

This device almost fits the description of a mine in that it is buried in the ground and is actuated by the victim stepping on it. It differs in the fact that the item does not contain any HE. It is simply a firing device loaded with a .40 calibre steel projectile contained in a brass cartridge case. I have seen a .30 calibre version of this cartridge but as I've seen only one I can't say that they were a standard issue item. No references have been seen concerning a .30 calibre switch to go with the alleged cartridge.

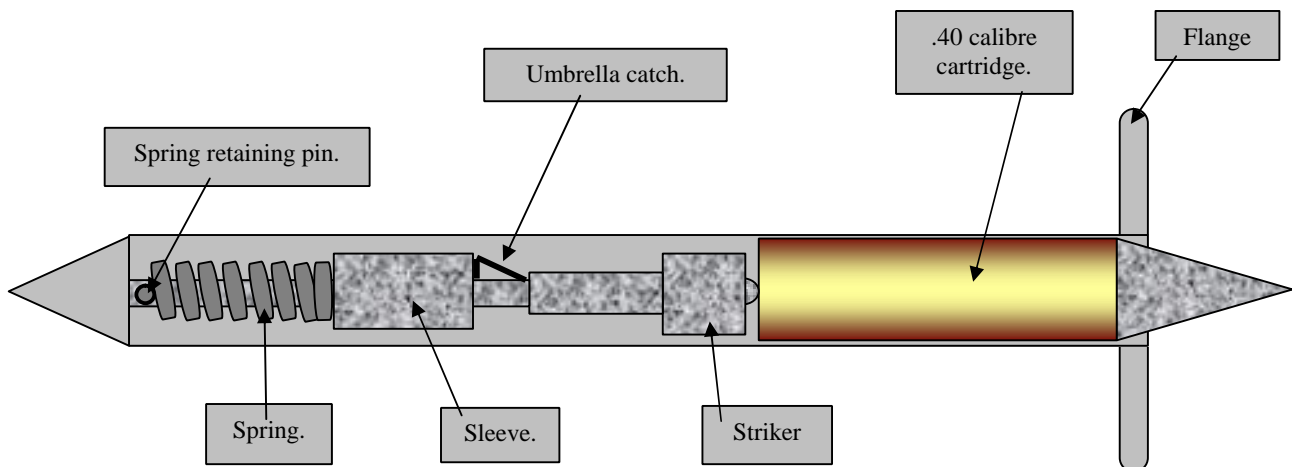
The victim stepping on the point of the projectile depresses the cartridge a sufficient distance to release an umbrella-style catch which permits a firing pin spring to drive the sleeve into the striker firing the primer in the base of the cartridge. Theoretically the projectile should only wound the victim thus causing confusion, pandemonium and a distinct feeling of caution on the part of all within the area.

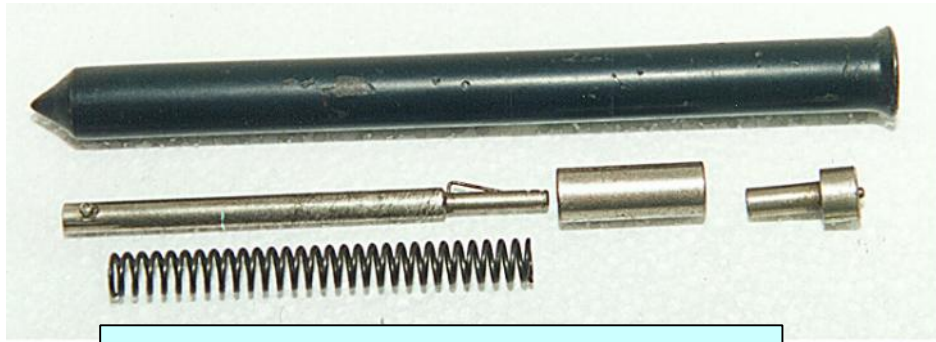
The device and the cartridges were supplied in a flat tin box in quantities of ten per tin. The firing unit was supplied already cocked and sealed with a cork.

It is believed that ICI PTY. LTD. made the cartridges as the primers are stamped with the ICI logo. The cartridge case is not headstamped.

Dimension

Case length = 34.8mm
Case diameter = 9.53mm
Projectile diameter = 9.11mm

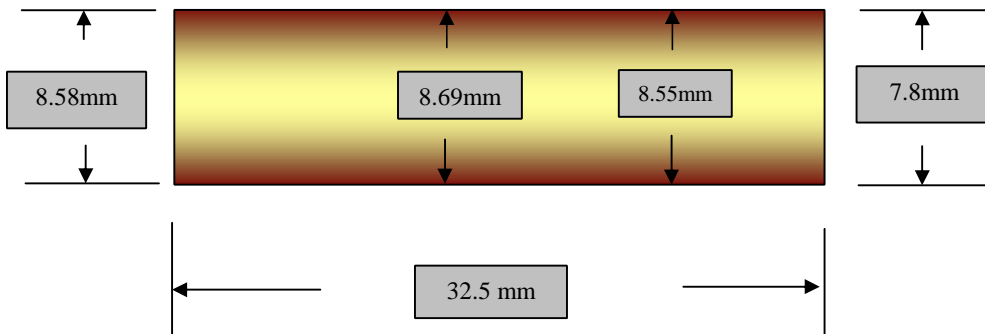




The components as found inside the switch.



The .30 calibre version of the cartridge for the Switch No. 8 clearly showing an off-centre primer and the absence of any headstamp or primer markings as found on the .40 calibre version. Possibly a fake.



The .30 calibre version shows a distinct bulge along the length of the case. Unfortunately there is only one specimen available for measurement so there is no way to know if this is standard.