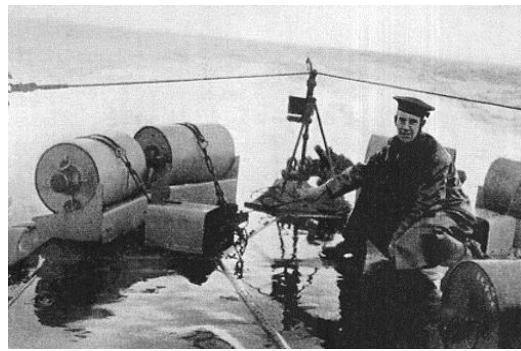


## Information Data Sheet

### Category Depth Charges

**Description** Depth charges, a variety of Anti-Submarine Weapon (ASW), are anti-submarine explosive devices with a pre-selected depth detonation.

They were developed during WWI and extensively used during WWII. Depth charges were deployed from both surface vessels and aircraft.



**Hazard** One of the most frequently used by the Royal Navy was the 450lb (200kg) Mark VII depth charge which was modified for aerial use. Originally TNT filled, by 1943 Torpex was used as a filler and depth charges up to 600lb (~270kg) were in use.

Towards the end of WWII the largest depth charges approached 1,000kg.

The underwater explosion of a depth charge causes damage by shock waves which are enhanced by simultaneous explosions. As such, they were often deployed in pairs.

Smaller devices included the Hedgehog and, later, the Squid systems, firing a pattern of depth charges which exploded on contact

