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KAREL

EXPLORERS
...for those about to dive...

REGIO SOMMERGIBILE MALACHITE (documentary)**Royal Submarine Malachite**

production:

KAREL film and video production (www.karel.it)

Explorers Team Dive Center (www.explorers-team.com)

distribution: festival, TV, home video, VOD

status : pre production

Release Date: March 2014

documentary project

The clock shows 11:03am, 8 miles off the coast of Capo Spartivento in front of Southern Sardinia shore, an explosion rips the side of the Royal Submarine Malchite, on the way back from a mission in Algeria. The torpedo, launched by another submarine, the Dutch "Dolfijn", hits fatally the Malachite: it sinks, raising the bow toward the sky, carrying a load of death to the sea floor in 50 seconds.

Thirty-five men, officials and sailors, lose their life. Only thirteen save their one. It's February 9th 2013: another tragic page of the Second World War has been written.

For more than half a century the Malachite wreck has been resting at a depth of 123 meters, while nobody knew where it was laying exactly. There after in 1999 the discovery of the wreck, so the history of the Royal Submarine Malachite comes back to the surface. It rises up together with the stories of heroism and sacrifice of those men. Like a big war-museum, the Malachite lays on the bottom, tilted at 45° on its left side: looking at the dark shape, the tower and the gun stick out, same as the hatch and two periscopes. The overview makes us aware of its majesty, while its load of pain and mistery forces us to remember and concern.

Seventy years after its sinking, a documentary wants to retrace that event, telling what happened during those convulsing days in 1943, delving particularly on those sailors portraits, most of them very young, who sacrificed their life in honor of an ideal. Throughout direct and sided witnesses from who crossed his own way with the Malachite's one, the project will document also the preparation and the operations included in the divers mission, who will provide for particular images of the majestic submarine wreck, taking advantage of high quality underwater-videography techniques.

The Malachite lays on a sandy bottom, on the site strong currents are present, as well as fishing nets and ropes which make even more riskful the wreck exploration.

Beside the historical point of view and the human side of the 1943 episodes, will be treated the aspect related to the deep diving practice, motivations that are behind such an extreme discipline and the feelings that it provides to the divers, spotting on techniques and equipment used.



The dive requires 7 tanks per diver, 6 dedicated for breathable gases and 1 to equalize the suit compression due to the ambient pressure; together they provide for a total capacity of about 76 liters, equivalent of roughly 18 thousand liters of different gases.

Each diver carries more than 170 Kg of equipment.

On the bottom portion of the dive the divers breathe a mix of oxygen, helium and nitrogen highly hypoxic: at depths shallower than 10 meters such a gas mix would provoke a rapid loss of consciousness.

The total dive time almost hits the three hours, considering “only” 10 minutes of autonomy for the bottom-phase.

Extremely deep dives represent a big challenge either for mind and body from who is involved in such an adventure, still there is a lot to be discovered regarding the reactions of the human body when exposed to these extreme conditions; toward this purpose, a medical equìpe will follow the divers committed in the exploration of the Malachite wreck, conducting a research finalized to analyze the blood flow variations at the pulmonary level during deep diving practices and how this influences the normal lungs function.