

Discovery of two historic World War II aircraft wrecks in the Trondheimsfjord

Trondheim, Norway - October 2023: *In a remarkable exploration beneath the surface, the Royal Norwegian Navy's HUGIN Team 1 discovered two new aircraft wrecks in Trondheimsfjorden. The well-preserved World War II wrecks were quickly identified as the legendary Blohm & Voss BV-222 Wiking V2 and the Heinkel HE-115 S4+DH. The wrecks lie at an impressive depth of 318 and 253 meters, respectively, and have never been visited by divers or submersibles before. The last few weeks a team at Blueye Robotics have conducted several dives with underwater drones in the fjord to capture the first close-up images of the seaplanes in around 80 years.*

The wrecks were located with the assistance of the [Hugin](#) AUV, an autonomous wireless underwater vehicle programmed to map the seabed over a large area using sonars. This AUV is one of the world's most advanced and capable underwater vehicles and can dive down to the depth of 6000 meters. The Minesweeper Squadron had not been able to obtain close-up images of the aircrafts until the Blueye team was able to document the wrecks with two X3 underwater drones. The drones were equipped with a multibeam sonar for navigation as well as four additional lights to capture high quality images. The fact that one of the wrecks lies at a depth of 318 meters makes it the deepest wreck ever visited by Blueye.

Local divers and history enthusiasts have been searching for the BV-222-Wiking-V2 wreck for decades. This collaboration between the Navy and technology companies like Blueye and Kongsberg Maritime, showcases the synergy between cutting-edge technology and human expertise, allowing for frictionless access to historical treasures hidden at great depths.

Trondheim was a strategically important city during World War II, and these discoveries provide valuable insights into the wartime activities that took place both above and below the surface of the Trondheimsfjord. As we approach the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, these discoveries serve as tangible reminders of Norway's wartime history and its enduring impact.

«Since day one, exploring what lies beneath the surface has been a driving force for the Blueye team. As our technology has matured, we have expanded our reach to go deeper and operate longer. The integration of additional payloads such as underwater positioning and sonars allows us to quickly locate wrecks even at great depths. Over time, we have become well-acquainted with some of the history lying on the bottom of Trondheimsfjorden.» - Jonas Follesø, CTO at Blueye Robotics



About Blueye Robotics:

Blueye Robotics is a Norwegian company based in Trondheim with roots in the highly renowned Centre for Autonomous Marine Operations and Systems (AMOS) at NTNU. Since 2015, the overarching design goals have been exceptional ease of use, portability, and robustness. The first underwater ROV model was launched in 2019, and since then, more than 1000 systems have been delivered to different industries in over 50 different countries.

Recourses:

- Article: <https://bit.ly/3PSiP7b>
- Video: <https://youtu.be/CLxIZvDZCf0>
- Images: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sdsfcqp64568y5p/AADXCUXIzmReC0S0B__60SGka?dl=0

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