

IMPROVISED GRENADES WWI

There were a huge range of grenades improvised by the troops in the trenches all over the various battlefields to overcome the difficulties in attacking the enemy in their trenches. Neither side having planned for the static trench warfare imposed on them by circumstances.

Some of them were reasonably well thought out weapons while others were positively dangerous to the user. Some of them became official versions and many others were abandoned as soon as safer grenades came along.

Shown below are some of these improvised devices.



Improvised "Racquet" grenade.

This was a simple steel container filled with HE and functioned by a piece of safety fuze and a detonator all attached to a simple wooden throwing handle.



This used a very pistol cartridge attached to a rifle grenade launching rod the idea being that the act of firing it actuated the primer which in turn operated the signal cartridge as normal.



Jam tin grenade from WWI. This as a simple tin filled with HE and sometimes packed with metal fragments to improve the anti-personnel effects. It was functioned by a short piece of safety fuze and a detonator. Considering the primitive conditions under which it was manufactured and the lack of quality control it must have been a real risk to use.