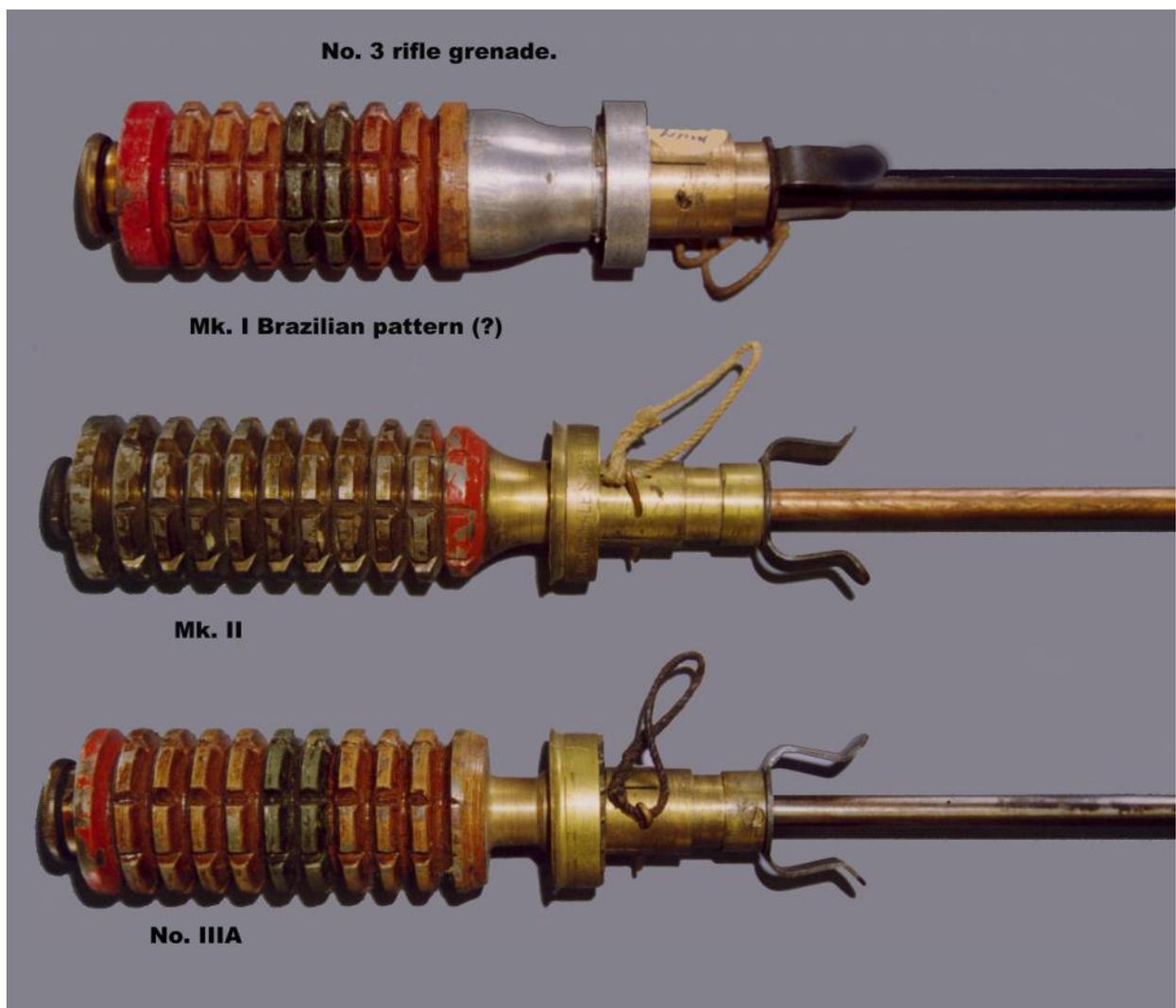


GRENADE RIFLE No. 3

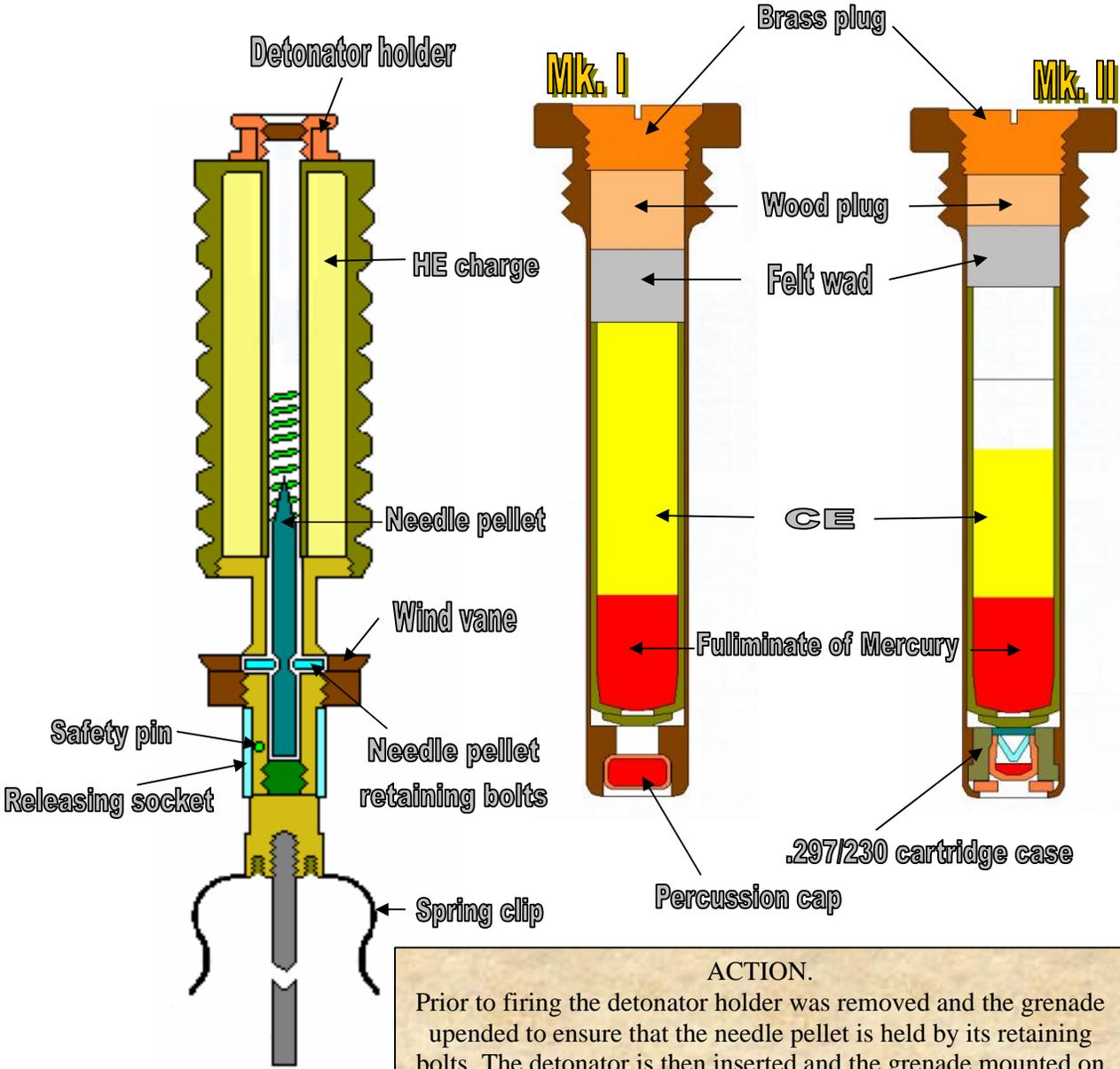
This was the first British rifle grenade and it had a somewhat difficult birth. A Mr. Hale developed a wind-vane armed rifle grenade known as the “J” pattern but the Chief Superintendent of Ordnance Factories considered Hale and his ideas to be crazy and downright dangerous. At the same time Germany and Mexico were either buying or studying the Hale J pattern and this convinced the Government to have a closer look at the idea of a rifle grenade. It is interesting to note that when the war started the British Government requisitioned grenades destined for the Brazilian Government and put them to use. They were originally designed for use in 7mm weapons but the provision of a spring clip allowed them to be used in the SMLE.

This grenade was made of steel with a segmented body common to the day. It was wind-vane armed with a releasing socket. This action is exactly the same as the British No. 3. A little suspicious wouldn't you think?

This brings us to the No. 3 grenade as designed by Woolwich Arsenal which was introduced into service with the sub-title “J pattern” and it too was wind-vane armed. Might have been a little copying here one would think. It was introduced in February 1915



Detonator rifle grenade



ACTION.
 Prior to firing the detonator holder was removed and the grenade upended to ensure that the needle pellet is held by its retaining bolts. The detonator is then inserted and the grenade mounted on the rifle muzzle. The safety pin is removed and the grenade fired, this action causes the releasing socket to set back thus freeing the wind vane to commence rotating. This movement allows the retaining bolts to fall away freeing the needle pellet to move forward on impact. The needle strikes the percussion cap and the flash from this exploded the detonator and thence the main filling.

