

K-GUN DEPTH CHARGE PROJECTOR –

During the latter part of WWII the Y-gun (K-gun) was created for the purpose of shooting a depth charge further out to the side of a ship creating a wider pattern of explosives. The K-gun consists of a barrel and arbor to hold the depth charge. The propellant to launch the depth charge is a black powder charge measured to send the depth charge 60, 90 or 150 yards to the side of the destroyer. Gunners mates manned the k-guns. Our own **Orv Krieg**, Chairman Emeritus, was a GM-3 on the Frank Knox and his first duty station was the **starboard k-gun**.

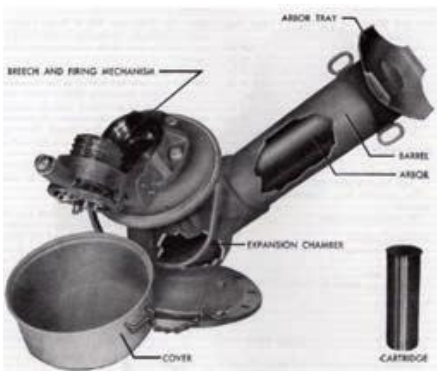
As subs gained underwater speed, depth charges and then k-guns lost favor to “smart” weapons and forward deployed weapons like the ASW torpedo MK-44 and **hedge hogs**. The “hogs” were only smart because the launch device was connected to the fire control computer allowing some tracking as the ship maneuvered. Gerald Harms, above, was stationed on the starboard hedgehog mount during submarine ops’, in the open directly below the bridge. Harms relates watching a kamikaze fly from dead ahead toward the Frank Knox. As he watched the plane missed the mast of the Frank Knox and sailed into the ship trailing the Frank Knox. Harms and Bob Beachkofski both report the Frank Knox gunners knocking pieces off the incoming kamikaze without causing it to fall into the ocean. A close call to be sure.



K-gun fired off the starboard side of the USS SLATER DE766



K-gun aboard the USS SLATER DE766



storation



re restoration

Current



K-gun after restoration