



WAVE



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“the ship comes first”

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The Newsletter of the Barque *Polly Woodside* Volunteers Association Inc.



Picture by Kathleen Toohey.

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Chairman's Report:-, *We achieved 299 Hours worked on Polly Woodside so far in 2024.*

Our Tuesday Gang of volunteers consists of our new recruits Colin and Drew. Neil Thomas, while Campbell and Mike Ridley coming down whenever he can. No Mark as NTAV has barred him, with no obvious reason stated.

Roger Wilson has been coming in regularly. He has been working on patching the Poop awning, but this will have to wait as unfortunately Roger has been hospitalized again for a couple of weeks. I have talked with Fran, and passed on our best wishes and for a rapid recovery.

Also we will always welcomed Wayne Bette back whenever he is free.

Our Bosun Jeff is in America all at sea with his brand new granddaughter. Looking forward to seeing the photos.

The Deckhouse:-

The deckhouse starboard cabin door has been renewed and primed ready for painting, and the other exterior doors have also been sanded and primed.

Once we finish the outer paintwork, it will be time to consider galley and cabins fittings.

The Ship:-

Decks & scuppers have been cleaned, & cleared rubbish from under fo'c'sle head, but she still requires painting.

Removed Port side boat davit falls and blocks to repair and replace, & replaced rotten section of transom on ships' boat.

A black plastic cover was placed on the poop deck to discover the water entry point into second mate's cabin has done its job. After a week or so of rain, the aft accommodation remained dry, so it has been left in place to further prove the theory and help us determine the ingress point for the water, and seal that point.

Unfortunately she doesn't look any better, with even the officers' quarters are now looking tatty

The Site:

The wine barrels, though there are many of them in various states of disrepair, do contribute to the maritime atmosphere of the site, where there are other things along the docks, so the atmosphere won't be lost. The sound barrels have been cleaned, and checked, while the wine barrels that were unsafe and beyond repair have now been dismantled and removed.

The site has been cleaned and tidied, with lots of miscellaneous rubbish cleared, with the result it doesn't look too bad.

The 'man overboard' orange boat has been cleaned, with a new canvas cover to be fitted over it.

There will be NO ATTENDANCE to Polly on Tuesday 10th September. This is due to the Land Forces Exposition that is taking place at MCEC next week. The Exposition is expected to draw extremely large protests, which means strong security measures will be in place from today! The carpark will not be accessible from Monday and there will be lots of fencing around.

For the safety of all staff, volunteers and visitors, Polly will not be operating all of next week.

New Photographs Reveal Decay of the Titanic and Collapse of Its Iconic Railing

An expedition this summer documented signs of deterioration on the wreck, but it also rediscovered the Diana of Versailles statue, the centrepiece of the ship's first-class lounge

A recent expedition to the *Titanic's* wreckage found that part of the ship's iconic bow railing has collapsed. RMS Titanic Inc.

Now, an expedition to the wreckage of the *Titanic* by the company RMS Titanic Inc. has found that a roughly 15-foot section on the port side of the iconic bow railing depicted in that scene has collapsed and fallen to the ocean floor.

"This is a very natural thing, different parts of the railing are getting weaker," RMS Titanic spokesperson and researcher James Penca tells NPR's Scott Detrow. "But for such a high-profile and highly photographed and iconic railing to now be resting on the ocean floor below, it's a significant change. *Titanic* will literally never look the same."

RMS Titanic holds exclusive salvage rights to the wreckage of the ship and has conducted nine expeditions to the site since 1987. Their most recent expedition spanned 20 days beginning in July, returning to port in Providence, Rhode Island, on August 9. Researchers captured more than two million new photographs, recorded video and mapped the shipwreck and its field of debris.

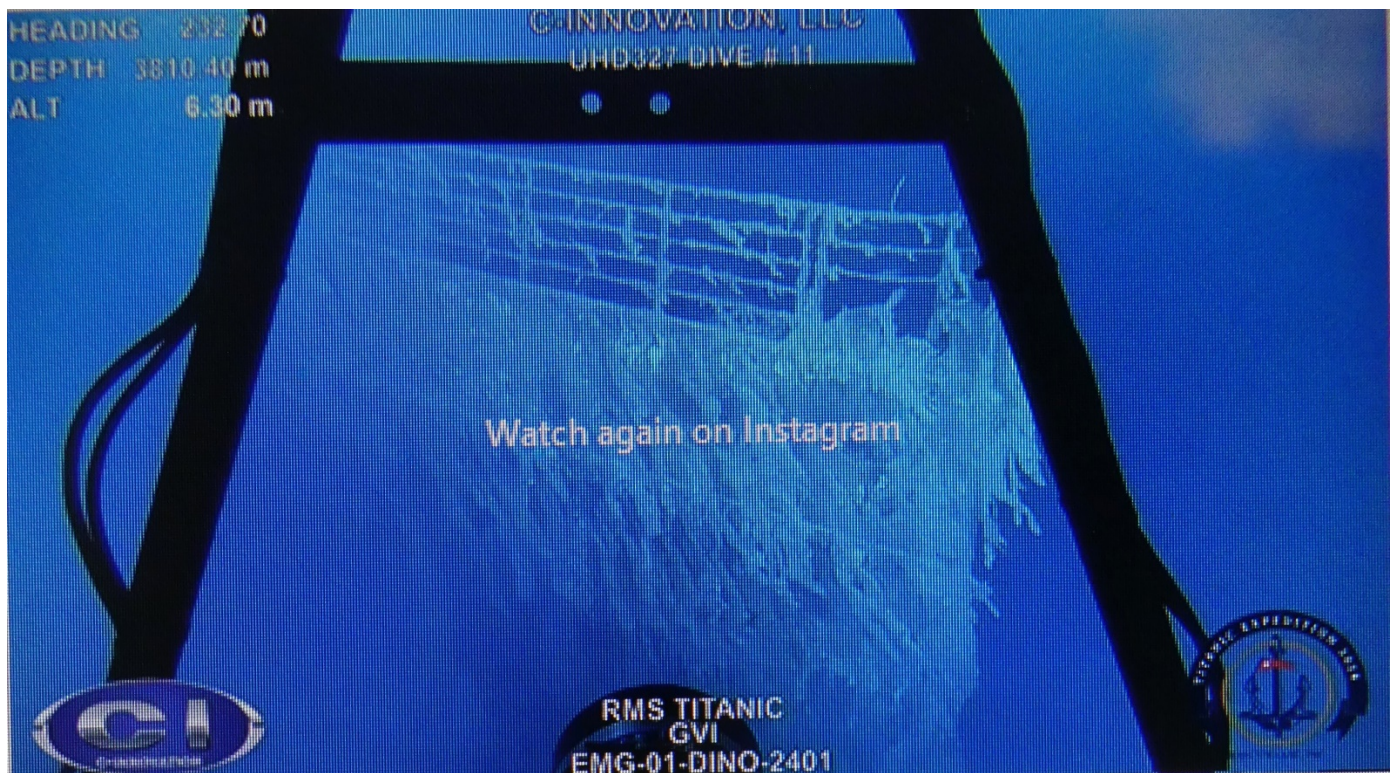
On the company's previous expedition in 2010, the railing was still standing. A full scan of the exterior of the ship completed in 2022 by a different diving outfit also observed the railing intact. But the new findings show that 112 years after the *Titanic* crashed into an iceberg and sank, killing about 1,500 of the 2,240 people aboard, even the sturdy metal of the ship is decaying.

One cause is tiny microbes that chow down on the ship's metal and form ethereal-looking "rusticles" that hang like ice on a winter day. At the wreck site more than two miles beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, bacteria are slowly causing vast deterioration to the vessel. [Experts think](#) these microbes—along with the effects of the salty seawater and the movement of deep-ocean currents—led to the railing's collapse.

"It's just another reminder of the deterioration that's happening every day," Tomasina Ray, director of collections at RMS Titanic, tells BBC News' Rebecca Morelle and Alison Francis. "People ask all the time: 'How long is *Titanic* going to be there?' We just don't know, but we're watching it in real time."

The latest scans and images of Titanic reveal many changes to the wrecksite and provide insight into how the great is deteriorating. A notable change is the loss of a 15-foot section of railing from the port side bow.

Even as the new visuals revealed the slow breakdown of the ship and its contents, the recent expedition also made an exciting discovery: Researchers found an iconic statue that had been lost for decades.



Here is a look at the bow from the perspective of the ROVs. This is what the Titanic Expedition 2024 saw during the mapping and imaging mission this past July

In 1986, a year after he initially discovered the *Titanic's* wreckage, Robert Ballard photographed the statue, which formed the centerpiece on the fireplace mantle in the first-class lounge. Known as the Diana of Versailles, it is a two-foot-tall bronze replica of a larger version on display at the Louvre in Paris. But since then, its location remained unknown.

This year's expedition found Diana again, 38 years later. "Following 112 years on the ocean floor and a brief sighting in 1986, she is still resting upright among miles of debris," RMS Titanic says in an [Instagram post](#). "Like the eternal Roman deities, she is timeless—and she is rediscovered."

Diana of Versailles, a sculpture that once adorned the *Titanic's* first-class lounge, was rediscovered on the recent expedition. RMS Titanic, Inc.

The company hopes to one day return to the wreck to retrieve items for preservation, including the Diana of Versailles statue, Penca tells BBC News. But in the past, RMS Titanic has faced backlash for removing about 5,500 artifacts from the shipwreck site, per the *New York Times'* Sara Ruberg. And after OceanGate's *Titan* submersible imploded last year, killing its five passengers, the U.S. government argued that RMS Titanic should get federal approval before recovering any objects from the site.

For the time being, a spokesman for RMS Titanic tells the *New York Times* that there are no official plans to bring back more artifacts. "The company is going through the data from this expedition to establish next steps," he tells the publication.

Whether researchers plan to retrieve items or simply study them on-site, the new evidence demonstrates that teams will be racing the clock as the ship deteriorates. "The discovery of the statue of Diana was an exciting moment," Ray says in a statement. "But we are saddened by the loss of the iconic bow railing and other evidence of decay, which has only strengthened our commitment to preserving *Titanic's* legacy."

Divers Find Crates of Unopened Champagne in 19th-Century Shipwreck

Discovered near Sweden, the vessel was loaded with bottles of sparkling wine, mineral water and porcelain



Tomasz Stachura, one of the divers who found the wreck, saw bubbles inside some of the Champagne bottles.
Baltitech

A 19th-century shipwreck has been found off the coast of Sweden with more than 100 bottles of Champagne onboard—including some that still appear to be bubbly.

The booze-laden wreck was discovered this month by a team of Polish divers called *Baltitech*. Using sonar, they identified what appeared to be an unremarkable fishing boat on the bottom of the Baltic Sea. They didn't expect to find much, but two divers—Marek Cacaj and Pawel Truszynski—volunteered to head down and take a quick look at the vessel.

Their brief trip turned into a nearly two-hour excursion. When they didn't return right away, their colleagues knew they'd found something interesting.

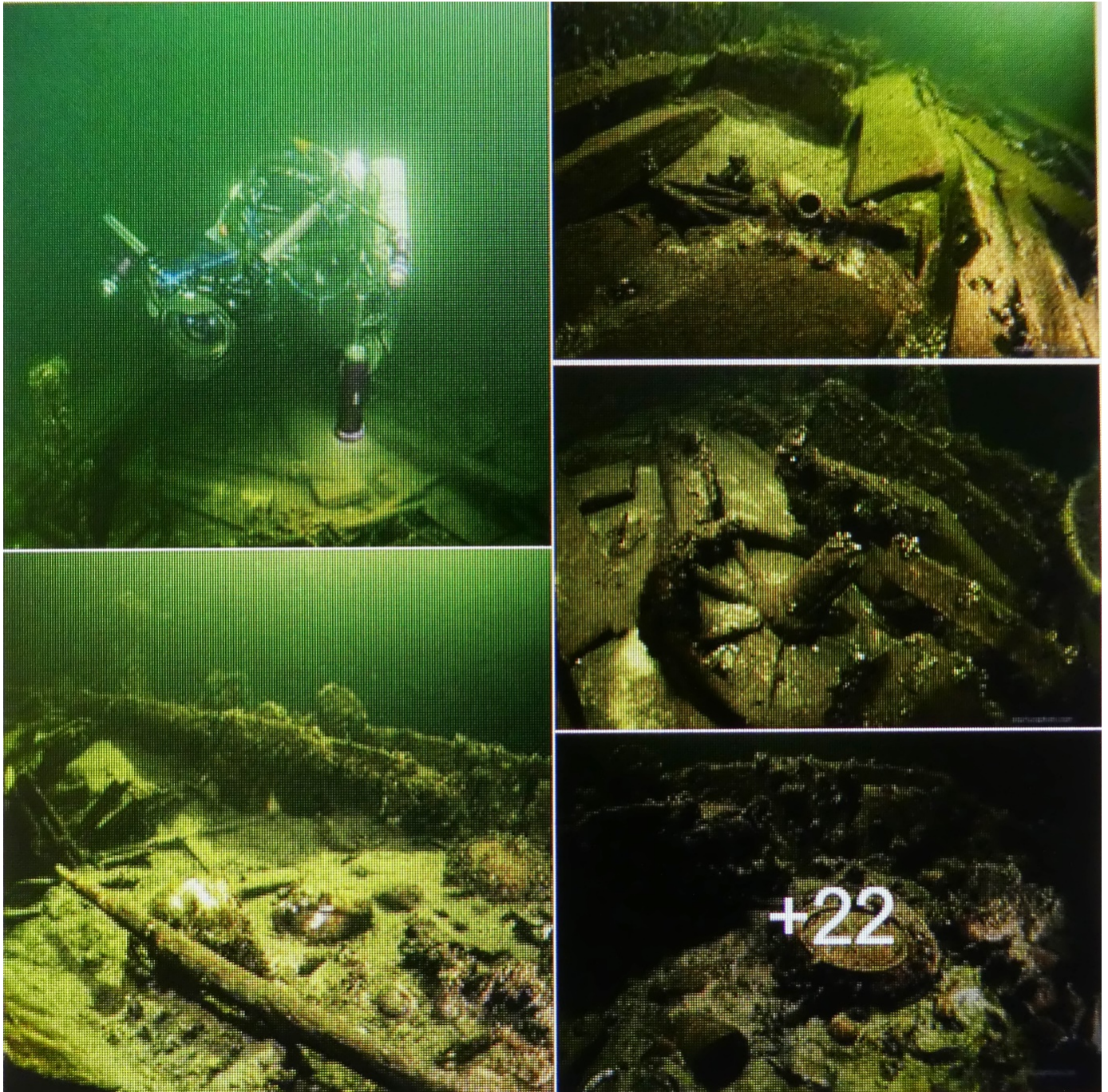


The wreck is submerged under 190 feet of water about 20 nautical miles south of Öland, a Swedish island. *Baltictech*

The wreck was not a fishing boat but rather a sailing ship loaded with crates of Champagne, wine, mineral water and porcelain. Based on the vessel's cargo, the divers have theorized that the wreck probably occurred sometime in the mid-1800s. It's submerged under 190 feet of water about 20 nautical miles south of Öland, a Swedish island.

"I have been diving for 40 years, and it often happens that there is one bottle or two ... but to discover a wreck with so much cargo, it's a first for me," Tomasz Stachura, the leader of the team, tells the *Washington Post's* Jennifer Hassan.

Though the discovery may be a first for Stachura, this is far from the first time alcoholic beverages—or their containers—have been discovered in shipwrecks. In 2010, underwater archaeologists found a schooner loaded with Champagne off the coast of Finland—and a few years later, a biochemist tasted some in the name of science. In 2021, divers found a Roman shipwreck off the coast of Italy that was loaded with wine amphorae, a type of pottery often used to transport the fermented beverage. And brewers in Australia have even made beer using yeast recovered from bottles found on a 220-year-old shipwreck.



While exploring the wreck site, the Polish divers couldn't read the labels on the Champagne bottles, but they did see bubbles inside. Meanwhile, the clay water bottles were stamped with the word "Selters," a German brand of mineral water that still exists today. Experts say these particular bottles were produced between 1850 and 1876, per the *New York Times*' Amelia Nierenberg.

At the time, the mineral water was likely considered the most precious cargo onboard. Consumed primarily by royalty, the drink was "so precious that transports were escorted by the police," Stachura tells BBC News' Lauren Turner.

Frank Schellmann, a spokesman for Selters, tells the *Washington Post* that the company's leaders have been eagerly following the news of the discovery.

"Such a find is indeed extraordinary—and particularly fascinating to us considering the quantities found and the location," says Schellmann.



In addition to bottles of Champagne, the divers found clay water bottles stamped with the word “Selters,” a German brand of mineral water that still exists today. *Baltictech*

Where was the ship heading? And why did it have so many valuable items on board? The divers wondered whether it had been traveling toward Russia, as Nicholas I reportedly lost a ship near Sweden in 1852, per BBC News.

The divers alerted Swedish authorities about the vessel and its cargo. Though the wreck is still making its way through the Swedish administrative process, marine archaeologists may one day bring the cargo to the surface for further analysis.

Would the wine be any good after so many years underwater? It depends on how well sealed the bottles are, whether any seawater leaked in and the quality of the wine in the first place.

Some modern companies have been experimenting with purposefully aging sparkling wine underwater. In late 2022, the Norwegian cruise line Hurtigruten submerged 1,700 wax-sealed bottles of sparkling wine about 111 feet deep in the Norwegian Sea, where temperatures hovered around 41 degrees Fahrenheit. After recovering the bottles in July 2023, they served the wine aboard their cruise ships as part of an offering called *Havets Bobler*, or Bubbles From the Sea—and passengers loved it so much the company sank another 4,500 bottles in December. They’ve since recovered those, as well.

Regardless of whether the wine tastes good, the recent discovery in the Baltic Sea is still a “frozen time capsule,” as Johan Rönby, a maritime archaeologist at Sweden’s Södertörn University, tells the *Times*.