

The Naval Wrecks Of Scapa Flow

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the naval anchorage of scapa flow is the resting place of many wrecks including several from the german grand fleet

a new look at the naval base at scapa flow orkney and the ships that have used it and still remain today

scapa flow a vast natural harbour in the orkney islands served as the royal navy's main base during the two world wars from where ships sailed to the battle of jutland in the first and in convoy to northern russia in the second thousands of men and women saw service in and around this remote anchorage including soldiers and sailors who crewed the ships and manned the lonely batteries and wrens nurses and civilians who were posted there scapa flow brings together their memories the bleak isolation its implacable winds and glorious sunsets the camaraderie and good humour forming a compelling portrait of a unique war station that left its mark on all who served there

on the night of 13 14 october 1939 the german commander of u boat u 47 g nter prien steered past the sunken block ships and chains which inadequately protected the british naval base at scapa flow in the orkney islands the u boat sank the old british world war i battleship hms royal oak and then escaped into the north sea the loss of the royal oak was insignificant in naval terms though over 800 men perished with her however this was a bitter blow to british moral

one of the most dramatic events in sea history was the scuttling of the german high seas fleet six months after the end of the first world war witnessed in its entirety by only a few people the great scuttle took place in a remote corner of the british isles which most of us scarcely know by name yet in the immensity of the project and its international repercussions it shook the world and put scapa flow on everyone's lips from dustjacket

the bull and the barriers

reminds us of the courage and immense sacrifices made by orcadians and tells of the efforts made by the british to protect their remote islanders superb books monthly orkney was a key strategic location during the second world war the vast anchorage of scapa flow was the main haven for the royal navy's home fleet making it a prime target for the luftwaffe and attempts to bomb the anchorage were made from the beginning of the war in the early hours of 14 october 1940 a german submarine apparently penetrated scapa flow's defenses and managed to sink the aging battleship hms royal oak with the loss of 834 of her crew including many boy sailors the loss spurred changes to the defenses of scapa flow which hugely impacted orkney orcadians also made a huge contribution to the war effort

through farming and in providing support to the thousands of sailors soldiers and airmen who were based locally orcadians also raised considerable funds and gathered much needed items including scrap metal and even sphagnum moss for use in the treatment of wounds large numbers of orcadians worked in the fishing industry and this was a staple supplier of food for the islands as well as a key employer the men aboard the trawlers were used to danger but the war ramped this up even further as many became prey to german attacks from the air although isolated from the mainland the people of orkney made a very substantial contribution to the war effort and many paid the ultimate price losing their lives in the service of their country another beautiful volume for the series on the old barbed wire

a comprehensive guide to diving the reefs and wrecks of scapa flow featuring 3d wreck scans highly detailed full locations full colour photography throughout and unseen archive material

scapa flow was one of the world s great naval bases and the scene of many of the major events of twentieth century naval history during both world wars the royal navy made scapa the home for its capital ships and thousands of servicemen and women were posted to orkney from here the grand fleet sailed for jutland in 1916 from here the escorts for the russian convoys set off and it was in this beautiful bleak anchorage that the german high seas fleet committed the greatest act of suicide ever seen at sea the grand scuttle before being later raised and scrapped in the most astonishing feat of maritime salvage in history it was also in scapa that the last photographs of kitchener were taken as he boarded hms hampshire shortly before she was sunk by mine off marwick head scapa is also the grave of many who fought for their country in both world wars in its silent waters lie the wrecks of the battleship vanguard blown apart by an explosion in 1917 and the royal oak sunk by u 47 in a spectacular raid at the beginning of world war ii here the first luftwaffe raids on britain occurred here too italian prisoners of war built both the spectacular churchill causeways and the exquisite chapel on the island of lamb holm in this book illustrated with over 130 archive photographs james miller traces the story of this remarkable place weaving together history eyewitness accounts and personal experience to capture the life and spirit of scapa flow when it was home to thousands of service personnel and the most powerful fleet in the world

a strategically important natural harbor in the orkney islands scapa flow served as britain s main fleet anchorage during world wars i and ii

in 1914 and again in 1939 the british began building a comprehensive defensive network by fortifying the entrances to scapa flow and then extended these defenses to cover most of orkney by 1940 it had become an island fortress the largest integrated defensive network of its kind in europe manned by as many as 50 000 commonwealth troops backed by newly commissioned artwork naval historian angus konstam tells the story of this mighty naval fortress many pieces of which can still be seen on the island today

this is an updated edition of this classic dive book marking the 100th anniversary and is a comprehensive and practical guide to the history and present day diving of the legendary scapa flow shipwrecks it will be an indispensable book for all divers and those interested in classic shipwreck sites

day to day naval actions from october 1940 through may 1941 provides detailed information on movements of all identifiable vessels of allied axis and neutral countries plus convoy movements and minefields information is broken down by month then by geographical area date and time this series is an invaluable source for historians students and anyone interested in the naval history of world war ii

major pacific actions from april through august 1942 include the japanese attack on ceylon the doolittle raid on japan the battle of the coral sea the battle of midway island the u s landing on guadalcanal the battle of savo island and the battle of the eastern solomon islands arctic actions include battle for convoy pq 17 in mediterranean the royal navy interdicts axis supply lines along libyan and egyptian coasts in the atlantic the u s implements convoys along the east coast

at the outset of world war ii scapa flow was supposed to be the safe home base of the british navy nothing could penetrate the defences of this bastion so how in the dead of night was gunther prien s u 47 able to slip through the line of protective warships to sink the mighty royal oak this book provides the answer with an account of one of the most daring naval raids in history drawing on the latest underwater archaeological research this study explains how prien and his crew navigated the north sea and kirk sound to land a devastating blow to the british it reveals the level of disrepair that scapa flow had fallen into and delves into the conspiracy theories surrounding the event including an alleged cover up by the then first sea lord winston churchill

the place where the german u boat sank the british battleship royal oak was none other than the middle of scapa flow britain s greatest naval base it sounds incredible william l shirer journalist 18 october 1939 sinking the battleship hms royal oak in the royal navy s home anchorage with the loss of more than 800 of her crew was germany s first shattering blow against britain in the 1939 45 war within six weeks the long standing german dream of breaching the defences of scapa flow had been achieved after years of misinformation propaganda and conspiracy theories this meticulously researched book reveals what really happened

at scapa flow on 21 june 1919 there occurred an event unique in naval history the german high seas fleet one of the most formidable ever built was deliberately sent to the bottom of the sea at the british grand fleet s principal anchorage at orkney by its own officers and men the grand scuttle became a folk legend in both germany and britain however few people are aware that rear admiral ludwig von reuter became the only man in history to sink his own navy because of a misleading report in a british newspaper that the royal navy guessed his intention but could do nothing to thwart it that the sinking produced the last casualties and the last prisoners of the war and that fragments of the kaiser s fleet are probably on the moon this is the remarkable story of the scuttling of the german fleet in scapa flow it contains previously unused german archive material eye witness accounts and the recollections of survivors as well as many contemporary photos which capture the awesome spectacle of the finest ships of the time being deliberately sunk by their own crew

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