



AUGUST - 2025

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

We hope you are enjoying your summer, we are spending time traveling and visiting friends.

Our Fall calendar has come together nicely. See page 4 for the lineup for our Fall Season.

Please join us on September 17 as we kickoff our 39th Season!!!

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

Historical Trivia

Name the Country where World Heritage Site #86 is located.



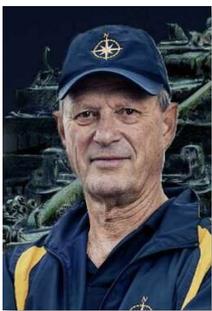
Answer on page 4.

Archaeologists You Should Know

Robert Duane Ballard

Underwater Archaeologist - RMS Titanic

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, National Geographic, Sea & Sky, & Britannica. .



Robert Duane Ballard is an American retired Naval officer and a professor of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island who specializes in underwater

archaeology. During his long career, he has conducted more than 150 deep-sea expeditions using the latest in exploration technology. He is best known for the discoveries of *hydrothermal vents near the Galapagos Islands*; of the wrecks *RMS Titanic* in 1985, the *WWII German battleship Bismarck* in 1989, and the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown* in 1998. He also discovered the wreck of *John F. Kennedy's PT-109* in 2002.

Ballard was born on June 30, 1942 in Wichita, KS. He had an older brother, Richard, and younger sister, Nancy Ann. When two years old, his family moved to San Diego, where his father



worked as a flight test engineer. While he was a high school student, his father connected him with oceanographers at the *Scripps Institution of Oceanography*, and

he participated in several short research expeditions. He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), and joined the Army ROTC.

In 1965, Ballard graduated from the UCSB, earning undergraduate degrees in chemistry and geology.

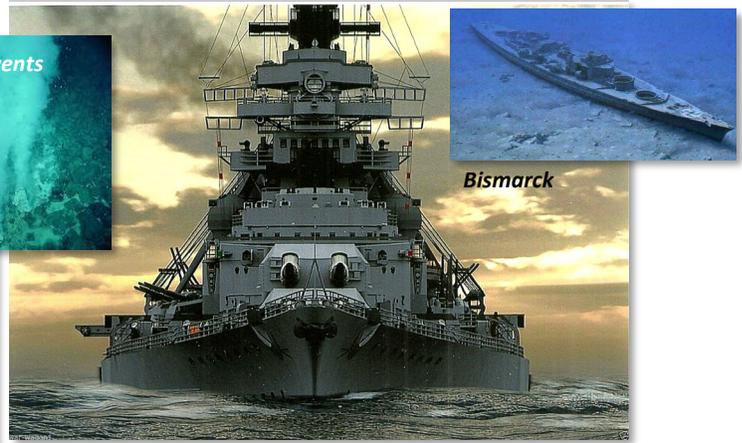
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Ballard ...



Photos: Wikipedia, fity.club, pinterest, allthingsinteresting, wallpapercave.



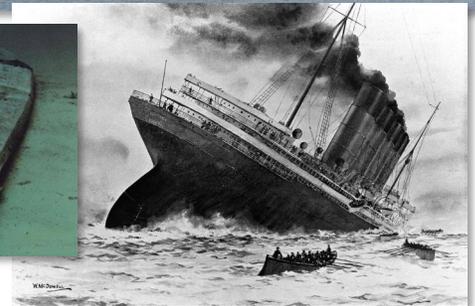
In 1967 when he was called to active duty, he requested to be transferred into the US Navy as an oceanographer. The Navy assigned him as a liaison between the *Office of Naval Research* and the *Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution* in Woods Hole, MA. In 1970 he left active duty and continued working at Woods Hole persuading them to fund and use the manned submersible *Alvin* for undersea research. Four years later he received a PhD in marine geology and geophysics at the University of Rhode Island.

He participated in many expedition using underwater submersibles including the dive in 1979 that **discovered active hydrothermal vents near the Galapagos Islands** in the Pacific. Ballard and his crewmates were among the first to observe the "black smokers", underwater volcanoes that spewed dark, chemical-rich, boiling water. They were amazed to find abundant plant and animal life growing around these vents where the water was hot enough to melt lead. They had discovered an entirely new type of ecosystem. Instead of sunlight, these organisms depended on the chemicals from the vents to make food. This process came to be known as **chemosynthesis**.

In 1980 he helped to develop small, unmanned submersibles that could be controlled by a tether

from a surface ship. One, *Argo* was a robotic sub that could transmit live video and could be controlled remotely. On August 22, 1985, while assigned to the U.S. Navy research ship *Knorr*, they searched the last known site of **the RMS Titanic**. Using *Argo*, they spotted and followed a trail of debris, then a boiler, then the hull of the mighty ocean liner. The team searched the ship's exterior and found that it had split in two. A year later in July 1986, Ballard and his team returned on board *Atlantis II* to make the first detailed study of the wreck. This time, he brought the manned submersible, *Alvin* and *Jason Junior*, a small remotely operated vehicle that could fit through small openings to record the ship's interior. This expedition produced a detailed photographic record of the wreck's condition. In 1988, Ballard published a book, *Discovery Of The Titanic: Exploring The Greatest Of All Lost Ships*.

In 1989, he undertook an even more daunting task, when his team searched off the coast of France using an ocean-crawling robot looking for the **WWII German**



battleship Bismarck. They found the wreckage at a depth of 15,000 feet, which is 4,000 feet deeper than the Titanic. The actual cause of the sinking was found to have been sabotage by the ship's crew who opened the underwater valves, according to Ballard, who said, "we found a hull that appears whole and relatively undamaged by the descent and impact".

In 1992, Ballard and his team visited many sites of WWII wrecks in the Pacific. The expedition discovered the wreck of the **Japanese battleship IJN Kirishima**. His book "*Ships of Guadalcanal*" describes the expedition and has photographs of many of the vessels sunk in the strait between Guadalcanal Island and the Floridas in the Solomon Islands.

In 1993, Ballard investigated the wreck of **RMS Lusitania** off the Irish coast. It had been torpedoed by a WWI German U-boat.

Continued on page 4 ...

In the News

Excavations of the Ancient City of Rypes in Achaia - Greece

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: ARTNET, Greek City Times, & Greek Reporter.



An announcement from the Greek Ministry of Culture has revealed some of the results of an ongoing excavation focused on the ancient city of Rypes in Achaia on the Peloponnese peninsula.

Rypes was founded by the Pelasgians, an ancient people considered one of the earliest inhabitants of the Greek mainland, appearing in ancient texts and legends as pre-Greek settlers before the arrival of the Hellenic tribes. It is believed the town was destroyed by the Roman emperor Augustus in the 1st-century CE with the inhabitants forced to relocate to the nearby city of Patrae.

The dig has largely focused this season on Building C, a structure that archaeologists believe comprised a shrine dedicated to a hero. So far, researchers have uncovered parts of columns and a range of stone blocks, including a 55-foot-long section that ran along the structure's southern side. The building has been dated 300 BCE.

A 56-foot-long base supporting a row of columns was also fully revealed together with pieces of

Corinthian semi-columns that are being restored on the facade. The diameter and the total height of the columns suggest they are of the Peloponnesian type. The excavation data so far has reconstructed a monumental appearance of over nine feet in height.

Under the rubble of the facade, archaeologists discovered three **marble lion statues** in a crouching posture and a **marble funerary stele of a youthful male figure**. All four works were made from Pentelic marble, a fine-grained, white marble that boasts a slight golden tint and comes from the mountains north of Athens.

Inside the building, intact cist tombs and a sarcophagus were found containing precious

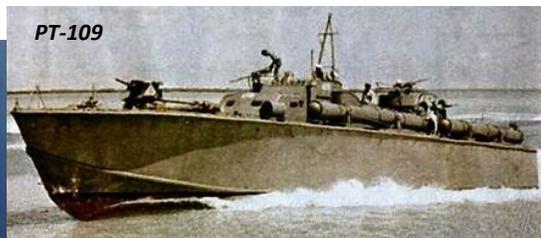
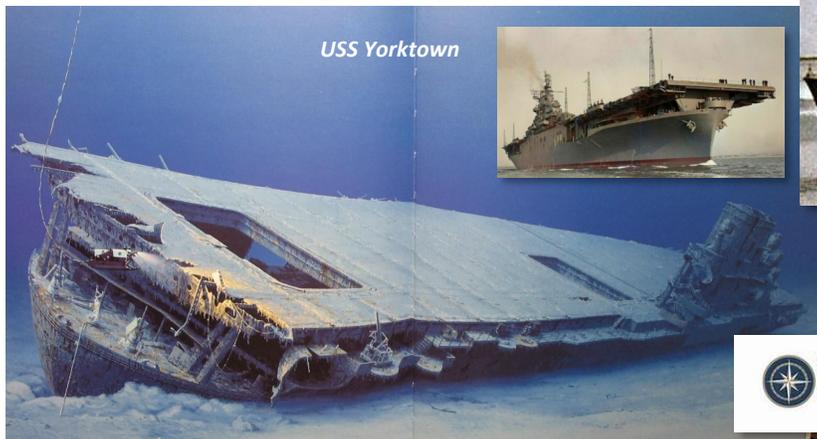
Photos: Greek Ministry of Culture

artifacts, such as a **pair of gold earrings with lion-head motifs**, a **solid earring depicting a winged Cupid**, a **gold necklace**, a gold ring, and numerous other items that proclaim the wealth and high status of the individuals buried in the tombs.

The exploration of the Hero's Tomb will proceed with a newly approved five-year excavation program. Dr Andreas G. Vordos leads the systematic excavation of Trapeza Aigio and ancient Rypes, supported by the A. G. Leventis Foundation and Olympia Odos SA.

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Ballard ...



Photos: pinterest, warhistory online & navsourcde,



The torpedo triggered a secondary much larger explosion that caused the ship to sink in a mere 18 minutes!

In 1997, Ballard, then a commander in the Navy, left Woods Hole to head *the Institute for Exploration* in Mystic, CT, a center for deep-sea archaeology that he founded.

On May 19, 1998, Ballard lead an expedition that located the wreck of *USS Yorktown*, sunk at the Battle of Midway. It was found three miles beneath the surface. The wreck was documented and the findings published.

In 2002, the National Geographic Society sponsored Ballard to find

and create a documentary of the wreckage of *John F. Kennedy's PT-109* which was rammed in 1943 by the Japanese destroyer *IJN Amagiri* off Ghizo Island. They found the wreckage including a torpedo tube and the forward section.

In 2002 he joined the faculty of the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography. He later founded (2008) the Ocean Exploration Trust.



Speakers for 2025/2026

All are at 5:45 PM live at the Selby Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota.

September 17

**"Two Shipwrecks off of Dominica:
18th and 20th Century Vessels"**
Marie Meranda

October 15

**"The King Street Shipwreck:
17th Century Shipwreck
in the Heart of St. Augustine"**
Dr. Sam Turner

November 19

**"Roman Gladiators:
The Original Ultimate Fighters"**
Dr. Denise Cali

January 21, 2025

**"Year in Review: What's been Discovered
& What's being Talked About"**
Dr. David Miano

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Historical Trivia: Egypt