

Clidive Lecture Series (CLS) 2019

“The Live Bait Squadron and HMS Amphion” Talk by Dave Lock



When – 25th March 2019

Time – 7pm, Talk starts 7:30pm and finishes approx. 8:30pm

Where – Troy Bar, 10 Hoxton Street, London N1

Details

With the huge success of the Clidive lecture series in 2017 and 2018. We are absolutely delighted to bring back BSAC's incredible Dave Lock, to tell us about his dive to “the live bait squadron”.

The Live Bait Squadron

On the 22th of September 1914 three British cruisers, the HMS Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy were patrolling the waters between England and the Netherlands. The Great War had started just seven weeks earlier. The aim was to protect ships carrying supplies between Britain and France against German ships operating from the northern German naval ports. The risk to the ships was so severe that they had earned the nickname “*the live bait squadron*” within the fleet. On board 2,300 crewmen who were taken completely by surprise by a new, rather unknown and destructive weapon: the German U-boat. They were sitting duck. It took only six torpedoes to kill 1459 men and boys in the blink of an eye. This live bait squadron was one of the biggest shipping disasters in world history! For the next hundred years this catastrophic event received hardly any attention, which is strange, because the number of victims is similar to that of the sinking of the Titanic, two years earlier! Today, three mass graves lie on the bottom of the North Sea only 22 miles off the Dutch coast near Scheveningen. How did it happen? What has happened since? What is the condition of this naval graveyard nowadays? And how does it look like underwater? Dave Lock will help us unravel this extraordinary story that needs to be heard!

HMS Amphion

On August 4th 1914, Britain declared war on Germany. In anticipation of war, Germany had deployed the “Konigin Luisea” to lay mines off the Thames Estuary. HMS Amphion and the destroyers of the 3rd Flotilla were preparing to sail from Harwich. By daylight on the 5th August they were in the North Sea where they received reports of an unknown vessel ‘throwing things over the side’. At 10.25 Amphion sighted the unknown vessel and sent the destroyers Lance and Landrail to investigate. The Konigin Luise altered her course and disappeared into a squall where she began laying mines. HMS Lance signalled she was engaging the enemy and is credited with firing the first shot of World War I. The destroyers were soon joined by HMS Amphion. The Konigin Luise was only lightly armed and offered little resistance after receiving numerous hits, the ship was sunk. At 06.45 on 6th August, the Amphion struck a mine which exploded and broke the ship's back. Abandon Ship was ordered. As most of Amphion's boats were destroyed, the destroyers sent their boats to rescue the crew. However, although Amphion's engines were stopped, she continued turning in a circle and

she struck the same row of mines. Her magazine detonated and the destroyers were showered with debris. Amphion sank at 07.05 and 151 men were lost. With the war only 32 hours old, HMS Amphion, which had primarily assisted in inflicting the first German Naval loss of the war, became the first British Naval war loss.

Who is Dave Lock? Dave is a National Instructor who works on ITS and FCD events in the UK and abroad. He is a former Regional Coach and has been a member of BSAC NDC (National Diving Committee) for over 10 years. His technical diving CV is impressive from the South China Seas to around the World and UK. Dave has been a rebreather diver since 1998 and is one of the very few people who has dived the "HMS Victoria" which lies at 140m off the coast of Lebanon.

Please join us for this informative talk. The venue and bar will be open from 7pm for our exclusive use, including post-talk drink. Venue serves delicious Caribbean food. The talk starts at 7:30pm sharp and will finish around 8:30pm, there will be plenty of time to ask questions.

Tickets for this talk are £5 per person, please contact social@clidive.org if you wish to buy a ticket. All profits go to the Clidive 2019 charity - The Shark Trust <https://www.sharktrust.org/>