



U12 Found

THE GERMAN WW1 U-boat *U12* has been found off Eyemouth. The 60m submarine was hunted and sunk by the British destroyers *HMS Ariel*, *Acheron* and *Attack* and for years the position of the First World War *U12* has perplexed local divers.

Noted international historian Clive Cussler was thought to have found the wreck in 1984 after only a couple of hours searching. However, previous dives on admiralty positions and the position given by Cussler have proved fruitless in submarines, but bountiful in steamships.

Local divers Jim Macleod and Martin Sinclair with the help of Marine Quest Dive Charters and renowned historian and researcher Kevin Heath formed a team to finally uncover the final resting place of *U12*.

The wreck itself has great historical importance as it was the first submarine to have an aeroplane carried on its deck for deployment at sea, an unusual concept, which proved to be a limited experiment for this boat.

An early First World War design of submarine, *U12* had a two stroke engine running on kerosene (paraffin) driving twin stern propellers.

The wreck of the submarine lies in just under 50m depth lying bolt upright on a seabed of fine sand which bounces the light making for year round visibility in the region of 15m. It is believed that this site has



Dive team (right to left) - Paul Dustan, Nigel Goodman, Derek Sutton, Graeme Govenlock, Martin Sinclair (Dive Coordinator), Ann Dustan, Iain Easingwood (skipper) Jim Macleod

not been previously visited by divers. Key identifying features include the two forward and two aft firing torpedo tubes, six conning tower portholes, apparent damage to the port side of the submarine due to the ramming of the boat by *HMS Ariel* during *U12*'s final engagement.

The wreck is a war grave, 19 German sailors died, there was no disturbance of the site nor the removal of any artefacts. Hans Kratzch commanded *U12* and went down with his boat. After the engagement *U12*'s conning tower hatch could only partially open, dooming most of the crew from leaving the sinking submarine.

There were 10 survivors from the other two hatches, these men were

picked up by the heavily damaged *HMS Ariel*, recovering two men despite having considerable bow damage, the other survivors were saved by the rest of the search flotilla.

The dive was conducted from the Eyemouth registered *North Star* dive boat. An Offshore 105 fitted with a tail lift to help heavily equipped divers from the water.

The boat is operated by father and son team, Jim and Iain Easingwood, from their dive centre based at the Harbourside in Eyemouth.

Kevin Heath is an Orkney based researcher and historian. His work has been instrumental in the crew from leaving the sinking submarine and identification of *U-102* and *U-92* in 2007.

The German authorities are being made aware of the actual position of *U-12*. This submarine should not be confused with the WWII *U-12* which lies in the English Channel.

Gnoming Around

DIVERS FROM Penrith SAC caught the gnomes of Wastwater celebrating round their Christmas tree during a pre-December 25 dive.

Next year Penrith SAC have been told that the gnomes are planning a nativity scene, if they survive their New Year party.

Image shows The Gnomes of Wastwater



Get Set For Lids



A packed aisle at last year's LIDS

MAYBE YOU have always fancied taking a trip down to the capital to experience first hand what the London International Dive Show has to offer. Well if that is the case then now is the time to get those tickets booked as the annual event for 2008 is almost upon us as a galaxy of big diving names are set to gather at London's annual Dive Show at the ExCel Exhibition Centre on March 08/09.

In the main hall you can expect as many as 250 stands reflecting everything from equipment and travel to training, clothing and many diver services. And for all the non-divers dragged along by their underwater loving friends and family there is the ever-popular Try-Dive Pool, then they can see what all the fuss is about!

This year the emphasis is on extreme diving, with plenty of deep wreck action to

enjoy from the likes of Richie Stevenson and Carl Spencer, Innes McCartney and Mark Ellyatt.

DIR guru Jarrod Jablonski has recently been involved in record-breaking cave-diving exploits in the States, while British freediver Sara Campbell has been breaking records of her own, but using less gear.

Sharkman Mike Rutzen from South Africa has been putting great whites into a trance; LIDS regular Monty Halls is looking for divers to join him on a new global project; and ace underwater photographer Alex Mustard joins Saeed Rashid to offer digital photographers the benefit of their experience.

which will be packed with training and holiday exhibits, and don't miss the new British Isles Experience stands which are dedicated to providers of diving experiences on home shores.

There will be some 25 other free-to-enter seminars going on throughout the weekend, too, so no shortage of diversions for the 14,000 or so divers, friends and families expected to turn up at LIDS over the weekend.

Tickets cost £7.50 (if booked in advance) or £10.50 on the door. Children under the age of 14 go free if accompanied by a paying adult.

For more information, or to book online visit: www.diveshows.co.uk. Alternatively call the ticket hotline on: 020 8977 9878.



New Hyperbaric Centre in Aberdeen



Aberdeen's National Hyperbaric Centre

A MULTI-MILLION pound plan to build the world's largest and 'deepest' pressure test chamber has been revealed by Aberdeen's National Hyperbaric Centre. The project, costing up to £10m, would allow the testing of sub-sea equipment to the equivalent of three miles down.

The centre treats medical and diving emergency patients, carries out studies on topics such as a climate change and tests offshore equipment. NHC announced the new

chamber as it celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The centre offers decompression chamber cover all year round, with a team of diving doctors and hyperbaric intensive care-trained nurses permanently on standby. Sport and professional divers are treated at the centre, in Aberdeen's Ashgrove Road West, for decompression sickness. The centre has also evolved to offer a wide-range of research opportunities and medical treatments.

Car Parking Controversy

BACK IN the November/December 06 edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER**, Alison Fuller Shapcott reported on the high car parking charges at St Abbs and highlighted that a day's parking at the popular diving spot compared with 12 hours worth of parking at Heathrow Airport.

A year later changes to the parking charges have been announced although they will not be well received by the diving community.

In the past charges have varied between

the two car parks at St Abbs. The St Abbs Harbour Trust car park was mainly used by divers and cost £5 for a day's parking while the other ran by the council charged £10 for the same duration. Berwickshire councillors have just agreed to changes to these charges, bringing both in line with one another at £7 for a day's parking.

While this move will put an end to any confusion over charges between the two car parks, opinions will be divided over whether it is a good thing for visiting divers or not.



How much?