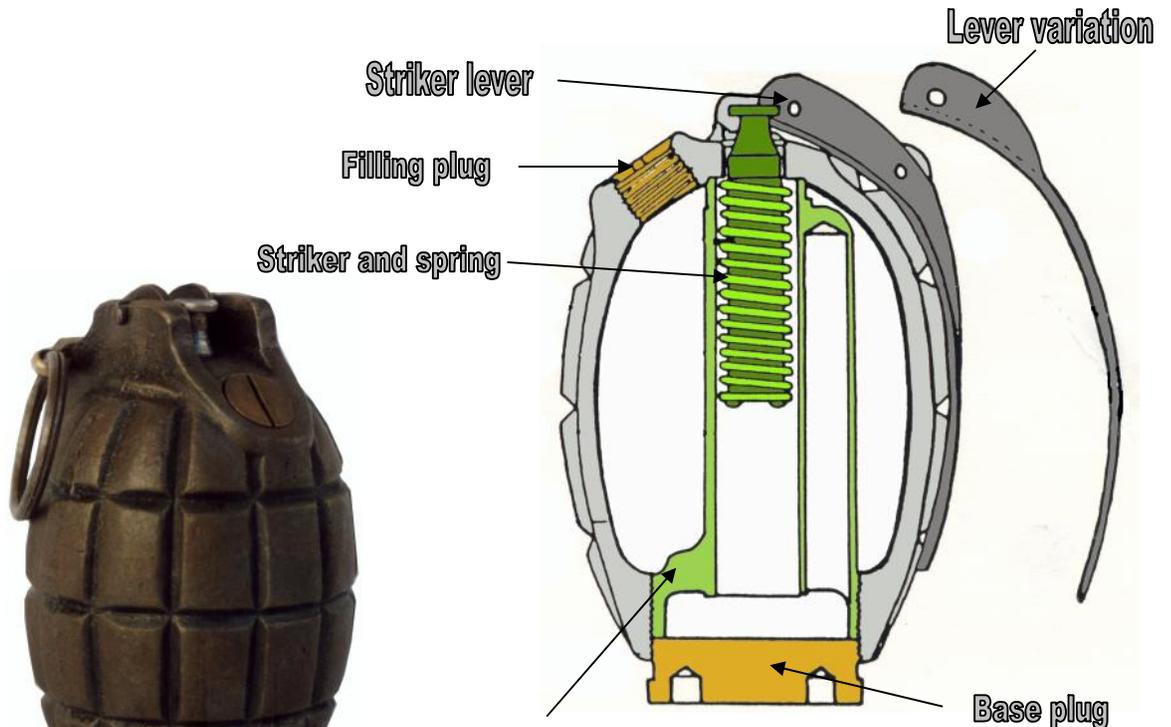


GRENADE HAND No. 5

This grenade was introduced on 20th of May 1915 and was the first of a series of similar grenades bearing different numbers. This number was declared obsolete on the 6th of May 1920. It stems from an original Mills patent cylindrical pattern grenade. (qv)

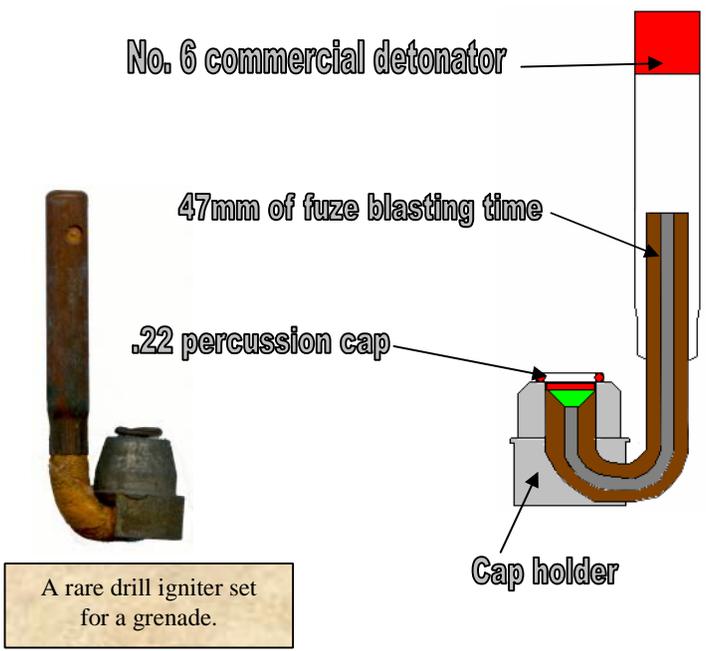
The body of this grenade was segmented externally on the theory that this would aid in producing a uniform fragmentation. Later controlled detonations showed clearly that the patterning did no such thing. Most of the grenade body was reduced to very small pieces of cast iron and the base plug and the striker housing. These were the two most lethal pieces in it. The orientation of the grenade when it detonated played a great part in determining where the lethal bits went.



Detonator & striker housing

Cast iron body with brass base plug and brass filling screw.

ACTION.
Remove the safety pin ensuring that the striker lever is held against the grenade. On throwing the striker spring asserts itself and pivots the lever allowing the striker to hit the igniter cap. The flash from this ignites the safety fuze which burns through to the detonator. This explodes the main charge.



A rare drill igniter set for a grenade.

The fuze blasting time was either No. 14 Bickford or No. 11 safety fuze both giving a burning time of 5 seconds plus or minus .4 of a second. The detonator could also be a No. 6 large that was filled with 15.4 grms of Fulminate of mercury. Later versions of this grenade were fitted with a gas plate for launching from rifles in which case the igniter set was of 7 second timing to allow for the greater ranging capability.

The grenade was marked with a red filling ring that was changed to green to indicate an Amatol filling or pink to indicate either Ammonal or Bellite fillings. The weight of the filling was 60.2 grammes of either Ammonal, Bellite, Alumatol 2, Abelite, Cilferite or Amatol.

The total weight was .7 kg

The body was normally varnished and showed a different fragmentation pattern to later grenades.

With this model the striker head was grooved all round.

