 6 disposed in an upwardly spiralling order. The concavities 6 may be disposed along almost the whole length of the pile 1 from the lower conical end 2 up to near the opening 3. However, the concavities may also be disposed along a given section of the pile, e.g. along the lower section as shown in Figure 2A or along the middle section in Figure 2B. Alternatively, the concavities may be disposed in the outer peripheral wall of the pile as seen in Figure 2B. Also it is to be understood that although the thin and frangible portions are formed of round holes in the illustrated embodiments, they may be of any shape.

Referring now to Figures 3, 4 and 5, there is depicted the precast concrete pile 1 driven into the ground 7 by means of a pile driver in a

known manner. Held in suspension at a desired level within the hollow space 5 of the pile by a cable 9 is a hydraulic cylinder 8 fitted thereunder with a rubber packing 10 which is deformable in response to reciprocating motion of a piston rod 11. By pumping oil through an oil hose 13 into the lower part of the hydraulic cylinder 8, a piston 12 which is attached to the piston rod 11 and closely fitted in the hydraulic cylinder is driven up to cause upward movement of the piston rod 11. On its upward journey the piston rod 11 in turn causes the rubber packing 10 to deform and swell radially and finally fill up the clearance between the rubber packing and the inner wall surface of the pile so that the hollow space 5 of the pile is divided into two sections 5a and 5b, with the section 5b being a sealed hollow space (see Figure 4). The oil supply to the hydraulic cylinder 8 is then cut off and mortar pumped through a hose 15 into the sealed hollow space 5b. When the sealed hollow space 5b is bursting with pressurized mortar, the injection of more mortar will cause the fragile concavities 6 to break under increasing internal pressure, thus enabling the internal mortar M to rush out through the apertures into the surrounding soil 7. The outflowing mortar then hardens to form a plurality of masses of mortar 14, or a first set of claws, extending radially outwardly from within the body of the pile. Thereafter, the mortar supply is cut off and oil injected through another hose 16 into the upper part of the hydraulic cylinder 8 to force the piston 12, and hence the piston rod 11, to move downward, while the rubber packing 10 is caused to return to its original condition upon removal of the pressure exerted thereon. The hydraulic cylinder is then lifted to reach a desired height in preparation of the formation of a second set of claws. The same operation as above proceeds by stages until the required number of sets of claws is obtained.

Referring now particularly to Figure 5, there is provided a preferred embodiment of the hydraulic sealing apparatus for carrying out the method of the invention. As described hereinbefore, the hydraulic cylinder 8 incorporates the piston 12 which is capable of transmitting reciprocating motion to the piston rod 11 when oil is injected into the cylinder 8. The piston rod 11 extends through the bottom end of the cylinder 8 into the centre of a fixed disc 17 which is connected to the bottom end of the cylinder 8 by a plurality of connecting rods 22. A movable disc 18 fixed to the free end of the piston rod is spaced from and coaxially aligned with the fixed disc 17. Interposed between the discs 17 and 18 is the annular rubber packing 10. When the piston 12 is moved upward, the rubber packing 10 will be pressed against the fixed disc 17 by the axial stress of the movable disc 18 such that the rubber packing contracts axially and simultaneously swells radially to abut against the inner wall surface of the pile 1, the position of

the deformed rubber packing being shown by the phantom line in Figure 5. In order that mortar may pass into the sealed hollow space 5b, a channel 20 extending from above the disc 17 and terminating in the free end of the piston rod 11 is formed within the piston rod while the hose 15 and the piston rod are connected by a joint 19 adjacent the top surface of the disc 17 so that the hose 15 communicates with the channel 20. A pair of joints 23 and 21 mounted on the upper and lower ends of the peripheral wall of the hydraulic cylinder 8, respectively, are provided for connection of a pair of oil hoses 16 and 13 to the hydraulic cylinder. By the pressure of oil injected through the hose 13 into the lower part of the hydraulic cylinder, the piston 12 is driven upward to thereby cause corresponding movement of the piston rod 11, whereas downward movement of the piston 12 and piston rod 11 is effected by injecting oil through the hose 16 into the upper part of the hydraulic cylinder. Since the movable disc 18 moves in the same direction as the piston rod 11 moves, the deformation and restoration of the rubber packing 10 is controlled by displacement of the disc 18.

In order that the hydraulic sealing apparatus may operate within the hollow body of the pile, the hollow body should be greater in diameter than the hydraulic cylinder, both discs and the rubber packing; also there should be space available for accommodating the hoses 13, 16 and 15. The rubber packing should be of such a thickness and diameter as to be deformable when compressed between the discs after the piston rod has moved a preset distance, to radially swell and eventually close the clearance between itself and the surrounding inner surface of the pile. Moreover, the position of the joint 19 which connects the hose 15 and the piston rod 11 must remain below the bottom end of the hydraulic cylinder after the piston rod has moved upward the preset distance.

Since hardened masses of mortar serve not only to prevent piles driven into the ground from settling but to solidify the foundation at a construction site, the present invention is of great advantage to the safety of residents and represents a considerable improvement over conventional methods of piling installation.

Claims

1. A precast concrete pile (1) which comprises a hollow cylindrical body with a conical closed end (2), characterised by being formed with frangible portions in the form of a plurality of spaced-apart concavities (6) disposed in its inner or outer peripheral wall (4) in an upwardly spiralling order.

2. A hydraulic sealing apparatus for internally sealing a concrete pile, characterised by comprising a hydraulic cylinder (8) in which is fitted a piston (12), a piston rod (11) attached at one end to the said piston and having a

known manner. Held in suspension at a desired level within the hollow space 5 of the pile by a cable 9 is a hydraulic cylinder 8 fitted thereunder with a rubber packing 10 which is deformable in response to reciprocating motion of a piston rod 11. By pumping oil through an oil hose 13 into the lower part of the hydraulic cylinder 8, a piston 12 which is attached to the piston rod 11 and closely fitted in the hydraulic cylinder is driven up to cause upward movement of the piston rod 11. On its upward journey the piston rod 11 in turn causes the rubber packing 10 to deform and swell radially and finally fill up the clearance between the rubber packing and the inner wall surface of the pile so that the hollow space 5 of the pile is divided into two sections 5a and 5b, with the section 5b being a sealed hollow space (see Figure 4). The oil supply to the hydraulic cylinder 8 is then cut off and mortar pumped through a hose 15 into the sealed hollow space 5b. When the sealed hollow space 5b is bursting with pressurized mortar, the injection of more mortar will cause the fragile concavities 6 to break under increasing internal pressure, thus enabling the internal mortar M to rush out through the apertures into the surrounding soil 7. The outflowing mortar then hardens to form a plurality of masses of mortar 14, or a first set of claws, extending radially outwardly from within the body of the pile. Thereafter, the mortar supply is cut off and oil injected through another hose 16 into the upper part of the hydraulic cylinder 8 to force the piston 12, and hence the piston rod 11, to move downward, while the rubber packing 10 is caused to return to its original condition upon removal of the pressure exerted thereon. The hydraulic cylinder is then lifted to reach a desired height in preparation of the formation of a second set of claws. The same operation as above proceeds by stages until the required number of sets of claws is obtained.

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Since hardened masses of mortar serve not only to prevent piles driven into the ground from settling but to solidify the foundation at a construction site, the present invention is of great advantage to the safety of residents and represents a considerable improvement over conventional methods of piling installation.

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2. A hydraulic sealing apparatus for internally sealing a concrete pile, characterised by comprising a hydraulic cylinder (8) in which is fitted a piston (12), a piston rod (11) attached at one end to the said piston and having a



channel (20) in its lower section, a fixed disc (17) attached to the bottom end of the hydraulic cylinder, a corresponding movable disc (18) spaced from the said fixed disc and fixed to the free end of the piston rod for concerted movement therewith, a resilient rubber packing (10) interposed between the said fixed and movable discs, a supply line (15) connected to the said channel to allow passage of mortar into the hollow space of a precast concrete pile (1) in which the apparatus is in use inserted, and a pair of oil supply lines (13, 16) connected to the said hydraulic cylinder to control vertical movement of the said piston.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the said fixed disc is attached to the bottom end of the said hydraulic cylinder by means of a plurality of connecting rods (22).

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterised in that the said mortar supply line (15) is connected to the said channel of the piston rod by a joint (19) attached to the piston rod adjacent the top surface of the said fixed disc.

5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, characterised in that the said oil supply lines (13, 16) are connected to the said hydraulic cylinder respectively by a pair of joints (21, 23) attached to the lower and upper ends of the peripheral wall of the hydraulic cylinder.

6. A method of reinforcing a piling structure comprising driving a precast concrete pile (1) into the ground (7) by means of a pile driver and subsequently pumping mortar into the pile to develop openings in the pile and penetrate the surrounding ground, the subsequently hardened masses of mortar serving as a set of claws (14) protruding outwardly from within the pile body to prevent settlement thereof, characterised by holding in suspension at a desired level within the hollow body of the said pile a hydraulic sealing apparatus which comprises a hydraulic cylinder (8) fitted with a resilient rubber packing (10) thereunder, filling the hydraulic cylinder with oil to cause radial swelling of the said rubber packing to such an extent that the deformed rubber closes the clearance between itself and the inner periphery of the pile body and thus defines therewith a sealed hollow space (5b) under the rubber packing, pumping mortar through a mortar supply line (15) into the said sealed space of the pile until frangible portions (6) of the pile burst open from increasing internal pressure thus enabling the internal mortar to penetrate the surrounding ground, cutting off the mortar supply and injecting oil into the hydraulic cylinder to cause the rubber packing to return to its original condition.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, characterised by further comprising lifting the hydraulic sealing apparatus to a desired height in preparation for the formation of a second set of claws, and proceeding with the same opera-

tion until the required number of sets of claws is obtained.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterised in that the said hydraulic sealing apparatus comprises apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5.

9. A method as claimed in any of claims 6 to 8, characterised in that the said concrete pile is a pile as claimed in claim 1.

Patentansprüche

1. Vorgefertigter Betonpfahl (1) umfassen einen zylindrischen Hohlkörper mit einem konischen geschlossenen Ende (2), dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß er mit zerbrechlichen Abschnitten in Form einer Mehrzahl von in Abständen voneinander angeordneten Ausnehmungen (6) in der inneren oder in der äußeren Umfangswand (4) in schraubenlinienförmig ansteigender Anordnung ausgebildet ist.

2. Hydraulisch betätigbare Vorrichtung zum inneren Abschießen eines Betonpfahles, gekennzeichnet durch einen Hydraulikzylinder (8) mit einem eingepaßten Kolben (12), eine an einem Ende des Kolbens befestigte Kolbenstange (11), in deren unterem Abschnitt ein Kanal (20) ausgebildet ist, eine fest angeordnete, mit dem unteren Ende des Hydraulikzylinders verbundene Scheibe (17), eine entsprechende bewegbare, in Abstand von der fest angeordneten Scheibe befindliche, mit dem freien Ende der Kolbenstange zur gemeinsamen Bewegung mit dieser verbundene Scheibe (18), eine zwischen der fest angeordneten und der bewegbaren Scheibe liegende elastische Gummipackung (10), eine an den Kanal angeschlossene Zufuhrleitung (15) zum Einbringen von Mörtel in den Hohlraum eines vorgefertigten Betonpfahles (1), in welchen die Vorrichtung zur Verwendung eingeführt ist, und ein Paar an den Hydraulikzylinder angeschlossene Ölleitungen (13, 16) zum Steuern der vertikalen Bewegung des Kolbens.

3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die fest angeordnete Scheibe mit dem unteren Ende des Hydraulikzylinders über eine Mehrzahl von Stangen (22) verbunden ist.

4. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 2 oder 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zufuhrleitung (15) für den Mörtel an den Kanal der Kolbenstange über eine Armatur (19) angeschlossen ist, welche an der Kolbenstange in der Nähe der Oberseite der fest angeordneten Scheibe angebracht ist.

5. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Ölleitungen (13, 16) an den Hydraulikzylinder über ein Paar Armaturen (21, 23) angeschlossen sind, welche am unteren bzw. am oberen Ende des Mantels des Hydraulikzylinders angebracht sind.

6. Verfahren zum Verstärken einer Pfahlkonstruktion, wobei eine vorgefertigter Beton-



pfahl (1) mittels einer Pfahlsatzvorrichtung in den Boden (7) getrieben und nachfolgend Mörtel in den Pfahl gepumpt wird, um Öffnungen in diesem zu erzeugen und Mörtel in den umgebenden Boden einzubringen, wobei die später erhärteten Massen von Mörtel als ein Satz von Klauen (14) wirken, die aus dem Inneren des Pfahlkörpers herausragen, um ein Setzen desselben zu verhindern, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß im hohlen Körper des Pfahles in einer gewünschten Höhe eine hydraulisch betätigbare Vorrichtung zum Abschließen aufgehängt wird, welche einen Hydraulikzylinder (8) mit einer darunter angeordneten elastischen Gummipackung (10) aufweist, daß zum radialen Aufweiten der Gummipackung auf ein Ausmaß, daß der verformte Gummi dem Zwischenraum zwischen ihm und dem inneren Umfang des Pfahlkörpers abdichtet und auf diese Weise einen abgeschlossenen Hohlraum (5b) unterhalb der Gummipackung bildet, der Hydraulikzylinder mit Öl gefüllt wird, daß durch eine Zufuhrleitung (15) Mörtel in den abgeschlossenen Hohlraum des Pfahles gepumpt wird, bis zerbrechliche Abschnitte (6) des Pfahles unter ansteigendem Innendruck aufbrechen und das Austreten des Mörtels aus dem Inneren in den umgebenden Boden ermöglichen, und daß die Zufuhr von Mörtel beendet und Öl in den Hydraulikzylinder eingeleitet wird, damit die Gummipackung wieder ihre ursprüngliche Form annimmt.

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die hydraulisch betätigbare Vorrichtung zum Abschließen auf eine gewünschte Höhe angehoben wird, um die Bildung eines zweiten Satzes von Klauen vorzubereiten, und daß der Vorgang wiederholt wird, bis die erforderliche Anzahl von Klauenansätzen erhalten ist.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 6 oder 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die hydraulisch betätigbare Vorrichtung zum Abschließen eine Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 5 umfaßt.

9. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 6 bis 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Betonpfahl eine Pfahl nach Anspruch 1 ist.

Revendications

1. Un pieu en béton pré-moulé (1) qui comporte un corps cylindrique creux avec une extrémité frettée conique (2), caractérisé en ce qu'il est muni de parties fracturables sous la forme d'une pluralité de concavités (6) espacées disposées dans sa paroi périphérique (4) interne ou externe selon une disposition en spirale ascendante.

2. Un appareil d'étanchéité hydraulique pour étancher intérieurement un pieu en béton, caractérisé en ce qu'il comporte un cylindre hydraulique (8) dans lequel est monté un piston (12), une tige de piston (11) fixée à une ex-

trémité dudit piston et comportant un canal (20) dans sa section inférieure, un disque fixe (17) fixé à l'extrémité de fond du cylindre hydraulique, un disque mobile correspondant (18) espacé dudit disque fixe et fixé sur l'extrémité libre de la tige du piston pour se déplacer avec celle-ci, un garnissage en caoutchouc élastique (10) interposé entre lesdits disques fixe et mobile, une canalisation d'alimentation (15) connectée audit canal pour permettre le passage de mortier dans l'espace creux du pieu en béton pré-moulé (1) dans lequel l'appareil est inséré en cours d'utilisation et une paire de canalisations d'alimentation en huile (13, 16) connectées audit cylindre hydraulique pour contrôler le mouvement vertical dudit piston.

3. Un appareil comme revendiqué dans la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que ledit disque fixe est fixé à l'extrémité de fond dudit cylindre hydraulique au moyen d'une pluralité de tiges de connexion (22).

4. Un appareil comme revendiqué dans la revendication 2 ou 3, caractérisé en ce que ladite canalisation d'alimentation en mortier (15) est connectée audit canal de la tige du piston par un joint (19) fixé sur la tige du piston au voisinage de la surface supérieure dudit disque fixe.

5. Un appareil comme revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 4, caractérisé en ce que lesdites conduites d'alimentation en huile (13, 16) sont connectées audit cylindre hydraulique respectivement par une paire de joints (21, 23) fixés sur les extrémités inférieure et supérieure de la paroi périphérique du cylindre hydraulique.

6. Un procédé de renforcement d'une structure de pieux consistant à enfoncer un pieu en béton pré-moulé (1) dans le sol (7) au moyen d'une sonnette et à pomper ultérieurement du mortier dans le pieu pour former des ouvertures dans le pieu et pénétrer dans le sol environnant, les masses durcies ultérieurement du mortier servant comme jeu de griffes (14) faisant saillie vers l'extérieur depuis l'intérieur du corps du pieu pour empêcher l'affaissement de celui-ci, caractérisé en ce que l'on maintient en suspension à un niveau désiré dans le corps creux dudit pieu un appareil d'étanchéité hydraulique qui comporte un cylindre hydraulique (8) muni en dessous de lui d'un garnissage en caoutchouc élastique (10), à remplir le cylindre hydraulique avec de l'huile pour provoquer un gonflement radial dudit garnissage en caoutchouc dans une mesure telle que le caoutchouc déformé ferme le jeu entre lui-même et la périphérie interne du corps du pieu et définisse ainsi avec celui-ci un espace creux étanche (5b) en dessous du garnissage en caoutchouc, à pomper du mortier à travers une conduite d'alimentation en mortier (15) dans ledit espace étanche du pieu jusqu'à ce que les parties fracturables (6) du pilier s'ouvrent par éclatement sous l'effet de la pression interne accrue, ce qui



permet an mortier interne de pénétrer dans le sol environnant, à couper l'alimentation en mortier et à injecter de l'huile dans le cylindre hydraulique pour amener le garnissage en caoutchouc à revenir à sa condition d'origine.

7. Un procédé comme revendiqué dans la revendication 6, caractérisé en ce qu'il consiste de plus à soulever l'appareil d'étanchéité hydraulique à la hauteur désirée dans la préparation pour la formation d'un second jeu de griffes et à procéder avec la même opération

jusqu'à ce que la nombre de jeux de griffes désiré soit obtenu.

8. Un procédé comme revendiqué dans la revendication 6 ou 7, caractérisé en ce que ledit appareil d'étanchéité hydraulique est constitué par un appareil comme revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 5.

9. Une procédé comme revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 6 à 8, caractérisé en ce que ledit pieu en béton est un pieu tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 1.

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