

**SAFEGUARDING
THE WORLD'S UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE
On the Occasion of the Centenary of World War I**

**UNESCO
Press Kit**



The Protection of
the Underwater Cultural
Heritage

**B R U
G G E**

west-vlaanderen
de gedreven provincie



Flanders
State of the Art



2014-18
The Great War Centenary

Centenary of World War I

UNESCO draws attention to the need to protect the submerged heritage of World War I

World War I did not only take place in trenches. An important part of the conflict was fought at sea, either on the surface or - and this was a first – under water. The wrecks of ships and submarines that have sunk during the conflict therefore present today an invaluable information source. Their hulls contain a snapshot of history that has not been the subject of sufficient research so far. These wrecks also serve as custodians of the memory of the thousands of people who have lost their lives there.

This fragile heritage that lies at the bottom of the oceans now enters the scope of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. The Convention designates underwater cultural heritage as *“all traces of human existence having a cultural, historical or archaeological character which have been partially or totally under water, periodically or continuously, for at least 100 years.”* From 2014 onwards, ships, cruisers, ocean liners, and destroyers sunk during the war will fall under the scope of the Convention.

Also, UNESCO will organize in occasion of the Centenary of the First World War a scientific conference on underwater heritage of WWI to be held in Bruges, Belgium 26-28 June, 2014, with the support of the Government of Flanders. The support of Flanders is given in the framework of the country’s commemorative project ‘The Great War Centenary (2014-18)’, giving tribute to the fact that Flanders was a central battlefield during the war.

This conference will be followed by a commemorative event on the evening of 27 June and on the morning of 28 June (see program).

In addition to these events, UNESCO invites all ships at sea and in port to use commemorative signalling on 28 June at 19:00. It also encourages divers to visit the underwater heritage sites dating from 1914-1918 on 28 June and launched an education initiative for schools to raise awareness of the importance of submerged heritage.



Lundy wreck, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey © Harun Ozdas



French Destroyer wreck, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey © Harun Ozdas

The underwater cultural heritage of World War I

The naval battles of the First World War took place over a very wide area. They gave rise to large, uninterrupted battles, such as the Jutland battle that pitted the British Navy against its German rival on 31 May and 1 June 1916 in the North Sea near the Danish peninsula of Jutland. Another clash of similar scale occurred at the battle of Gallipoli (from 25 April 1915 till 9 January 1916), during which British and French forces tried to capture Istanbul.

But the conflict was above all characterized by more focused battles, submarine attacks, and naval blockades. Thus, the naval blockade of Germany, led by the British Royal Navy from 1914 onwards to halt maritime refuelling of Germany and its allies, is considered a key element in the ultimate victory of the Allies. Germany, which in fact largely depended on imports to feed its population and fuel its industry, was hit hard by this embargo.

During the conflict, British naval forces mobilized some 11,000 war vessels. In total, approximately 250 of those vessels and some 850 auxiliary vessels sunk. More than 74,000 sailors and 15,300 men of the Merchant Navy lost their lives. On the German side, almost 200 submarines and hundreds of warships were lost. The total casualties amounted to 34,836 men.

These vessels that sunk with their crews a century ago – both warships and civilian ships sunk by accident or that fell victim to the naval blockade - remain at the bottom of the ocean. This World War I underwater cultural heritage is a major witness to history. It is, however, little protected, scarcely researched, and yet poorly known.

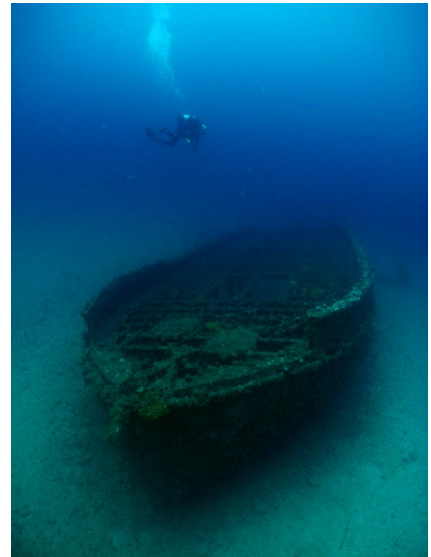
The heritage of World War I can, however, deliver a missing part of the story. Sites and submerged objects are an invaluable tool to prove what happened in the past. While the reports are written by a society in its time, with its own understanding, and influenced by the opinion of the victorious parties, the heritage, however, acts as an objective witness. Without this testimony, the history of World War I would be deprived of an important, unbiased source of information.

A threatened heritage

Despite being a major historical source, underwater archaeological sites of World War I are subject to preservation risks.

The wrecks are threatened by **the passage of time**. Their metal carcasses are subjected to a corrosion process that occurs through the accumulation of rust formations similar to stalactites caused by a bacterium.

Another threat is the **dismemberment** of the wrecks. To retrieve metal, some companies do not hesitate to shred underwater archaeological sites. As such, in 2011, Dutch ships dismantled the remains of three British cruisers, *HMS Aboukir*, *HMS Hogue*, and *HMS Cressy*, sunk off the Dutch coast in 1914 with nearly 1500 sailors on board, in order to extract copper and bronze. Despite the protest that this raised, the destruction could not be stopped.



Barge from the World War I,
Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey ©Harun
Özdas

Other wrecks are at risk of being **exploited** by companies interested in the value of the ships' cargo. This was the case of the *SS Mantola*, a steamship that carried passengers and belonged to the British East India Company and was sunk by a German submarine in 1917. It supposedly transported money in addition to its human cargo. As the site is not protected, the company that discovered the wreck tried to commercially exploit it. Such wrecks are at risk to be destroyed, whether or not they contain a treasure.

Deliberate destruction and **looting** damage also affected the wreck of the luxury liner *RMS Lusitania*, a British liner torpedoed on 7 May, 1915 by a German submarine. Damage was also caused by the recovery of three out of the four propellers in 1982. Moreover, in 1982, various objects of the mythical cargo of the wreck were recovered and brought back to the United Kingdom, triggering a legal battle on the issue of the protection of the wreck.

Added to this damage caused to the wrecks by commercial exploitation and looting, is the deterioration caused by eager divers bringing back a souvenir from submerged ships.

Insufficient protection

In many States, the absence of legal protection means that nothing prevents treasure hunters from exploiting and appropriating the underwater sites. In a number of countries, national laws provide for the protection of part or all of submerged heritage that has surpassed a certain age.

However, even when this protection exists, gaps in the legislation and the sovereignty of the States allow treasure hunters to pursue their activities and to exploit objects for commercial purposes.

Even the most protective national legislation is not sufficient to effectively safeguard the underwater cultural heritage due to its nature and location. Only a small part of the oceans, the one bordering national territories, falls under full State jurisdiction. The High Seas enjoy less protection. In international waters, States are generally only responsible for their nationals and vessels flying the national flag.

The further an archaeological site is located from the coast, the more difficult it is for a State to prevent any damage to this archaeological site by a seagoing vessel under the flag of another State. Outside the territorial sea of a State, cooperation with other States is therefore crucial.

The pre-existing law of the sea does not sufficiently protect underwater cultural heritage.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) is one of the most important international treaties regulating the law of the sea. It has been signed by more than 160 State Parties. It contains rules relating to sovereignty at sea. Articles 149 and 303 provide for State Parties to protect the underwater cultural heritage. These, however, were last-minute additions and remain very general in their wording. They also continue to allow the commercial exploitation of heritage.

The gaps of legal protection have been filled by the UNESCO 2001 Convention. The Convention provides comprehensive legal protection to the underwater cultural heritage and establishes ethical principles and scientific guidance for research.



HMS Audacious wreck ©Barry McGill/ UNESCO

The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage of UNESCO (2001)

It is estimated that more than three million shipwrecks are scattered at the bottom of the oceans. These wrecks, as well as the ruins of submerged cities or decorated caves, have become increasingly accessible due to technological advances, like aqualung, enabling divers to reach deeper depths and thus to access remains previously out of reach. Many underwater archaeological sites have thus been subjected to pillage and to commercial exploitation.



Outside view of UNESCO's headquarters
© Michel Ravassard/ UNESCO

The legal protection of the States proves to be insufficient to ensure the protection of underwater archaeological sites. This is the reason that UNESCO adopted in 2001 a Convention, the first of its kind, so that this submerged heritage can benefit from protection comparable to that given to terrestrial cultural heritage.

States that have signed or ratified the Convention - they are 47 so far - are committed to:

- **Preserve underwater cultural heritage**

The 2001 Convention also requires that all human remains immersed in marine waters are given all due respect.

- **Preserve the heritage, *in-situ* where possible**

The preservation *in situ* of underwater cultural heritage (i.e. at the bottom of the sea) must be considered as the first option. However, the recovery of objects may be authorized where it contributes significantly to the protection or knowledge of this heritage.

- **Refuse commercial exploitation**

Underwater cultural heritage shall not be commercially exploited and must not be dispersed. This rule is consistent with the principles that already apply to terrestrial cultural heritage. Archaeological research and access of tourists are, however, encouraged.

- **Share information**

The States Parties must share information, promote underwater archaeology, and draw the attention of the public on the importance of underwater cultural heritage.

The 2001 Convention does not arbitrate any disputes on the ownership of cultural property.

Statements

“Although I have surveyed the wrecks on six occasions I know that only the surface has been scratched of what the Jutland wrecks can offer archeologically and historically. So their protection is of the utmost priority. Sadly there is much evidence of commercial salvage among many of the wrecks so far discovered. Some are now barely recognizable. It is my sincerest hope that the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage will in time, offer protection to these remarkable monuments to the battle fleets of the Great War and the brave men who sailed in them.”

Innes McCartney

Innes McCartney has partaken in and led six expeditions to the wrecks of the Battle of Jutland. He specializes in investigating, researching, and interpreting the remains of 20th century shipwrecks.

“The First World War was the first truly global conflict on the oceans. It left thousands of sites that a hundred years later are now underwater cultural heritage. Facing threats ranging from salvage, trawling and apathy, the underwater cultural heritage of the war is a powerful reminder not only of that conflict, but also of its consequences. Those consequences included tremendous loss of life, environmental damage, and of lessons not learned, as within a few decades another, even more terrible global war followed. Why should we care about the heritage of the First World War, and seek to protect these sites? We do because in part they offer a tangible link to those long ago events, and a chance for this and future generations to ponder those consequences and to confront that legacy with positive changes in how we conduct ourselves. In other cases, like a unique collection of wooden "emergency-built" cargo ships that now rest, by the hundreds in an ocean estuary outside of Washington, DC, we see how one-time vessels built for war ultimately have become not only a unique site worthy of cultural tourism, but also an aquatic habitat and a refuge for marine and avian life. Cultural and natural history together make those ships a place worthy of protection and introspection - and perhaps, in the fact that these swords have now become plowshares, they offer hope for a future beyond war.”

James Delgado

James Delgado is Director of the Maritime Heritage Program at NOAA, USA. Previously, he was the President of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology and Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum. He has led shipwreck expeditions around the world.

“The UNESCO meeting in Bruges is a very important event for increasing research and protection of World War I underwater cultural heritage. A thorough inventory of the actually still available heritage and its condition shall be made for the first time on a worldwide basis, and will allow the scientific community to develop well-informed research and management strategies for the future. The scientific meeting is also very important for raising awareness of this very vulnerable part of WWI’s heritage. Without raising knowledge of it, this heritage risks to be shipwrecked again by the potential focus on the terrestrial part of WWI heritage during the commemoration period.”

Marnix Pieters

Marnix Pieters is responsible for underwater cultural heritage and maritime heritage at the Flemish Heritage Agency. He is an archaeologist and has led excavations at the Belgian coast.

List of UNESCO Initiatives on Underwater Cultural Heritage from the First World War

- [Scientific Conference and Commemorative Event, 26-28 June 2014, Bruges, Belgium](#)

A scientific conference and a commemorative event on underwater cultural heritage from World War I has been organized by UNESCO and the Government of Flanders from 26 to 28 June 2014 in Bruges, Belgium to mark the Centenary of World War I.

- [Dive for Peace Day, 28 June 2014, worldwide](#)

This special day involving divers, children, and the general public will focus on submerged heritage from the period 1914-1918 and include *in situ* visits, remembrance peace-education activities, and information events. It will stress the need to preserve submerged heritage and to preserve peace. The event is supported by dive organizations worldwide, such as the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) and the World Underwater Federation (CMAS).

- [Call on Vessels to Signal in Commemoration, 28 June 2014, worldwide](#)

UNESCO calls on all vessels at sea to use commemorative signalling by half-masting of the ship's flags/ensigns to indicate mourning. Ships in harbour are encouraged to use a remembrance sound signal on the same day at 7 pm (hour of the first shot fired in the conflict) to commemorate the Centenary. This should serve to call for peace and reconciliation, remember the victims that perished in the war, and also remind us of the need to protect its remains. – the underwater cultural heritage resulting from the conflict. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is assisting and cooperating with UNESCO in facilitating this memorial.

- [World War I Underwater Cultural Heritage Education Initiative, 2014 to 2018, worldwide](#)

UNESCO and Flanders (Belgium) propose an educational project based on the submerged heritage from the period 1914-1918, illustrating the need for reconciliation and heritage preservation. The initiative will be launched on 28 June 2014. At this occasion, a short film, a brochure, and a teacher's guide will be given to teachers. The project will run from 2014 until 2018 and will be highlighted each year by a "Safeguard Peace Day," which will take place on 21 September as part of the United Nation's International Day of Peace.

- [WWI UCH Research Network, 2014 to 2018, worldwide](#)

The objective of the network is to create a strong international research community to link national research projects on underwater heritage from WWI. It allows for a common approach and will foster technological advances that will ensure heritage preservation and documentation.

- [Photo exhibition on the protection of cultural heritage in times of conflict, 10 May until 15 June, 2014, Bruges, Belgium](#)

The National Commission of the Netherlands for UNESCO in collaboration with various partners will communicate why it is necessary to protect cultural heritage in times of armed conflict and what the value of culture is for peace building and in times of recovery.

Artistic illumination of the Burg Square on the theme of WWI Underwater Cultural Heritage

UNESCO has tasked the well-known French artist Clément Briend with the elaboration of an illumination show on underwater cultural heritage to be shown as part of the commemoration event in occasion of the Centenary of World War I on the Burg Square in Bruges, Belgium (Friday 27 June 2014, 9.45 pm).



Beneath the water's surface rests a memory of the First World War. This heritage, submerged in the obscurity of the great depths, will be brought to light on the facades of the Burg Square in Bruges. Appearing under the form of monumental blue silhouettes, the projections will be reflected by the water surface of basins and undulate on the facades of the building submerging the city space visually under the oceans. The illumination will invite the public to enter into contact with the water basins, allowing the visitors to see their movement transformed into illuminated waves animating the images.



Clément Briend teaches Culture and Photography and is the founder of the Politics Illumination Group. He creates hybrid spaces, which allow for the fusion of reality and projection, space and surface, thus evoking each individual's imagination.

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Bruges, Venue of the Events

The Government of Flanders (Belgium) organizes “The Great War Centenary (2014-’18)” project to commemorate the victims of the First World War and to contribute to sustainable peace. The objective is to raise tolerance, intercultural dialogue and international understanding, with a view to fostering an open, international and tolerant society.



The attack on the mole of Zeebrugge led by the cruiser *Vindictive* / Charles de Lacy, Britannia Royal Naval College

In this framework the UNESCO events in Bruges are being financed through the Flanders UNESCO Trust Fund which focuses on heritage as a vehicle for sustainable development, contributing to peace and wellbeing throughout the world.

Less known than the poppies of Flanders Fields¹, in which people from 50 modern-day nations lost their lives, is the fact that Flanders ports also played an important role in the naval history of WWI. The Belgian base Westdiep at Bruges, linked by the Boudewijn canal to the port of Zeebrugge, was used by the Imperial German Navy as a base for submarines and light shipping, thus putting the Allied shipping in the English Channel in great danger.

In the Zeebrugge Raid the British Royal Navy attempted to block the submarine base Westdiep by scuttling several vessels in the harbour channel of Zeebrugge. The attack was led by the cruiser *Vindictive*. One month later the *Vindictive* was sunk as a block ship in the harbour of Ostend during the Second Ostend Raid. The wreck was raised on 16 August 1920 and subsequently sent to a scrap yard. Only the bow section has been preserved in the Ostend harbour serving today as a memorial to the British soldiers who died during the raid on Ostend.

Today, Bruges is the capital city of the Belgian Province of West Flanders. It was and is an important port on the North Sea. The direct contact to the sea that existed in medieval times has been lost due to problems with sedimentation. The unique scenic historic city centre of the ‘Venice of the North’ as Bruges is sometimes called is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Flanders
State of the Art



2014-18
The Great War Centenary

¹ The Westhoek located in the province of West Flanders



SAFEGUARDING THE WORLD'S UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Scientific Conference on the Occasion of the Centenary of World War I, 26-27 June 2014, Grand Hall, Provincial Court, Bruges, Belgium

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Thursday, 26 June

9.30 am Opening

- Khalil Karam, Chairperson of the Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
- Carl Decaluwé, Governor of West-Flanders, Belgium
- Nic Van der Marliere, Representative of Flanders to UNESCO
- UNESCO Representative

10 am - Session I – The Underwater Cultural Heritage of WWI

*Chair: Michel L'Hour, Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body of the 2001 Convention (France)
(15 min per presentation)*

- The current situation of WWI underwater cultural heritage and the cases of the wrecks of HMS Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue
Robert Yorke, Chairperson, Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee (JNAPC) (UK)
- Underwater cultural heritage from WWI: a vast, abandoned and threatened heritage
Michel L'Hour, Chairperson of STAB, Directeur Département des recherches archéologiques subaquatiques et sous-marines (DRASSM) (France)
- World War I on sea and the historical impact of naval warfare
Henri Legohérel, President Académie de la marine (France)
- Why should a State protect underwater heritage? The public importance of WWI shipwrecks
James Delgado, (NOAA) (USA)

11 am - Session II – Threats and Legal Protection of WWI Underwater Cultural Heritage

Chair: Craig Forrest, Professor of Law, University of Queensland (Australia)
(15 min per presentation)

- The challenges of legal protection of WWI underwater cultural heritage
Ole Varmer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
- World War I Underwater Cultural Heritage and the Protection provided by the UNESCO 2001 Convention
Ulrike Guerin, Secretariat of the 2001 Convention (UNESCO)
- Towards the recognition of maritime war graves in international law
Craig Forrest (Australia)
- The need for cooperation from national authorities to protect WWI cultural underwater remains
Annalisa Zarattini, Direzione Generale Antichità, Rear Admiral Paolo Sandalli, Italian Navy (Italy)

Noon - Session III – Conservation and Operational Protection of WWI Underwater Cultural Heritage

Chair: Jean-Bernard Memet, Director, A-CORROS (France)
(15 min per presentation)

- The conservation and preservation of large-scale metal wrecks
Jean-Bernard Memet (France)
- The conservation of the East Coast War Channels in the North Sea and proposals for a future approach
Antony Firth, Fjodr Company (UK)
- WWI wrecks in Irish waters: developments and challenges
Karl Brady, Fionnbarr Moore, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Ireland)

1 pm - Lunch

2 pm - Session IV - The Public Function of WWI Underwater Heritage

Chair: Marnix Pieters, Senior Advisor maritime and underwater heritage at Flanders Heritage Agency, Belgium
(15 min per presentation)

- How to commemorate underwater cultural heritage from WWI?
 - Australia's World War I underwater cultural heritage 1914 -1924 and observations on the evolution of national expectations to commemoration
Andrew Viduka (Australia)
 - How to commemorate: The French example,
Michel Huet, Fédération française d'études et de Sports Sous-Marins (FFESSM) (France)
- Echoes from the deep : Wrecks of the Dardanelles Campaign
Selçuk Kolay, Kolay Marine Ltd. and Savas Karakas, film producer (Turkey)
- Sharing heritage with the public –A virtual presentation of underwater cultural heritage
Alain Dinis, Virtual Dive (France)
- A maritime conservation area model for World War I underwater cultural heritage in Gili Raja, Indonesia
Ira Dillenia, Center for Marine and Coastal Resources (Indonesia)

3.30 pm - Coffee break

4 pm – Session V - Taking Stock of WWI Underwater Cultural Heritage

*Chair: Andrew Viduka, Department of the Environment (Australia)
(7 min per presentation)*

- Historical archaeology of WWI U-boat wrecks
Innes McCartney, (UK)
- WWI navy shipwrecks researched off the US continental shelf
Rod Mather, Rhode Island University (USA)
- WWI underwater cultural heritage in the Black Sea
Serhiy Voronov, Black Sea Underwater Research Centre (Ukraine)
- Managing modern material remains. The example of England's inshore region
Mark Dunkley, English Heritage, (UK)
- History and archaeology of World War I: the case of the survey of the remains of the U-35 operations off the Algarve coast
Augusto Salgado, Naval Research Centre (Portugal)
- The shipwreck of the Japanese Cruiser *Takachiho*
Akifumi Iwabuchi, Tokyo University of Marine Science (Japan)

- The wreck of SS Mendi (1917) as an example of the trans-national significance of World War I underwater cultural heritage,
John Gribble, Jonathan Sharfman, (South Africa)
- WWI underwater cultural heritage in Belgian Waters: developments and challenges
Sven Van Haelst (Belgium)
- The "Goosefoot" coastal installations,
Guido Demerre, Geographer (Belgium)

6.30 pm - Cultural Visit of Bruges (Boat Tour)

Friday, 27 June.

9 am – Introduction

- Towards the elaboration of possible Recommendations
Mariano Aznar, Professor of Law (Spain)

9.20 am - Session VI - Ongoing WWI Initiatives and Programmes

*Chair: Garry Momber, Maritime Archaeology Trust (UK)
(10 min per presentation)*

- The UNESCO Education Initiative on WWI Underwater Cultural Heritage
Dirk Timmermans, Vereniging voor de UN (Belgium)
- The “Lost Beneath the Waves” Project
Adrian Olivier, Nautical Archaeology Society (UK)
- WWI commemoration : Programme for divers and the public
Pierre-Yves Lepage, Groupe de Recherche et d’Identification d’Epaves de Manche Est (France)
- The A2S Project
Garry Momber, Maritime Archaeology Trust (UK)
- The *Danton* and the issue of public access to and awareness of WWI wrecks
Michel L’Hour, Département des recherches archéologiques subaquatiques et sous-marines (DRASSM) (France)
- New plans for exhibitions on WWI underwater cultural heritage,
Ingeborg Svennevig, Strandingsmuseum Thorsminde (Denemark)

- Mapping WWI underwater heritage,
Will Brouwers, Maritime Programme (Netherlands)
- WWI underwater cultural heritage and the link with UNESCO-related initiatives on WWI heritage
Luc Vandael, Flanders Heritage Agency (Belgium)

10.30 am - Coffee break

11 am - Revolving Working Groups (change of group participants each 40 min)

1. Legal Protection (Chair: Craig Forrest)
2. Operational Protection (Chair: Michel L'Hour)
3. Mapping (Chair: Will Brouwers)
4. Conservation and Preservation (Chair: Jean-Bernard Memet)
5. Public Awareness and Outreach (Chair: Garry Momber)
6. In situ or virtual access (Chair: Ekaterini Hambouri)
7. Funding (Chair: Marnix Pieters)

1 pm - Lunch

2 pm - Plenary Presentation of Working Group Results

3.30 pm - Debate on Recommendations

5.30 pm - Adoption and closure



SAFEGUARDING THE WORLD'S UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE
Commemorative Event on the Occasion of the Centenary of World War I
27-28 June 2014, Bruges, Belgium

Friday, 27 June – Bruges

8 pm - Reception in Bruges Town Hall

9.40 pm- Commemorative Event

10.30 pm - Illumination of Burg Square – Theme: WWI Underwater Cultural Heritage

Saturday, 28 June. Base Westdiep Submarine Harbour

10 am - Departure of participants (bus)

10.30 am - Remembrance Event

11.15 am - Reception

12.30 pm- Return to Bruges (bus)

Saturday afternoon

Optional Excursion to WWI heritage sites for conference participants and press

Other UNESCO Events - 28 June 2014

Worldwide Dive for Peace Day

UNESCO calls on divers and the general public to undertake activities focusing on submerged heritage from the 1914-1918 period taking into account responsible access to submerged heritage sites. This initiative is supported by dive organizations worldwide, such as the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) (United Kingdom) and the World Underwater Federation (CMAS).

7 pm – Worldwide Call for Remembrance

UNESCO calls on all vessels at sea to participate in the commemorative event by half-masting their flags on 28 June 2014. Ships in harbour are encouraged to use a remembrance sound signal on the same day at 7 pm to commemorate the Centenary. This will serve to call for peace and reconciliation but also to remind the international community of the need to protect the underwater cultural heritage remaining from WWI. To facilitate this initiative, on UNESCO's request, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued a "Safety of Navigation Circular" to IMO Member States in December 2013.

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Mark Spencer, experienced professional photographer and certified diver. He has been published in many major journals, including Geo, National Geographic, BBC Wildlife and Living Planet magazines. fishypics@bigpond.com ; www.markspencer.com.

Frank Leloire, president of the Association for Underwater Wrecks of North Biscay (Association Nord Gascogne Epaves Subaquatiques - A.N.G.E.S.), which is aimed at discovering wrecks located around île d'Yeu and Noirmoutier, often dating back to the World Wars. leloire.frank@orange.fr ; www.plongee-anges.com

Barry McGill, technical diving instructor and active deep wreck explorer and photographer. info@indepthtechnical.com ; <http://indepthtechnical.com>

Alexandre Fox, passionate diver, takes pictures from 0 till 140 metres, both offshore and underwater. www.photo-tek-plongee.com

Patrice Strazzer, French wreck specialist, diver and underwater photographer as well as author of books on technical diving and wrecks. www.sommeildesepaves.com

Cover: Clément Briend, Design Project Illumination 'in memoriam'



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