



July 30, 2016 - UPDATE - Sweden Project – Halifax HR871 Recovery

Today we were up bright and early (no, technically I did not sleep past 3 am – body clocks CAN be a blessing, eh!) and we were off from Hollviken marina in Robert Hanssons great diving boat, the Wakawoo.

See 1st photo of this great custom dive boat as our disposal, thanks Robert.

The Wakawoo is fast to travel to the Halifax recovery site and stable on 2 – 3 foot waves, if they develop. Winds were fair and we did not have rough water as we dived from 9:30 -12:30.

See 2nd photo of us headed out the Falsterbo canal. I should say Jan Christensen dived and Eric Skog and I helped with Jans equipment and as lookouts while anchored over the Halifax.

See 3th photo of Jan ready to dive and free our Halifax.



Jan did 2 dives in 3 hours with his first dive to begin cutting about 40 pounds of old fishnet off the tail section which was hiding the tail turret and area aft of the tail wheel of HR871. Remember, the tail section forward of the horizontal stabilizer is broken off from the fuselage because of the collision with the water. We can see some of the horizontal tail and we have found one of the rudders laying a few meters away. The other rudder could be nearby but it may be covered in sand. Hence, the grid we built around the Halifax becomes even more important to finding all the airframe.

Jan said while cutting away the old nylon nets from around the turret that the nets have done damage to the turret. He did not see any of the .303 guns but he did see inside the turret area the stainless steel ammo tracks that I briefed him to watch for, that feed the thousands of bullets to the rear turret guns. He also noticed more corrosion in this area as the rear turret has much cast metal parts which, in chemical reaction with the differing metals like aluminium and steel, can cause rusting.

So after a while the wind came up and the waves were building and we finished for the day with a nice rodeo ride return trip in the Wakawoo back to the marina. One more step in preparing the Halifax sections for recovery in a few weeks, hopefully by mid-Aug.

Today, Sun. July 31, our team of Swedish Coast and Sea Center and Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) will be attending a Hollviken area gathering as they celebrate a SEA DAY, a festival appreciating their Baltic resources and environment. We hopefully will meet with all the movers and shakers in this area who are genuinely interested in all this history we are recovering.

So it is a human journey as well as a historic quest to save our joint history, this aluminium symbol of a time 72 years ago - almost 73 years to the day, when HR871 came to be in their waters. Now we will save all we can and appreciate our new friends who are working very hard with us to achieve our goal.



I will give you another Sweden on-site report on Mon. Aug.1, before I leave come back to Canada on Tues. Aug. 2.