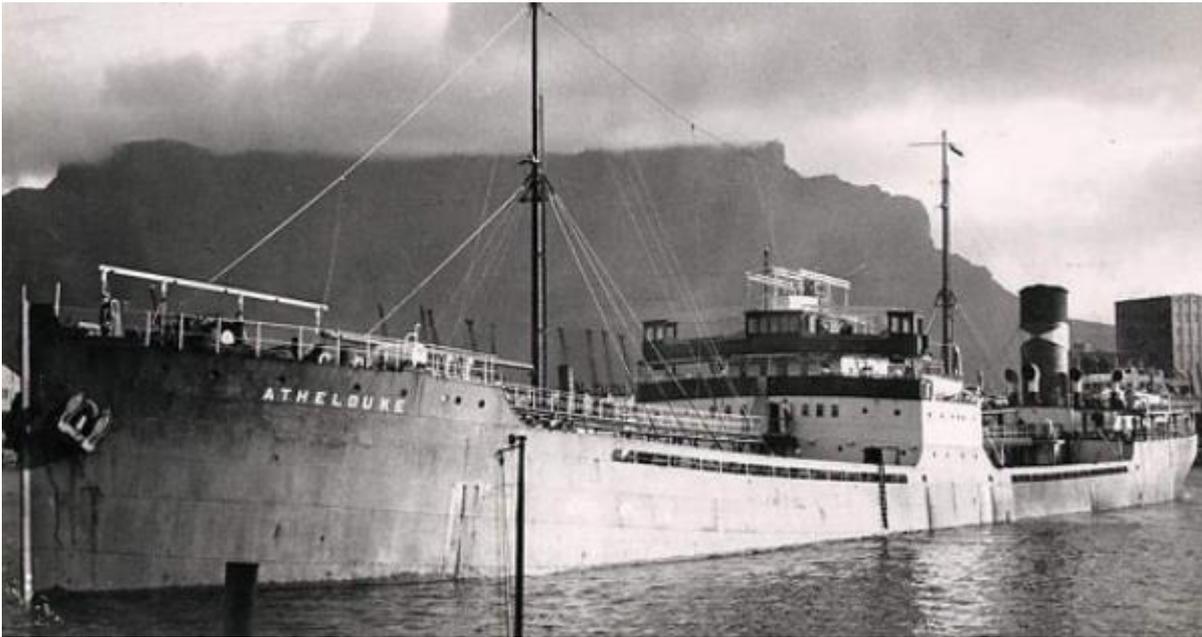


Of Interest to divers, salvage operators and historians.

WRECK FOR SALE OFF NORTH EAST ENGLISH COAST

“ATHELDUKE”

Torpedoed by U BOAT 1274 on 16th April 1945



Description

The Athelduke was an 8,966-ton British diesel motor tanker built in 1929 by R. Gordon and Company of Port Glasgow, Scotland. Owned by the United Molasses Company of London it operated out of the port of Liverpool.

Sinking

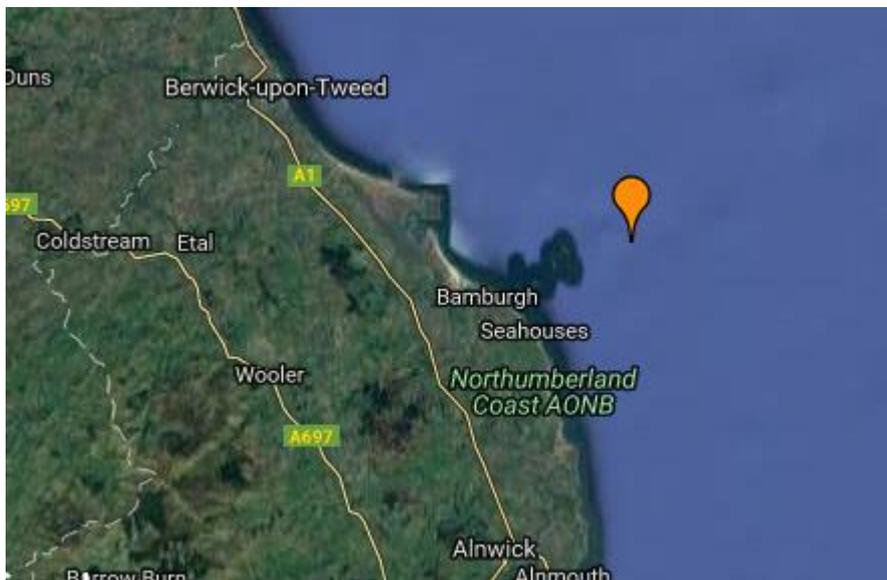
The tanker was part of convoy FS-1784 transporting 12,600 tons of molasses from Port Everglades, Florida via Loch Ewe to Salt End, Hull in April 1945. The Master was Joseph Errett and had a crew of 47.

At 17.32 hours on 16th April 1945 the boat was torpedoed and sunk by U – 1274. A survivor's report confirmed that the first torpedo struck the vessel on the port side of the cross bunker tank and the second on the port side of the Nr cargo tank. After this the bunker caught fire and the vessel immediately commenced to settle by the stern at a fast rate although it took 12 hours to sink completely. The crew made their way to the midship and Captain Errett seeing the

danger ordered them to abandon ship which they did by way of the two midship boats. All crew apart from the senior 4th Engineer Mr W. McKenzie abandoned ship and it was presumed Mr McKenzie was killed when the torpedoes hit. The crew were picked up by SS King Neptune and were landed in Grimsby on April 17th at 6pm.

Location

The wreck lies east of the Northumberland coast near the Farne Islands 5.2 miles SE of Longstone Light. We understand that the vessel sank at 55° 39' N, 1° 31' W and lies in between 50m and 63m of water.



Care when diving this wreck

Great care needs to be taken with this dive. The tide is a major factor and areas of the wreck may be prone to collapse.

A video of the wreck can be seen on You Tube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVmObZ4SyvY>

Footnote

U-1274 was commanded by 23-year-old Hans- Hermann Fitting, his first command. His U boat was sunk with all 44 hands lost on the same afternoon by depth charges from HMS Viceroy.

Offers

Our client acquired this vessel in 1974 and would be open to offers for his interest in the wreck. Further details of its acquisition from the Liverpool and London War Risks Association Limited in 1975 are available on request.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Davison Blackett Limited, their clients and any joint agents give notice that:

1.They are not authorised to make or give any representations or warranties in relation to the property either here or elsewhere, either on their own behalf or on behalf of their client or otherwise. They assume no responsibility for any statement that may be made in these particulars. These particulars do not form part of any offer or contract and must not be relied upon as statements or representations of fact.

2. Any areas, measurements or distances are approximate. The text, photographs and plans are for guidance only and are not necessarily comprehensive. It should not be assumed that the property has all necessary planning, building regulation or other consents and Davison Blackett Limited have not tested any services, equipment or facilities. Purchasers must satisfy themselves by inspection or otherwise