

Unexploded live ordinance Locations

Location: - Offshore Gulf of Siam, Nr Pattaya, Thailand.

Author: Stephen Burton BSc(hons) MIET Chartered Engineer

Contact: - deepdive@loxinfo.co.th www.thaiwreckdiver.com TEL/SMS +66-81-652-3197

Every year, several people are injured mistakenly handling live unexploded ordinance of US manufacture located underwater at offshore Islands frequented by tourists and local fishermen.

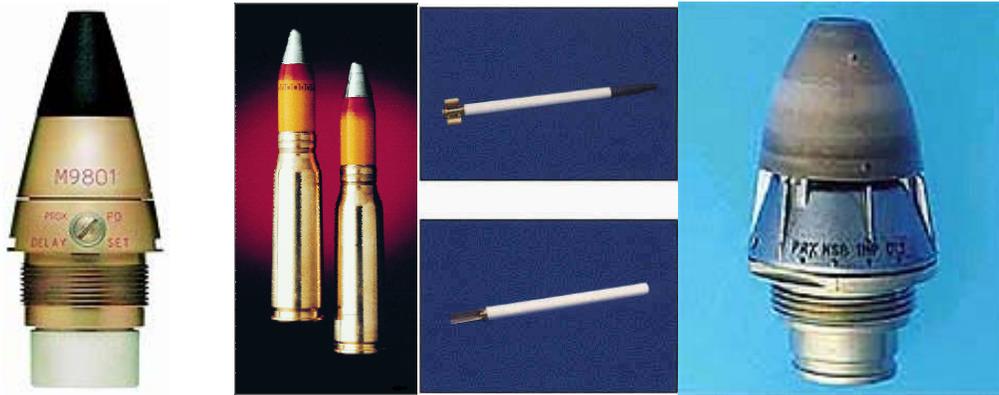
At least 5 offshore Islands are affected. All are regularly dived by visiting Western tourists, attracted to there location by the clear water and fish life that surrounds the effected areas.

All areas have a history of accidents, death and injury caused to both visiting tourists, local fisherman and other civilian personnel going back many years, ranging from death of individuals to the destruction of whole boats and loss of crew when some of the larger devices are accidentally caught in nets and landed onto fishing boats.

A summary of the Area's unexploded ordinance distribution is given below. Quantities are approx:-

Location	GPS Co-Ords	Depth	Ordinance (Quantity)
Hin Chalaam	N12'27.8",E100'58.4"	20-80ft	2.75inch rocket (25) 5 inch shell(50) 20mm HE(many)
Koh Rin	N12'47.5",E100'42.7"	15-40ft	5 inch shell(10) Mortar(10)
Hin Ton Mai	N12'47.0",E100'42.7"	30-60ft	5 inch shell(15) 2.75inch Rocket(10)
Hardeep Shipwreck	N12'31.979", E100'57.374"	60-90ft	(Ref point for below)
33m Ledge	150yds N. of Shipwreck	110ft	1000 pound x 3
40m Ledge	250yds N. of Shipwreck	130-150ft	5 inch shell x 50

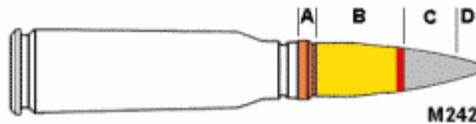
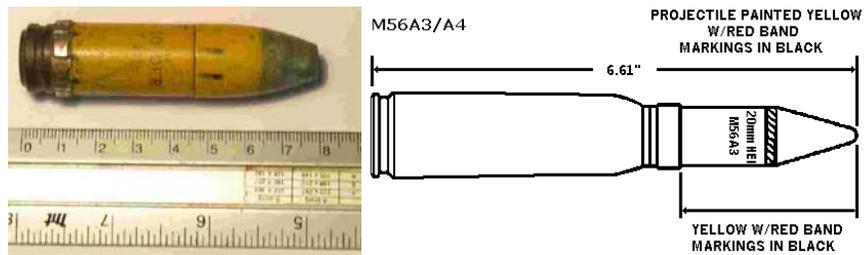
Pictures of typical unexploded devices found on these dive sites are shown below:-



Diver with shell shown for scale



Recently a young boy nearly lost his foot when one of these he had recovered fell on the bathroom floor tiles in his home and exploded with distasterous consequences.

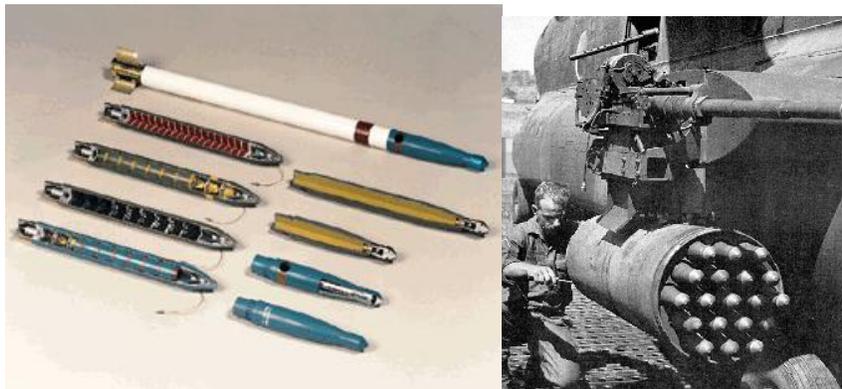


M242 High-Explosive Incendiary-Tracer HEI Cartridge



The 2 units above are recovered practice rounds. Length approx 4ft

Unfortunately there are also many High explosive live rounds live rounds of these types located nearby.

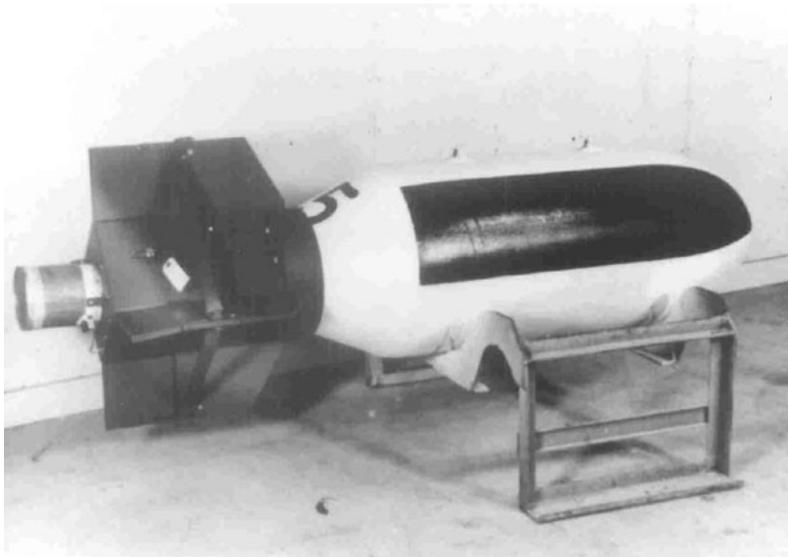


Hydra 2.75inch with various HE heads. 19 rocket launcher +20mm cannon mounted on a Chinook helicopter gunship.

Larger Unexploded Ordinance

Anything enemy shipping that came within a B24 Liberator bomber run of India (and that covers a very large area) came in for some very heavy pounding. A couple of large 500Kg /1,000pounder bombs found at a local dive site are shown below in pristine form.

The body of the bomb is approx 1.5meter /6 foot long, nose and tail fused.



Examples of UXB's in-situ on dive sites

(Hin Chalaam, Samaesan, Thailand)



Recent Newspaper Article detailing injury inflicted to a local diver

4 FRIDAY JANUARY 9, 2004

PATTAYA

Mussel foraging in the waters off Sattahip turns to tragedy as swimmer mistakes grenade for mussel

Diver disregards Navy warning

Boonlua Chatree

A day at the beach turned to tragedy, leaving a 25-year-old man in critical condition after he accidentally grabbed an unexploded shell in the waters off Sattahip.

Vichien Jantamas, from Udon, was rushed to the hospital after an explosive device he unwittingly grabbed exploded in his hand in 4-meters of water. The explosion severed his left hand and blew out both of his eyes. His friend, diving nearby, was also admitted to the Queen Sirikit hospital with less severe injuries.

The accident occurred in

Bang Saray sub-district.

The injured men were taken by boat from the accident scene to the mainland, where a medical staff was on hand to stabilize their injuries and rush them to ICU for emergency treatment.

According to friends Sanant Narudom and Somchai Jantamas, three of them were diving for expensive mussels in the area of Koh Lin, an island controlled by the Royal Thai Navy. They suspect that Vichien mistook the explosive device for a mussel.

The kind of mussel they were looking for sells in the marketplace for 200 baht per kilo.

Sanant Narudom and Somchai said they heard a loud explosion, after which they discovered that Vichien was seriously injured. They were able to call for help from a nearby tourist boat.

Attending physicians reported that Vichien's left hand was almost severed, except for a few strands of tendon, and that both his eyes were destroyed. He also suffered severe blood loss.

The Royal Thai Navy has posted numerous warnings to swimmers and divers to stay away from Koh Lin due to the danger of unexploded shells.

Other pictures of UXB at Koh Rin (a popular tourist destination for holiday makers and divers based at Pattaya, Thailand)



Charts of affected areas

Chart 1. Pattaya & Jomtien Bay areas



Satahip & Utapao Bay areas

