

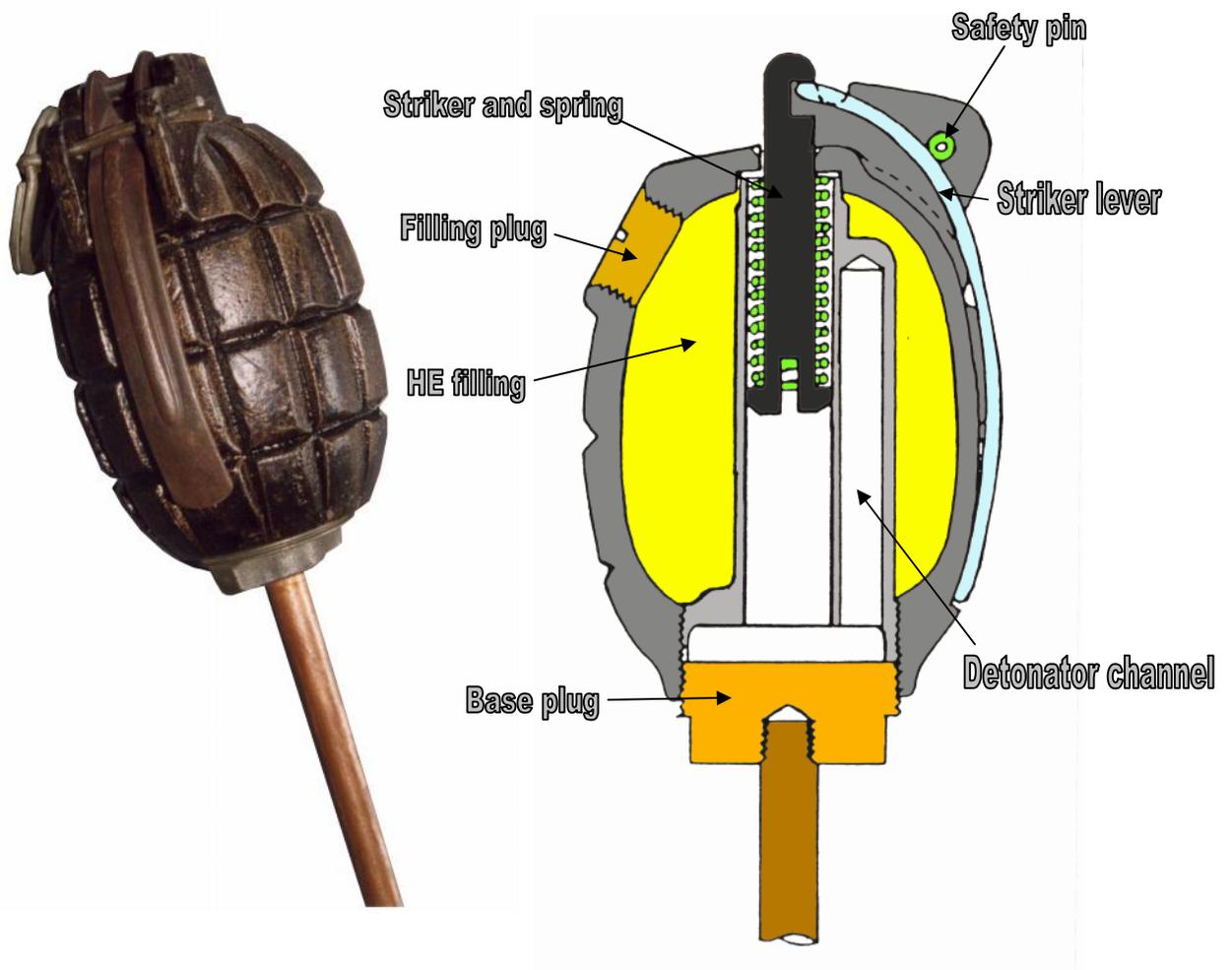
GRENADE HAND AND RIFLE No. 23

This grenade is the next evolutionary step in the development of the Mills grenade family that commenced with the No. 5 and ended with the No. 36M. This model was introduced in June 1917 or before and declared obsolete around Feb 1921.

This grenade was introduced because of a requirement by the troops to be able to project a grenade a greater distance than a soldier could throw it and as such it was introduced into service as the Grenade .303 rifle No.23. It was soon realized that it could be used both as a hand grenade and a rifle grenade so the designation was changed to that shown above.

The change was a simple matter of screwing the grenade rod into the base plug and inserting the group into a grenade launcher affixed to the barrel of the rifle. To use it as a hand grenade was as for the No.5.

The grenade weighed .75kg and was filled with 66 grammes of either Ammonal or Alumaton in the Mk 1 version and 87grammes of Abelite, Cilferite or Amatol in the Mk 2 and 3 versions. The rod was 139.7mm.



The differences between the No.5 and the No.23 are as follows:

The base plug was strengthened and threaded to take the firing rod.
The detonator was changed in June 1917 to give a delay of 6 seconds
The striker lever was corrugated in the early models but later changed to a plain lever
The striker was given a slot to facilitate gas escape through the top of the grenade.



Some examples of base plugs for the No. 23 grenade.



This item was a practice version that was completely empty and was fitted with a spring clip to apply tension to the striker lever. The device was called the "Gibbons patent mechanism". The top version is correctly marked as a drill grenade.