

BLOWING UP WRECKS

Off Sheerness, graveyard of many ships sunk by bomb, torpedo and magnetic mine, the fairway's being cleared of wrecks by Naval demolition squads. ^{Converted} ~~Ships~~ mine-sweepers are used for the task. Many of the sunken vessels have masts and superstructures still showing. Sound recording apparatus establishes the position of the ~~still~~ ^{yet} more dangerous wrecks below the surface. Sailors plying this much used waterway will be very glad when it is completely ~~cleared~~ ^{free}. Divers go down, when the sunken ships are located, to ~~put~~ place depth charges of three hundred pounds each, the number of ~~charges~~ determined by the size of the wreck. From down below comes information of the amount of explosive necessary. All this time air is pumped to the diver and the skipper sends a boat's crew to drop the depth charges where the diver directs. More than six hundred wrecks lie in the fairways approaching the ports of Great Britain, so it will be some time before the Navy completes the job.