

Webley Mk V Revolver

The Webley Mk V was the standard British service revolver at the outbreak of the First World War. It was one of a series of .455 inch calibre Webley revolvers which were the standard issue pistols of the British Army from 1887 onwards.

The one in the Museum has a bullet hole in it; presume to be caused by an enemy bullet

Mk IV: The "Boer War" Model. Was manufactured using much higher quality steel and case hardened parts, with the cylinder axis being a fixed part of the barrel and modifications to various other parts, including a re-designed blast-shield. Officially adopted 21 July 1899, with a 4-inch (100 mm) barrel

Mk V: Similar to the Mk IV, but with cylinders 0.12-inch (3.0 mm) wider to allow for the use of nitrocellulose propellant-based cartridges. Officially adopted 9 December 1913, with a 4-inch (100 mm) barrel, some models produced in 1915 had 5-inch (130 mm) and 6-inch (150 mm) barrels.

Of the six standard Webley service revolver "Marks" adopted between 1887 and 1915, Webley made fewer Mark V revolvers than any other, and collectors consider them among the rarest in standard form. The British adopted the Mk V in December 1913, and it represented the last revolver change before the start of World War I.

Twenty thousand were ordered and delivered to the British military, beginning in September 1914. In its standard-issue form, the Mk V had a 4-inch barrel and weighed just a half-ounce more than the Mk IV, which had been in service since 1899. The extra weight was due to the increased mass of the cylinder, which was beefed up to withstand the pressures of smokeless powder cartridges.

Most Mk V revolvers can be found with the standard 4-inch barrels, but there are also 6- and 7.5-inch barrel lengths. .



Webley Mark V with holster

Specifications

Weight	2 lbs 4 oz unloaded	Rate of Fire	20-30 rounds per minute
Length	11.25 inches	Muzzle Velocity	620 feet per second
Length of Barrel	4.17 inches	Effective Range	50 metres
Cartridge	.455 Webley Mark II/Mark V	Feed System	6-round cylinder
Calibre	.455 inches	Sights	Fixed front blade and rear notch

The Mk V pistol fired the then recently-introduced Mk V cordite cartridge. The bullet was made from hard a lead-alloy containing more antimony than the previous Mk IV cartridge, and cordite propellant. Despite an initial order of 20,000 Mk V revolvers being made, the demand had not been met when the British Army went to war and as a consequence there were significantly more Mk IV weapons still in service. Officers

were also permitted to purchase any design of .455 revolvers from commercial sellers, leading to a subsequent general shortage of that calibre of weapon.

In November 1914, the Mk V cartridge was withdrawn from service and replaced with the previously-issued Mk II cartridge that was made of a 99% lead and 1% antimony alloy. Six months later, the Webley Mk VI revolver was introduced to replace the Mk V and became the standard-issue sidearm of the British Army, Royal Flying Corps/Royal Airforce and Royal Navy for the remainder of the war.

.455 Webley Mk II: Introduced in 1897. 265 grain (17.2 g) solid lead round-nosed bullet propelled by 6.5 grains (0.42 g) cordite. With the change to cordite propellant, case lengths were reduced. There are minor differences between the Mk I and II bullet shape, though these concern the internal dimensions and so are not immediately apparent.

