Battleship Bouvet

**Commissioned**: 1898
**Displacement**: 12 205 t
**Max. speed (knots)**: 17
**Armament**: 2 x 305 mm L/40, 2 x 274 mm L/40, 8 x 139 mm L/45, 8 x 100 mm, 10 x 47 mm, 20 x 37 mm, 4 x 457 mm (TT)
**Complement**: 666-710

**Wreck’s Location**: 40° 02' 05'' N; 26° 17' 08'' E or 40° 02' 30'' N; 26° 17' 42'' E at depth of approx. 70 m. (230 ft)

**Circumstances of Sinking**: On March 18, 1915, at 1:58 PM an explosion on the midship of the starboard 247 mm L/40 turret occurred. The ship, still sailing at her maximum speed, capsized and sunk within three minutes, taking almost the whole crew with her. The reasons for the explosion are unclear. The official historiography says that the ship was mined. However, the source query leads us to the conclusion that it might have been an explosion of the ammunition compartment hit by a shell from the coastal battery.

**Tasks for the Team**: The most important task is to determine the size of the hole in the ship’s hull and in which way the plating was bent by the explosion (folding inwards will mean that she hit a mine, and outwards will mean that she sunk due to an internal explosion). The team will also try to determine the coordinates of the ship’s bow and stern. This would allow the reconstruction of the course she sailed shortly before sinking, which in turn, would help to confirm the thesis that the course of Bouvet did not cross the line of mines laid by Nusret. It will be important to find and measure as many shell holes as possible in order to further understand the assumptions regarding the real reasons of the battleship’s loss. This will help to determine which fort inflicted the most essential damage to the ship.
Wreck’s Location: 40° 04’ 05'' N; 26° 20’ 04'' E at a depth of approx. 56 m. (184 ft) in capsized position.

Circumstances of Sinking: On March 18, 1915, around 2:40 PM the ship hit a mine from the line laid 10 days before by Nusret. The drifting battleship was abandoned by the crew. Three and a half hours later, she was finished off by the Turkish coastal artillery.

Tasks for the Team: In 2009, the wreck was very casually explored by Dr. Robert Ballard. Thus, it is essential to make a rather more serious inventory of its present condition. Particularly, the real reasons of sinking should be carefully examined and determined as it seems that the ship was abandoned by her crew too soon. The image from Ballard’s sonar very clearly shows two holes in the hull - the smaller one (made by mine) at the level of the engine room and the larger one (under the main fore turret), which was, presumably, made by the explosion of the ammunition compartment.
Wreck’s Location: 40° 02' 08'' N; 26° 16' 07'' E at depth of approx. 70 m. (230 ft)

Circumstances of Sinking: On March 18, 1915, at 6:05 PM the ship hit a mine laid 10 days before by Nusret. The drifting battleship was abandoned by the crew. She sunk four and a half hours later. It is not clear whether it happened due to the damages sustained from the mine explosion or as a result of the coastal artillery fire.

Tasks for the Team: The hole made by the mine explosion should be found and measured. However, it would be significantly more important to find and measure the hole made by the shell which disabled the ship’s steering mechanism. Considering how long the vessel remained afloat despite being crippled by the mine, we must realize that the real reason for the crew abandoning the ship was not due to the damage sustained from the mine, but due to the loss of manoeuvrability that made the battleship rescue operation impossible. Substantiating this damage may also give the opportunity to confirm or to exclude the theories that the steering mechanism of HMS Ocean was damaged by a 240 mm shell from Fort Rumeli Mecidiye.
Wreck’s Location: The exact coordinates are unknown. It should be assumed that the wreck lies south of Nara Foreland, some 1000-1200 m. (1093-1312 yd) off of the Asian shore of the Dardanelles at a depth of approx. 75 m. (246 ft)

Circumstances of Sinking: On January 15, 1915, after sustaining some serious failures and, as a result of a navigation mistake, the ship was forced to surface. After she was abandoned by her crew the commander, Lt. Comdr Henri Fournier, sunk the ship, and thus, sentenced himself to death.

Tasks for the Team: The main task is to find the wreck, measure it and substantiate its actual condition, particularly all of the damages.

Submarine Saphir

Launched: 1908
Displacement: 392 t (on surface); 425 t (submerged)
Max. speed (knots): 11.5 (on surface); 9.2 (submerged)
Armament: 6 x 450 mm (WT)
Complement: 21-23

Funeral ceremony of Saphir’s engineer Böne held in Çanakkale

The surviving members of Saphir’s crew in Turkish captivity
Wreck’s Location: The exact coordinates are unknown. The ship’s remains should be in Akbaş Bay somewhere between the wreck of Tenedos (explored by the Polish team in 2011) and the shore of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Circumstances of Sinking: On August 25, 1915, the ship was torpedoed by the British submarine E 11 with the loss of about 200 men.

Tasks for the Team: The wreck should be found and measured. The detailed inventory of its present condition should be done as well. Considering the fact that, according to sources, the major part of the vessel was scraped as early as in 1919, we may expect the remains of Halep to be preserved in an equally miserable condition as the wreck of Milo, which was explored by our team in 2011.

Halep shortly after sinking
Wreck’s Location: The exact coordinates are unknown. Presumably, the wreck lies at the western end of Akbaş Bay within the restricted area of the Coast Guard base.

Circumstances of Sinking: On August 25, 1915, the ship was torpedoed by the British submarine E11.

Tasks for the Team: The wreck should be found and measured. The detailed inventory of its present condition, as well as of the damages made by the torpedo, should also be done. 

Launched: 1893
Tonnage: 3,304 GRT
Max. speed (knots): ?
Dimension: length: ? m., beam: ?
Capacity: ?
Wreck’s Location: 40° 28' 00'' N; 26° 47' 08'' E at depth of 20 m. (65.6 ft)

Circumstances of Sinking: On August 8, 1915, the battleship was torpedoed by the British submarine E 11. She sunk with the loss of 260 men.

Tasks for the Team: This wreck has never been professionally explored. Thus, the measurements and inventory of its present condition should be done with maximum accuracy. This particularly concerns the damages made by a torpedo on the starboard at the level of the 8th bulkhead and the main starboard boiler room.

Battleship Barbaros Hayrettin

Launched: 1891
Displacement: 10 013 t
Max. speed (knots): 10
Armament: 4 x 280 mm L/40, 2 x 280 mm L/35, 6 x 105 mm L/35, 12 x MG, 3 x 450 mm (TT)
Complement: 600
Wreck’s Location: Bow and midship sections: 40° 18' 794" N 26° 13' 562" E at a depth of 14 m. (46 ft). The location of the stern section is unknown.

Circumstances of Sinking: On October 31, 1915, during a storm the ship ran aground in Suvla Bay, south of Büyük Kemikli Foreland. On November 4, the hull broke in half.

Tasks for the Team: The bow and midship sections were explored and inventoried in detail by the Polish team in 2011. The task for 2012 is to find and inventory the destroyer’s stern section.
Substantive Study:

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