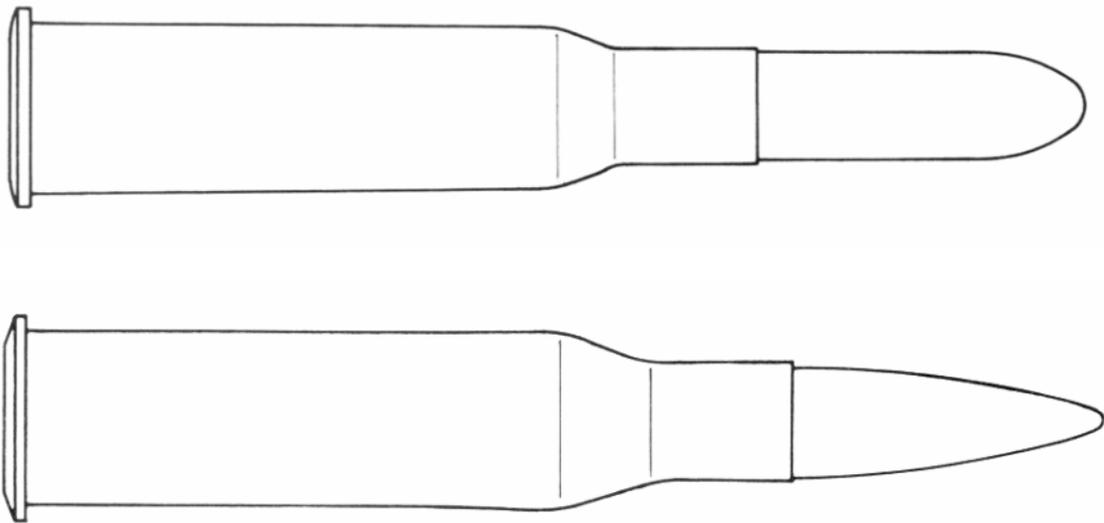


# 7.62 x 54R

The Russians adopted this cartridge in 1891 and I believe that it is still in production today as a rear echelon weapon. It is possibly the longest serving military cartridge and will probably gain that record soon as the trend is for newer and smaller calibres to come along every 20 years or so. The original cartridge was introduced when the old imperial Russian Romanov household was in charge and money was no object and thus the cases were usually brass and are slightly different in base shape in comparison with those in use today.



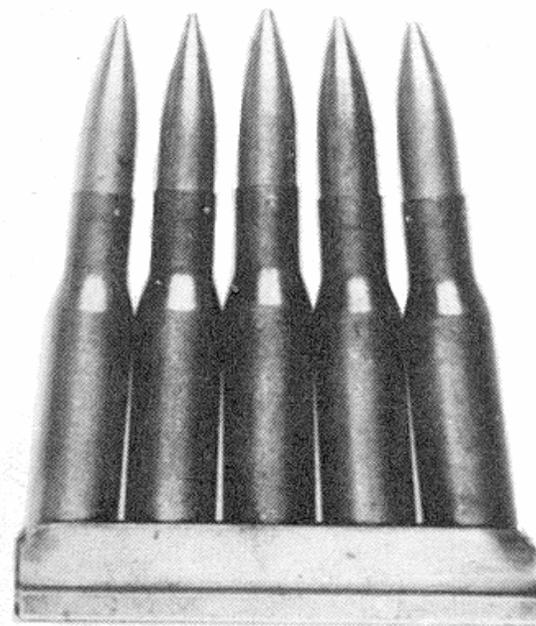
L to R. Chinese Tracer, Russian heavy ball, Russian AP type B-30, Chinese type LPS ball, Russian Tracer and Russian API B-32.



R to L. Finnish, Russian and Czechoslovak drill cartridges.



Model 1891 Clip for the 7.62x54R.



Second version of the 7.62x54R clip.



L to R. Finnish blank, Chinese Grenade launcher, Russian blank, American contract ball, Egyptian ball and American contract ball with stained case.



L to R. Early Imperial Russian brass case, PRC type 53 with silver tip, Czechoslovak Tracer, Russian Tracer, ? and Chinese heavy ball.



L to R. Czechoslovak Heavy ball type "D", Chinese API, Chinese Ball, Finnish Gallery practice ball and standard ball.

# The Cartridge Case

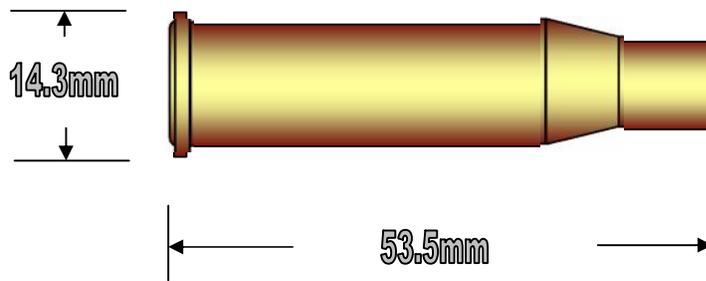


L to R. The original curved base found on Czarist period cases, the later flatter and beveled case and another curved version produced by America under contract for the Russians.

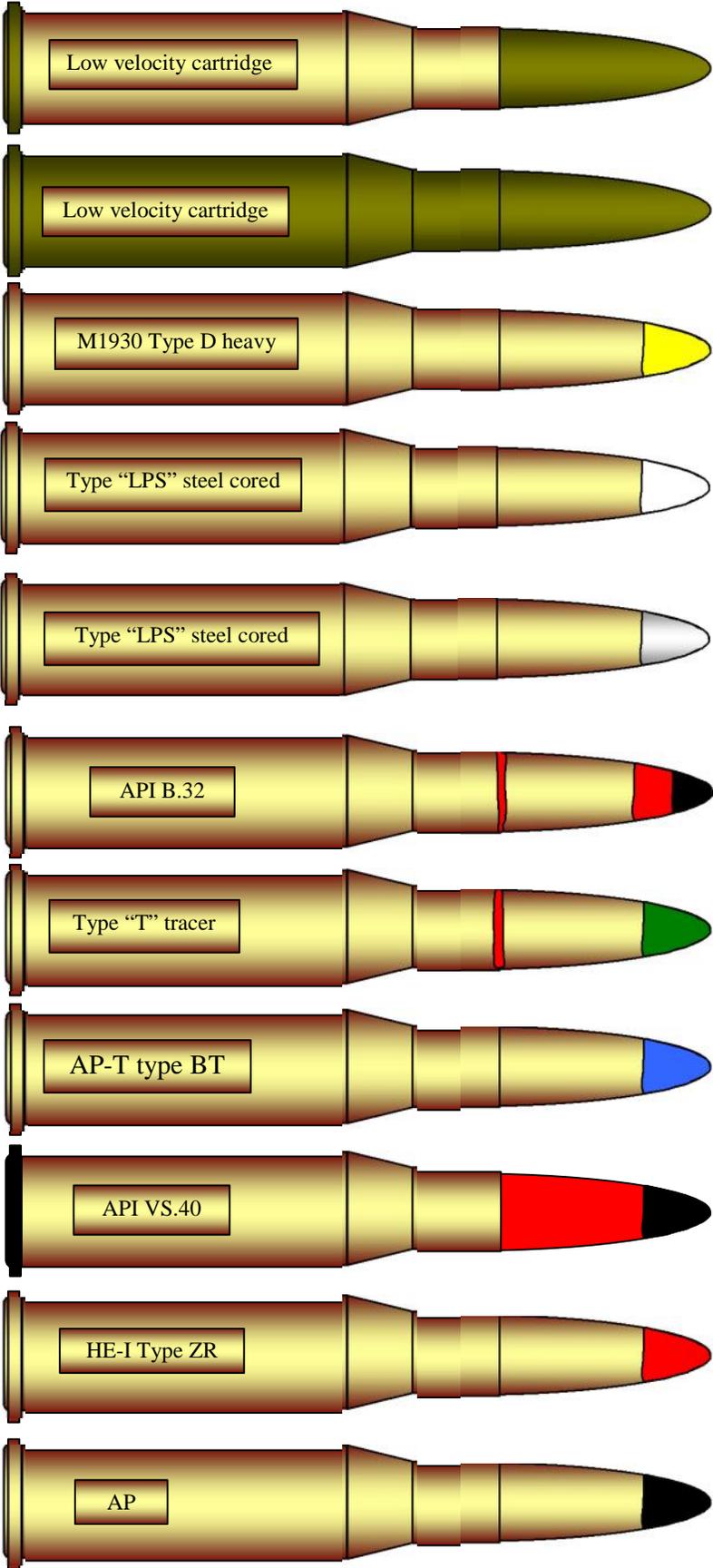
The original cases will almost always be made from brass but as the Communists took control and their economic system (?) for world expansion and control began to take place they found that it was cheaper to make the case from steel. It must be said that there appears to be nothing wrong with steel cases, almost every country has tried them with a few exceptions and those that have adopted them seem to have had no serious problems with them. With very few exceptions they are headstamped and in addition the protective coating necessary for steel cases shows the usual range of colouring. Lacquers and metal washes

have been used and primer and case mouth seals also with apparently no significance to the colouring.

The case was fitted with a standard Berdan primer of 6.2mm diameter.



# The Colour Coding



# The Projectiles

There were five Ball projectiles used with the 7.62x54R and these are:

1. Round nosed M91 ball used in the original weapons
2. Spitzer projectile M1908 ball with hollow base to aid set-up in the rifling
3. A heavy boattailed projectile M1930 type D for use in Machine Guns
  4. A mild steel cored type LPS projectile
5. A "Match-grade" projectile boattailed with gilding metal envelope.

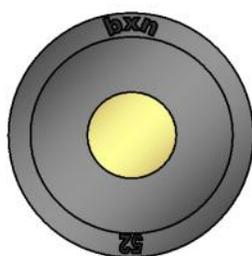


The M1930 type D showing the lack of "turnover" at the base.

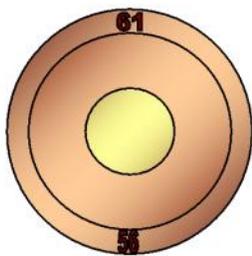


The base of the M1908 ball showing the distinct hollow.

## THE HEADSTAMPS



Czechoslovak



Chinese



Des-Moines brass contract WWI.



Winchester all-brass contract WWII.



Brass contract WWI.