

Scapa Flow June 2009.

Divers; Graham Coulson, Andy Doherty, Steve Hewitt, Simon Kay, Roy Ritch, Andy Hewitt, Paul Burton, Dirk Hadwin, Dave Beaumont , Rob Hughes, Lee Minhinnick. Graeme Home.

Boat; MV Halton, Skipper, Bob Anderson.

Friday;

Set off in the afternoon, after a long journey we arrived at Helmsdale for the overnight stop. We stayed at the youth hostel and boy what a good night sleep !!!!!!!

Saturday;

Up early and travelled up to Scrabster to catch the 13:15 ferry. With the guys in the van cutting it short and turning up at the last minute, and the scrum for the cargo boxes, we eventually loaded the gear up and boarded the ferry. On the crossing you pass the Old Man of Hoy, the famous sea stack.



The Old Man of Hoy

Once we arrived in Stromness it was all hands to load the gear on to the boat, followed by food in a few social drinks in the bars of the town.

Sunday;

The first days diving.

Dive 1; The Dresden

And another cruiser, bottom at 34 metres and wreck top at 18 metres. Great stuff - mast and stuff, bridge, guns, walkways.

Dive 2; The Karlsruhe

Cruiser again.. 24 metres to the bottom and 12 metres to the wreck - well blasted and salvaged - loads of stuff on the bottom and loads of holes in the wreck.

Monday;

Dive 3; The Brummer

A cruiser..So lying on its side rather than upside down. Bottom is at 36 metres, ship at 20 metres. The mast and crow's nest lie on the bottom, the engine room area is open enough for a look about and the bow and stern 5.9 inch guns are still in place. There is a big hole on the bottom at the bow and you can see up to another hole which lights up the innards - good dive.

Dive 4; **The F2 and Barge**

the F2 is a frigate, well salvaged but a fantastic dive. She sits in about 16 metres, about 8 metres to the hull. You can rootle about the bow and play with gun, dive under the bow and then go out to the 550 ton YYC21 barge which sank while salvaging the F2 in 1968, the twin 20mm anti aircraft guns are still inside, as is the workshop full of tools etc.



Scapa flow

Tuesday;

Dive5; the **Koln**

Another cruiser - bottom at 35 metres, hit metal at 25 metres. Loads to see covered with life and a big hole at the engine room. Once again - you can't do this one in one dive.

Dive 6; **Seydlitz Debris site.**



Graham with the prop off the HMS Hampshire

Wednesday;

Dive7; **Kronprinz Wilhelm;** The Kronprinz sits in 34 metres, 12 metres to the bottom of the wreck. There are twin 12" guns to be seen on the side and the mast lies out to the side, worth a wander out and back. Again, plenty of blasted out bits to look down and a cracker of a dive for all the family!

Dive 8; **the Karlsruhe.** (Max depth 28m) This Light cruiser lies in shallower water with the least depth over her port side of about 14 metres. The Karlsruhe has been heavily salvaged with only her stern section remaining intact, however all over the still shipshape wreck, features like gun turrets, piping, armor and capstans can be made out. A great dive in shallow water she is covered in life and home to many fish.



Diver on the Doyle

Thursday;

Dive 9; **Kronprinz Wilhelm.** (Max depth 38m) Another Konig Class, displacing 25,400 tons, she was launched in Kiel in 1914. The Kiel Canal had to be widened to get her to open sea. Lying upside down to her starboard side, the hull starts in about 16 metres and her main guns can be seen at the seabed in 38meters.

Dive 10; **the Doyle.** (Max depth 17m) Sunk as a block ship in 1940 this 1700 ton steamer still has lots to explore. The starboard side of the hull is fairly intact as is the stern where her propeller is in place. Masts and hull plates lie around her and inside the hull decks are still open. This is a slack water dive only.

Friday;

Dive 11; **Brummer.** Max depth 34m) this mine laying cruiser displaced 4300 tons and had an overall length of 140 metres. Built at Stettin, and launched in 1915, she was manoeuvrable and fast, at over 28 knots. She lies on her starboard side with her port rail at about 20 metres. Her largely intact bridge structure is a must see.

Dive 12, **Tabarka.** This upside down block ship sits in a ripping current in Burra Sound in 12 metres. The skipper will drop you in slack and the visibility is endless, the wreck is swept clean and is like an underwater cathedral.



The Gang



MV Halton

Saturday;

The last day, we boarded the ferry for the crossing back to the mainland followed by the long drive home