



**Scapa Flow Dive Guide
2nd Edition
Lawson Wood**

£15.99

Publisher Aquapress
www.aquapress.co.uk
ISBN: 1-905492-11-1

RECENTLY I WAS approached by the son of a customer who wanted to know what I could tell him about diving in Scapa Flow. Originally from Clydebank he has been living in Spain for the last 15 years. He has persuaded a group of divers from Spain to make the pilgrimage to Scapa Flow, what he described as a mecca for wreck divers. He thought as a Scottish diver I would have made many trips to Scapa and would be able to recommend a liveaboard or a dive centre.

Embarrassed I had to admit I've never been to Scapa so had no experience of who to recommend. All I could do was give him some copies of **SCOTTISH DIVER** with contact details and recommend he buy Scapa Flow Dive Guide by Lawson Wood. He went away reasonably happy and promising to keep in touch by email. The very next day I popped into HQ and sitting in the editor's tray was a copy of the 2nd edition of Lawson's book. The first edition became a best seller for publisher Aquapress so they commissioned a 2nd edition. How does it differ?

Well there are more pages some existing chapters have been extended and there is a new chapter on aircraft wrecks. The layout remains the same which was excellent anyway but more has been made of Lawson's pictures some of which have been spread out over two pages. I was particularly impressed with the image across pages 58-59 of a diver on the *Koln II* it certainly changed my mind about what to expect from the diving on the wrecks in Scapa.

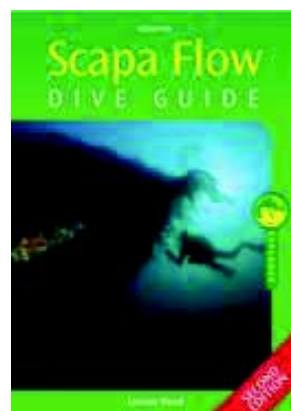
However it is not the only new image in this edition, there are great new pictures taken in the debris fields of the *Seydlitz*, *Kaiser* and *Von Der Tann* which make them look attractive dive sites. There is a short chapter on aircraft wrecks or aeroplanes as they are called in the book. The records show there were 11 within the confines of the Flow. Some were shot down and some crashed, five were raised by Metal industries and bits of wreckage from others are on display in Lyness museum. However tantalisingly for all you budding wreck detectives there are still four to be found.

Dive guides have come a long way in the last few years and this book is a fine example of how good they have become. The author has written many dive guides in his career and combined with a sympathetic publisher who understands what the diving public want he has set a new standard.

Lawson is genuinely interested in everything to do with Scapa, in The Bull and the Barrier he told the story of Gunther Prine the U-boat skipper who sank HMS Royal Oak and the allies response to build the Churchill Barriers to prevent another incursion to the anchorage. The author also has a unique collection of photographs and postcards based on Scapa and these are used throughout the book.

As we have come to expect from this author there is everything you might need to know to plan a trip to Scapa. Travel, accommodation, diving, history, marine life and extremely clear illustrations and maps. I especially liked the way he has shown how many of the wrecks used for barriers have moved from their recorded positions making it easier to find them now.

This is a must have book for anyone planning their first trip to Scapa and regulars too will I'm certain find something they did not know about this popular diving destination. I thoroughly recommend this guide and hope the publishers use this excellent format for more guides to dive destinations.



All your diving needs



www.divingdirect.co.uk
01642 486666