



Shipwreck hunters think they have located the wreck of Captain Morgan's warship Merchant Jamaica off Île-à-Vache, Haiti.

How Canadians found a buccaneer's warship

BY KRISTA FOSS

Dying coral has crumbled away to reveal what could be the only known shipwreck belonging to the infamously rum-sodden and bloodthirsty buccaneer Captain Henry Morgan, according to the Canadians and Germans who found the wreck in the turquoise waters off Haiti's coast.

The ship's remains were first sighted two years ago by a team of Canadian filmmakers who were making a documentary about Nova Scotia's famous racing schooner, the *Bluenose*, and the Haitian coral reef that became its final resting place.

"One day we jumped from our boats and almost hit our heads on a cannon in about a two-metre water depth," said Rick Haupt, president of Oceans Discovery Network, which produces films on underwater exploration and is based in Halifax and Cologne, Germany.

"We didn't know exactly what ship it was, but we knew it was old."

In the spring of this year, Mr. Haupt's Canadian team joined forces with German shipwreck hunter Klaus Keppler, president of Sea Explorer AG, and returned to the reef near the tiny half-moon shaped Île-à-Vache with five tonnes of sophisticated underwater equipment for a six-week, \$750,000 expedition.

That's when they documented the artifacts from a 30-cannon oak ship dating back to the 1660s which had become encrusted in coral that was now crumbling away to reveal its remains. The artifacts include glass, copper plating, coins, cannons, cannon balls and a large iron anchor.

The team also found a gigantic 50- to 60-gun warship, capable of carrying 600 men, on another reef nearby. They believe it dates back to the same period.

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