

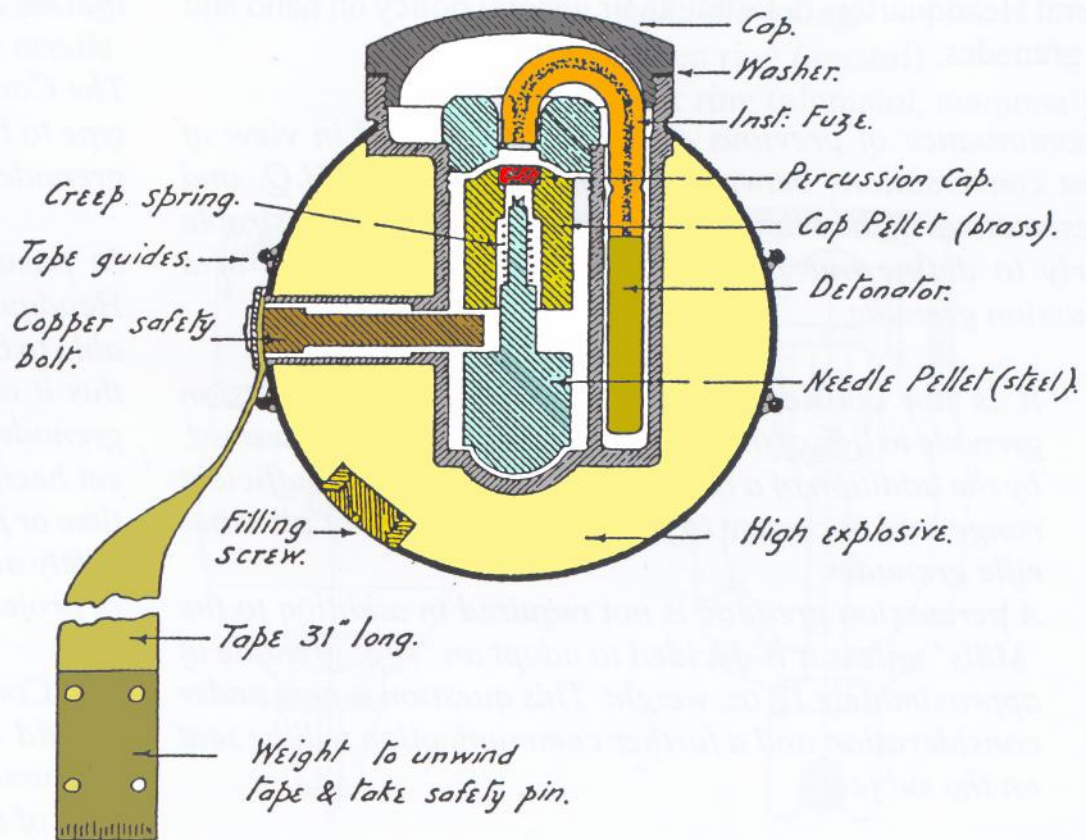
GRENADE HAND "HUMPHRIES" No. 2

Much experimentation took place during 1916 when the new style of trench warfare demanded different weapons and tactics than those hitherto used. The early grenades developed either by the troops themselves or base workshops and the factory versions just beginning to appear were unsatisfactory in many respects. Not the least being many, many duds and, in some cases they were dangerous to the users.

There was also much argument about the different approaches to getting a grenade to function. The two schools of thought were the percussion and the time. Both methods were viewed by the troops with suspicion as being unsafe and unreliable.

Woolwich Arsenal put in its two shillings worth and came up with this grenade





ACTION

Remove the cap prior to throwing and insert an igniter set. Taking care that the tape was retained in place the safety pin was removed. Throwing the grenade caused the weight and tape to unwind taking the safety bolt with it. This action allowed the needle pellet and cap pellet freedom of movement on impact. Depending on the angle of impact either the needle pellet drove the firing pin onto the percussion cap or the cap pellet drove the percussion cap onto the firing pin. The flash from the percussion cap was picked up by the fuze instantaneous and passed into the detonator thence into the main filling.