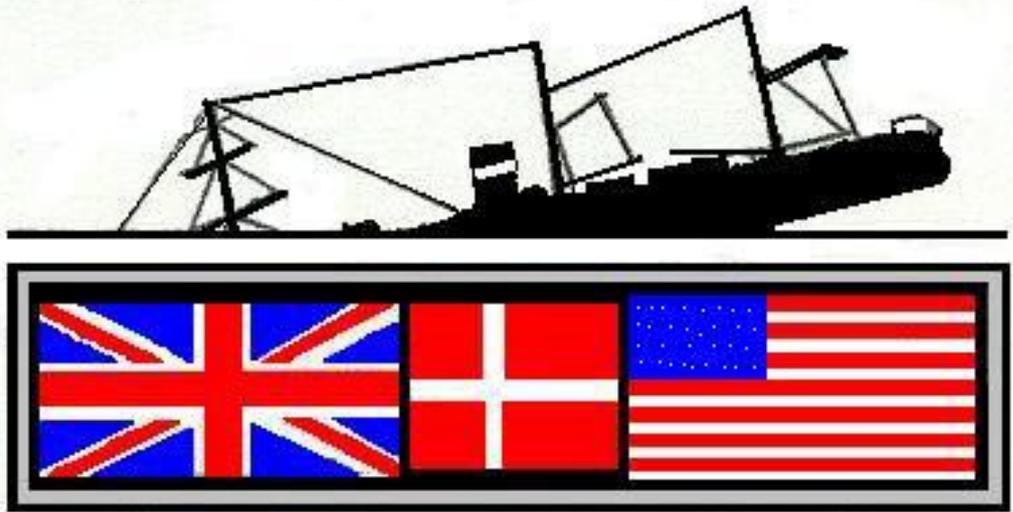


Upcoming Expedition This Spring!



Project: SS. Norge. 2004

Project SS Norge 2004

On the morning of June 28, 1904, the Danish DFDS steamer *SS Norge* rammed an unidentified object in the waters off Rockall, a rock protruding out of the Atlantic ocean about 280 miles off the nearest coast of the United Kingdom. Rockall, the most isolated rock in the world rises only 60 feet above the surface and no more than 300 feet in circumference.

In this remote part of the Atlantic, the *Norge* found its final resting place. Following the collision the ship was almost immediately cleared from the obstruction, but water quickly began to fill the ship's fore sections. Within a few moments the captain realized that the ship's fate was sealed...*Norge* was sinking rapidly. The ship's lifeboat capacity provided space for about 250 people, but this left a further number of 450 passengers without any means of rescue. In less than 20 minutes after the *Norge* hit the obstruction, the ship went under. More than 600 people perished, either trapped inside the sinking ship or as a result of sudden exposure to the cold water. Even today, the loss of the *Norge* is the worst disaster that has ever occurred in Danish maritime history.

A diving expedition with participants from Great Britain, Denmark and the United States has been planned for May 2004 and will run for two consecutive weeks. This is the official 100 year Memorial Expedition which has been endorsed by the relatives of the survivors from the disaster.

- The diving expedition team is led by British historical researcher and diver Kevin Heath who spent more than four years researching and looking for the wreck. Kevin finally found the *Norge* in June of 2003 in the waters off Rockall.
- The American team will be led by Gary Gentile, noted author, underwater photographer and diver of numerous wrecks around the world including the *Andrea Doria*.
- The Danish team will be led by Thomas de Richelieu, responsible for leading several diving expeditions to the wrecks of the Battle of Jutland. Recently he conducted the Flying Enterprise Expedition 2002 in the English Channel.

Twelve members in all, the dive team will be using the vessel *MV Cicala* to conduct surveys and explore this historical wreck, producing photo and video footage for documentation purposes.

Following the expedition, there is an event planned at the Ellis Island Museum on July 24-25, so make your plans to attend! For information on this event, please contact Mike Conklin, Special Events, Ellis Island Museum 1-212-363-3206. Ext. 106.

For further information about the Project SS *Norge* 2004 please contact:

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Watch for updates and articles about this exciting expedition
in future issues of *Wreck Diving Magazine!*