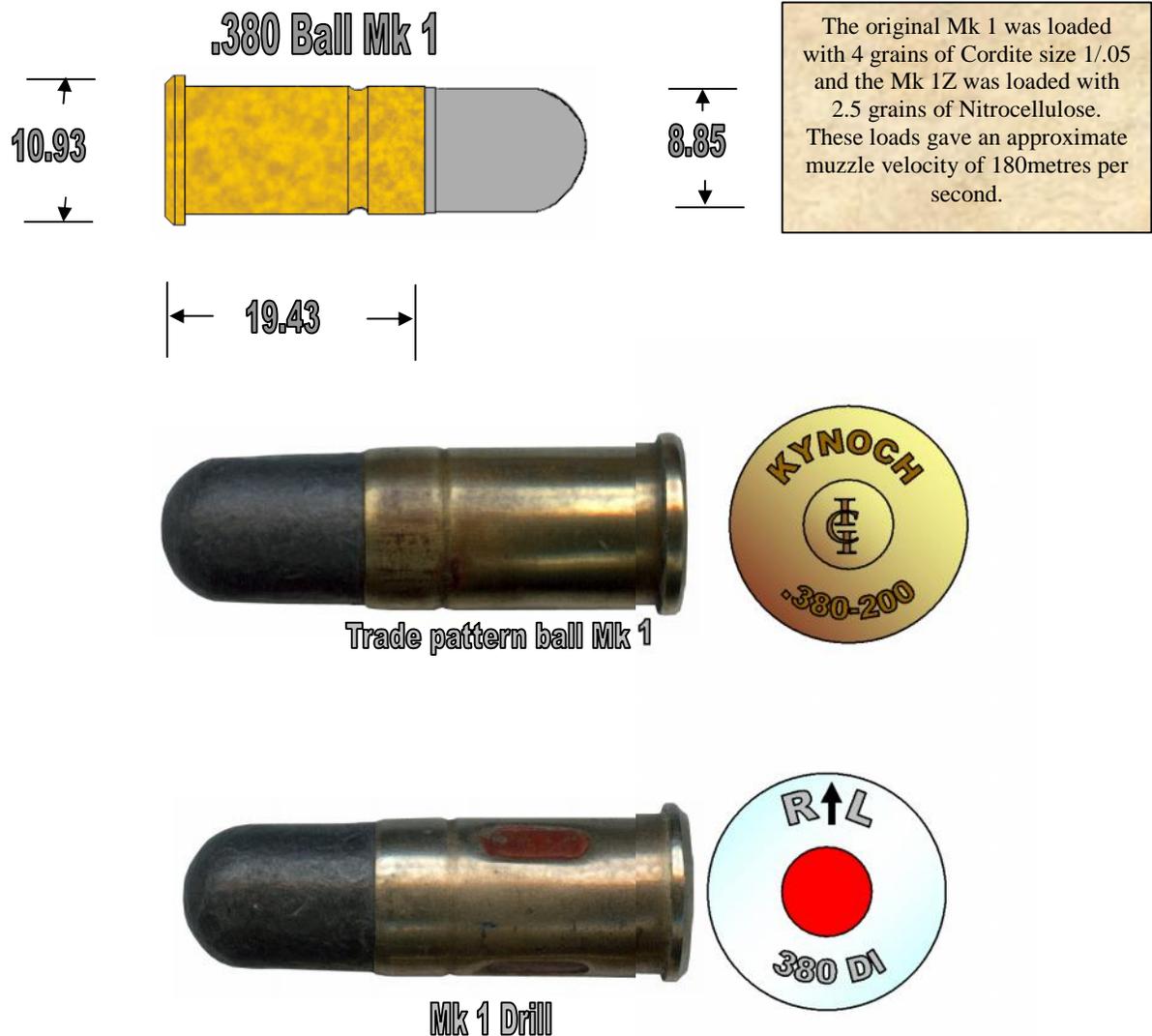
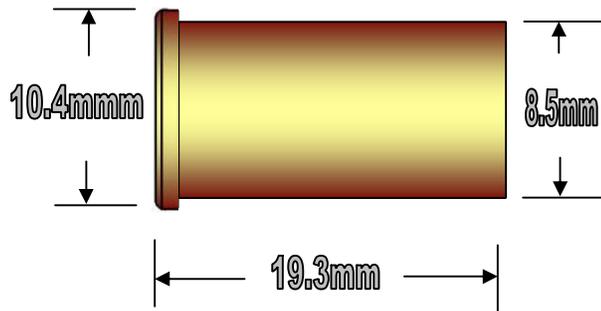


## .380 ENFIELD REVOLVER

At the completion of WWI the British decided that they needed to replace the ageing and rather heavy .455 Webley revolver but being rather skint from their exertions during that war they took their time about the project. The new weapon commenced life with a design offered by Webley & Scott Ltd in 1923. The Small Arms Committee (SAC), were initially concerned with the stopping power of the .380 calibre and when the early work showed that a 145 grain projectile was best for accuracy the SAC demanded a 200 grain version. Slow trials and work went on through 1927 to 1930 resulting in the adoption of the .380-200 Mk 1 cartridge in 1930.



The large round nosed lead projectile caused some concern that it might contravene the spirit of the Geneva Convention. This concern was felt especially strongly amongst the Royal Tank Corps personnel. As a result of this anxiety work was carried out on developing a full metal jacket version that appeared in 1937. This cartridge was the .380 Mk 2 and 2Z.



This cartridge was loaded with 4 grains of Cordite size 1/.05 in the Mk II version and 3 grains of Nitrocellulose in the Mk IIZ. These loads gave an approximate muzzle velocity of 183metres per second.



What appears to be a commercial drill?

Finances being what they were and with the approach of WWII the old .455 Webley was retained in service until the end of that conflict so both the revolvers were in service at the same time. I believe the Enfield was the sole official weapon.

During WWII the British purchased .380 ammunition from Spain in the years 1942 to 1944.