

Navy detonates shells from scuttled ship

Last Updated: Monday, May 30, 2005 / 12:17 PM ET

[CBC News](#)

Navy divers have blown up most of the remaining shells on a Labrador shoal where a British cruiser was scuttled after the First World War.

Hundreds of shells from the war have been lying in the shallows off Forteau Bay in southernmost Labrador for more than 80 years.

They've posed a danger to residents and tourists, occasionally washing ashore.

For three years, Canadian navy divers have been periodically clearing away the shells by attaching plastic explosives and setting them off from shore.

A navy spokesman said the latest round of detonations last week have left only about 10 to 12 shells below the surface.

"We're down to very slim pickings. ... There's probably just 10 to 12 rounds left down there," Master Seaman Hugo Thorne told the Canadian Press.

"It's pretty much a done deal."

The shells were carried there by HMS Raleigh, a 184-metre British cruiser that ran aground in strong currents at Point Amour, Nfld. in 1922.

After as much as possible had been salvaged, British navy engineers blew up the Raleigh in 1926.

The engineers assumed the shells would be destroyed in the blast, but instead many were scattered across the sea bottom.