

[S.S. 541.]

(Extracts from a German Document.)

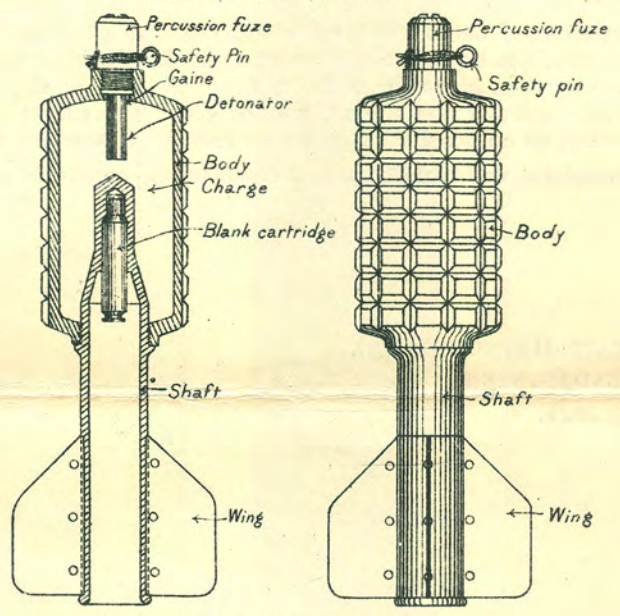
GERMAN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF "GRANATENWERFER" OR STICK BOMB-THROWERS.

Note by General Staff (Intelligence).

The "Granatenwerfer" or stick bomb-thrower is considered by the Germans to be a very valuable weapon for trench warfare, and captured documents show that it is intended to organize a "Granatenwerfer" detachment in every infantry regiment, each equipped with twelve of these weapons.

The stick bomb ("Wurfgranate 1915") thrown by these weapons is illustrated below; it contains $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of high explosive and can be used at ranges between 66 and 328 yards.*

GERMAN "STICK" BOMB,
1915 PATTERN.



SCALE APPROXIMATELY $\frac{5}{16}$.

In view of the above, the following extracts from the instructions issued by the German Sixth Army for the employment of "Granatenwerfer" are of considerable interest.

EMPLOYMENT OF "GRANATENWERFER."

19th Oct., 1916.

1. The tasks assigned to the "stick" bomb-thrower vary according as high angle or flat trajectory fire is employed. Flat trajectory fire is employed for the destruction of light cover, such as sandbag revetments and loophole plates; high angle fire against targets behind cover. Normally the latter is employed, as flat trajectory fire is not sufficiently accurate and should be left preferably to trench guns.
2. The personnel of a "stick" bomb-thrower consists of the following :—
 - 1 N.C.O. in charge.
 - A No. 1, who sights and works the bomb-thrower.
 - A No. 2, who sees to the ammunition supply.
3. Fire for effect is invariably preceded by registration. This must not be protracted, otherwise the enemy is able to seek cover or has time to vacate that portion of the trench which is under fire. The essential point is that the range first ordered should agree as nearly as possible with the actual range. By constant practice those in charge of batteries and bomb-throwers, as well as the Nos. 1, must acquire the knack of judging distances up to 330 yards.

* The maximum range is incorrectly given as 208 yards in "Summary of Recent Information regarding the German Army and its Methods" (S.S. 537).