You Should Know

This wreck is federally protected by the SUNKEN MILITARY CRAFT ACT. Visitation and enjoyment of this cultural resource is encouraged. Removal of artifacts or alteration of the site is strictly prohibited. This site is owned by the Federal Republic of Germany and is considered a war grave. Please respect it as such and refrain from alteration or penetration of the site. You are encouraged to enjoy this resource responsibly and to leave the site unaltered for the enjoyment of future divers.

Vessel History

Launched: April 10, 1941, in Lübeck, Germany

Commander: Oberleutnant zur See Eberhard Greger

Actions: Successfully sunk 3 Allied merchant ships

Loss: In the early morning hours of April 14, 1942, U-85 was hunting allied shipping just a few miles off Nags Head, N.C., when the American four-stack destroyer, USS Roper acquired a sonar contact. The Roper gave chase and was narrowly missed by a stern torpedo fired by U-85. As the USS Roper closed the distance it succeeded in delivering a fatal shot from its 3-inch deck gun which breached the pressure hull of U-85 causing it to sink to the bottom.

Fate: The entire 46-man crew was lost as a result of this engagement. Twenty-seven men were recovered and buried at the National Cemetery in Hampton, Va. The site which you are about to dive is considered a war grave and serves as the final resting place of the remaining crew.

Marine Life Commonly Found on the U-85 Site

Conger Eel Conger oceanicus

Purple Sea Urchin Arbacia punctulata

Gray Triggerfish Balistes capriscus

Spadefish Chaetodipterus faber

Black Sea Bass Centropristis striata

Greater Amberjack Seriola dumerili

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