components had failed (e.g., the striker had expanded/mushroomed and seized in place in the stepped window, the spring attached to the detonator had failed, the striker spring had began to collapse—all in the same mine). In the PMN-2, the failure of the rubbers probably has strongly contributed to the sequential breakdown process this mine experienced.

2.3. **PMD-6**

The PMD-6 is a ‘box’-type mine, made up of: i.) an exterior wooden box (rarely found intact); ii.) a block of explosive, with a protective covering (wax paper? also rarely found intact); iii.) a detonator/striker assembly. The detonator assembly consists of a metal cylindrical housing, which contains a spring-loaded metal striker. The striker is held in the ‘armed’ position by a metal firing pin, which in the operation of the mine, is either pulled free by a tripwire or by the movement of the wooden hinged pressure plate. This striker assembly is placed directly into the main charge.

2.3.1. **Component identifications**

In this study, only the explosive and detonator were found intact in the field. The explosive was tested for viability by igniting a portion. The TNT charge appeared to remain viable. However, all other parts of the triggering system appeared to be non-functional. The firing pin had rusted into place in the fuze, requiring considerable pulling force to remove (Figure 5). In order to access the interior components of these fuses, the housing was cut in half. The interior metal components were rusted, but overall, most seemed to remain operational (e.g., springs rusted but remained stiff). Infiltration of roots, deposition in striker channel, and dislodgement of the fuse from the TNT block are examples of the systemic causes of PMD-6 mine failure. Only one rubber component was recovered (a rubber cap that sits near the firing pin); this rubber was quite brittle. Unfortunately, this sample was too limited/too degraded for identification. All other components are discussed in the metals report (Annex H).

2.4. **Type 72**

The Type 72 mine has the simplest mechanism of all the mines discussed here. The main body of the casing is plastic, and the mine has a rubber cover over the pressure plate. The rubber cover was typically missing in the field. The cover is held in place by a plastic ring. When pressed down, the pressure place causes a Bellville spring (a dome-shaped