No. 39 "STEUART PATTERN" RIFLE GRENADE

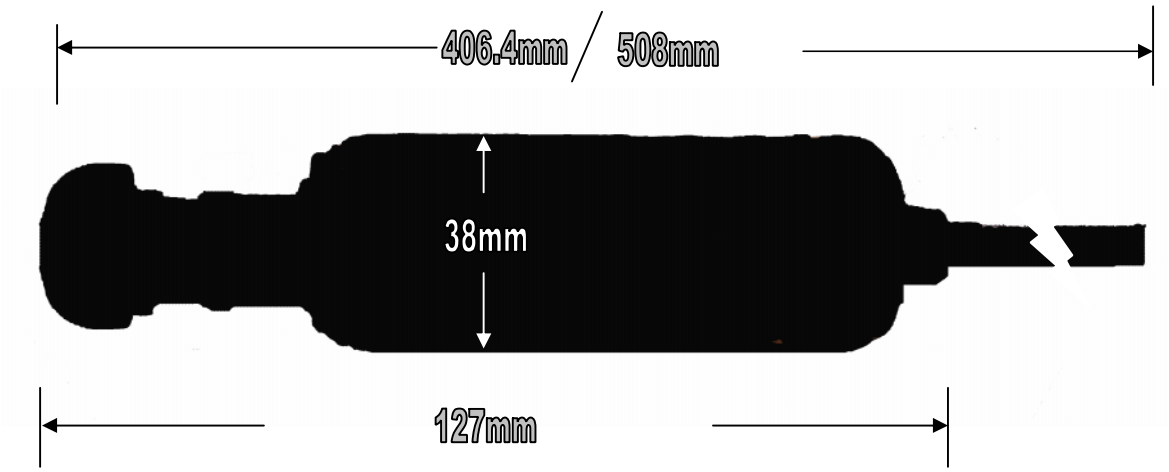
This grenade was developed to overcome the problem associated with percussion grenades and the soft mud of the Western front battlefields. The initial design of early rifle grenade fuze mechanisms relied on the inertia of a pellet to drive a striker into a detonator. This grenade reversed that procedure in that it had a domed striker that drove a striker into a detonator by impact.

The detonator used to achieve this result was the Detonator No. 39 Mk I. This item was a number 8 large, Mk I detonator inserted into a capped .303 service case. The detonator was secured by glue in the case. The base of the cartridge was painted red.

The grenade was filled with 42 grammes of either Ammonal, Alumatol, Amatol 83/17, Trotyl or Baratol 20/80.
The grenade was marked with coloured bands to indicate the filling thus:

The standard red ring to indicate an active filling
A green band = Amatol, Trotyl or Baratol
A pink band = Ammonal or Alumatol

Shown above are the ranging rod and the ring, ranging .303 rifle grenade. The rubber ring was slid onto the rod and moved to the range desired as marked on the ranging rod. The rod was then placed in the barrel and the rubber ring rested on the muzzle of the rifle, its position determined the depth to which the rod intruded into the barrel. This in turn determined the range, more depth, more range, less depth less range.



The different overall lengths shown above were because the grenade was provided with two rod lengths to permit variation of range. The rod lengths were 294.4mm and 381mm.