

TORPEDOES ON THE KNOX –

During WWII TM-1 Gerald Harms remembers the Frank Knox carried the MK-12 anti-shiping torpedo. I thought a comparison of the MK-12 carried up to 1955 and the later MK-44, an ASW torpedo, carried from 1957 until decommissioning in 1971 would be interesting. ED

MK-12 MK-44

Weight 3841 lbs. 425 lbs.

Length 24 feet (288 in.) 8.44 ft (101.3 in)

Diameter 21 in. 12.75 in

Effective range 6000 yds 3.4 mi (about 5600 yds)

Maximum range 15,000 yds 3.4 mi (about 5600 yds)

Warhead wt. 825 lbs. 75 lbs.

Engine Wet heater/Steam turbine Salt water activated battery

Propellant Methanol Electrical

Speed 26.5 – 45 kts 30-35 kts

Guidance Gyroscope Active homing, helix search

Arming distance about 300 yds 135 yds

TM-1 Harms recalls converting black powder warheads to the newer

Torpex on his previous ship; no such conversion was needed on the Knox. An upgraded

explosive, named GTX3, was in the warheads in the MK-44 ASW torpedo.

Both torpedoes were launched using compressed air.