

.476 ENFIELD MK. III

This cartridge is the last in a series for this calibre. Despite the title it is in fact used in a .455 calibre firearm. It was adopted in 1881 and given the designation of .476, which is the largest projectile diameter. The cartridge was declared obsolete in 1892.

These cartridges were loaded with gunpowder, fitted with a boxer primer of the small pistol variety. The projectile had a large cavity in the base that was partially filled with either a wood or clay plug. The theory behind this was that the plug would cause the rear of the projectile to expand under the gas pressure and thus ensure a forward obturation and a good grip on the rifling. It was eventually realised that the gas pressure itself was sufficient to do this and the use of the plug was discontinued.

