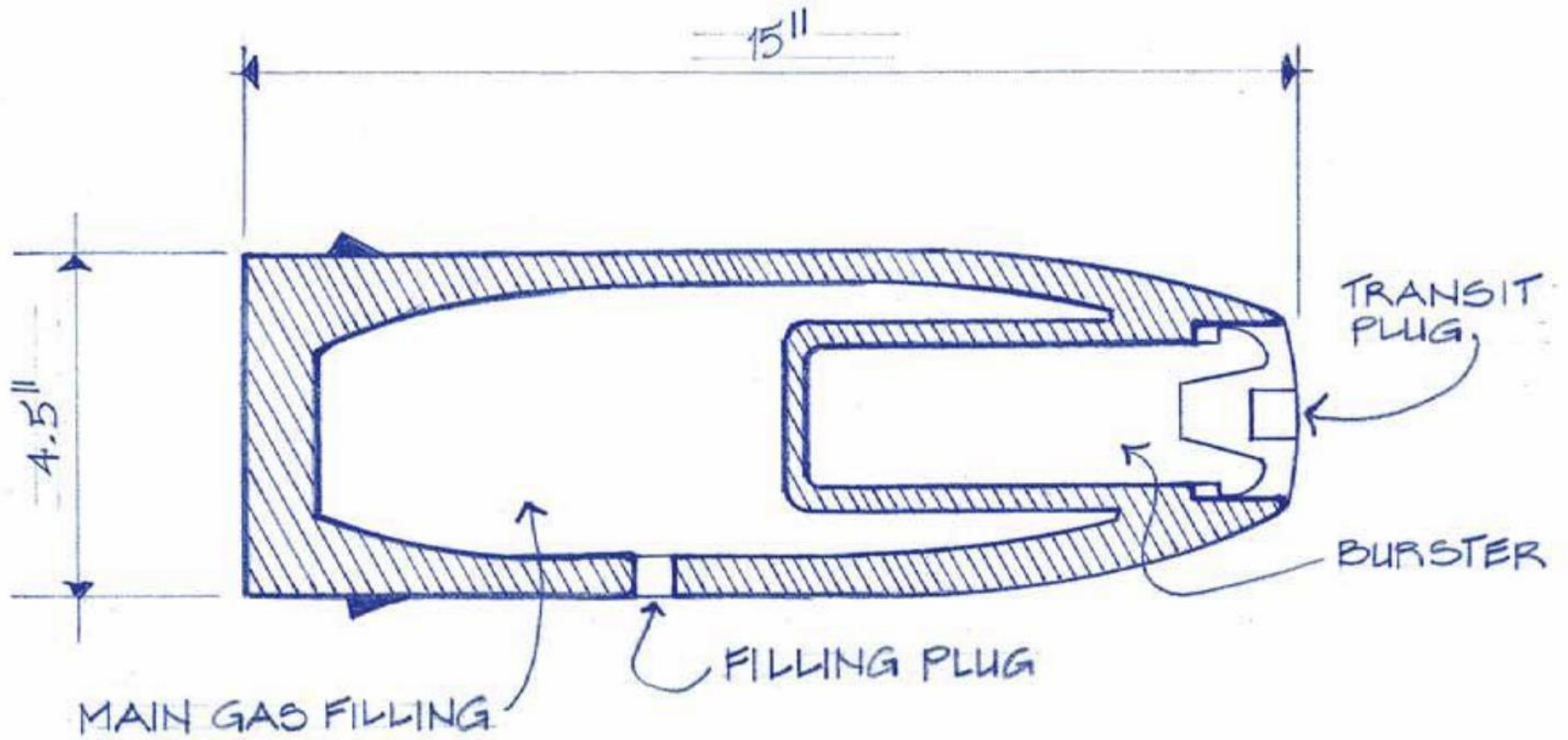


TYPICAL GAS SHELL



POISON GAS

The first notable use of poison gas was during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. One evening the French and Algerian troops noticed a strange, yellow-green cloud moving their way. They thought it was an attempt by the Germans to cover an advancing attack. Instead, the cloud was full of chlorine gas, which cause severe choking. By the end o the war, both sides were experimenting with different types of poison gas and different ways of getting it into enemy trenches. At the Third Battle of Ypres (also known as Passchendaele), the Germans used mustard gas, which caused chemical burns that left lifelong injuries.

Estimated Casualty Statistics for the Battle of Passchendaele

Allied Powers: 509,000

Central Powers: 348,000

Excerpt #3

I was awakened by a terrific crash . . . I could hardly breathe . . . I was put into an ambulance and taken to the base . . . I suppose I resembled a kind of fish with my mouth open gasping for air. It seems as if my lungs were gradually shutting up and my heart pounded away in my ears like the beat of a drum. On looking at the chap next to me I felt sick, for green stuff was oozing from the side of his mouth . . . I dozed off for short periods . . . I was always surprised when I found myself awake, for I felt sure that I would die in my sleep. So little was known about treatment for various gases.

- William Pressey, Gassed at Messines Ridge, 1917