



## THE KETCHUM HAND GRENADE

One of the most interesting new weapons of the Civil War was the Ketchum hand grenade. The Northern Navy and Army used it for close-up battles.

The Ketchum hand grenade came in three parts. For safety, each part was shipped to the battlefield separately. Before a battle, soldiers put the grenade together. When completed, the Ketchum hand grenade looked very much like a large, deadly lawn dart.

In battle, soldiers threw the grenade so that its flight path had a high arc. Many times the Ketchum bounced off its target and did not explode.

The Ketchum hand grenade worked well in naval battles. When it struck the hard surface of a ship's deck it exploded better than when it landed on the ground.

Armies tried to use the Ketchum to blowholes in defensive positions. Many times the Ketchum did not explode because the ground was too soft. Sometimes enemy soldiers put blankets on the ground. This made the ground even softer. Many times the Ketchum would not explode. The grenades were then picked up and used against the people who threw them first. Sometimes soldiers changed the name "Ketchum" to "catch-em."