

SYNOPSIS



Umbria - From Wreck to Reef

Umbria - Vom Wrack zum Riff

On June 10, 1940, the Umbria, an Italian man-of-war, was scuttled in the Red Sea near Port Sudan. Tons of ammunition, 300.000 bombs and air mines, military trucks, motorcycles and silver coins sank to the bottom of the sea. In 1949, Austria's underwater pioneer Hans Hass explored the wreck and documented the beginning growth of corals. 30 years later he returned, filming and photographing the same positions again for comparison. The metamorphosis from wreck to reef was already on its way. 60 years after the Umbria sank, Erich Proell, another living legend of underwater filming, visited the wreck that had meanwhile turned into a veritable reef. Six decades after the Umbria sank almost the entire wreck has been taken over by marine creatures. The dark holds, still stacked with bombs and other war materials, have been colonised by armies of tube worms and a colourful array of sponges that can survive without sunlight. Erich Proell has documented some of the bizarre scenes of this submarine landscape: vintage motor cars, trucks, railway carriages standing upright in the sand, all overgrown with corals.



Awards: Missoula International Wildlife Film Festival 2002: Missoula International Wildlife Film Festival Award, U.S. International Film and Video Festival 2002: U.S. International Film and Video Festival Awards, Telescience Festival 2001: Telescience Festival Award

Year: 2001

Run-Time: 1 x 48 min.

Directed by Sabine Holzer, Erich Pröll

Written by Erich Pröll

Erich Pröll Film for ORF in association with ZDF and DOCSTAR

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