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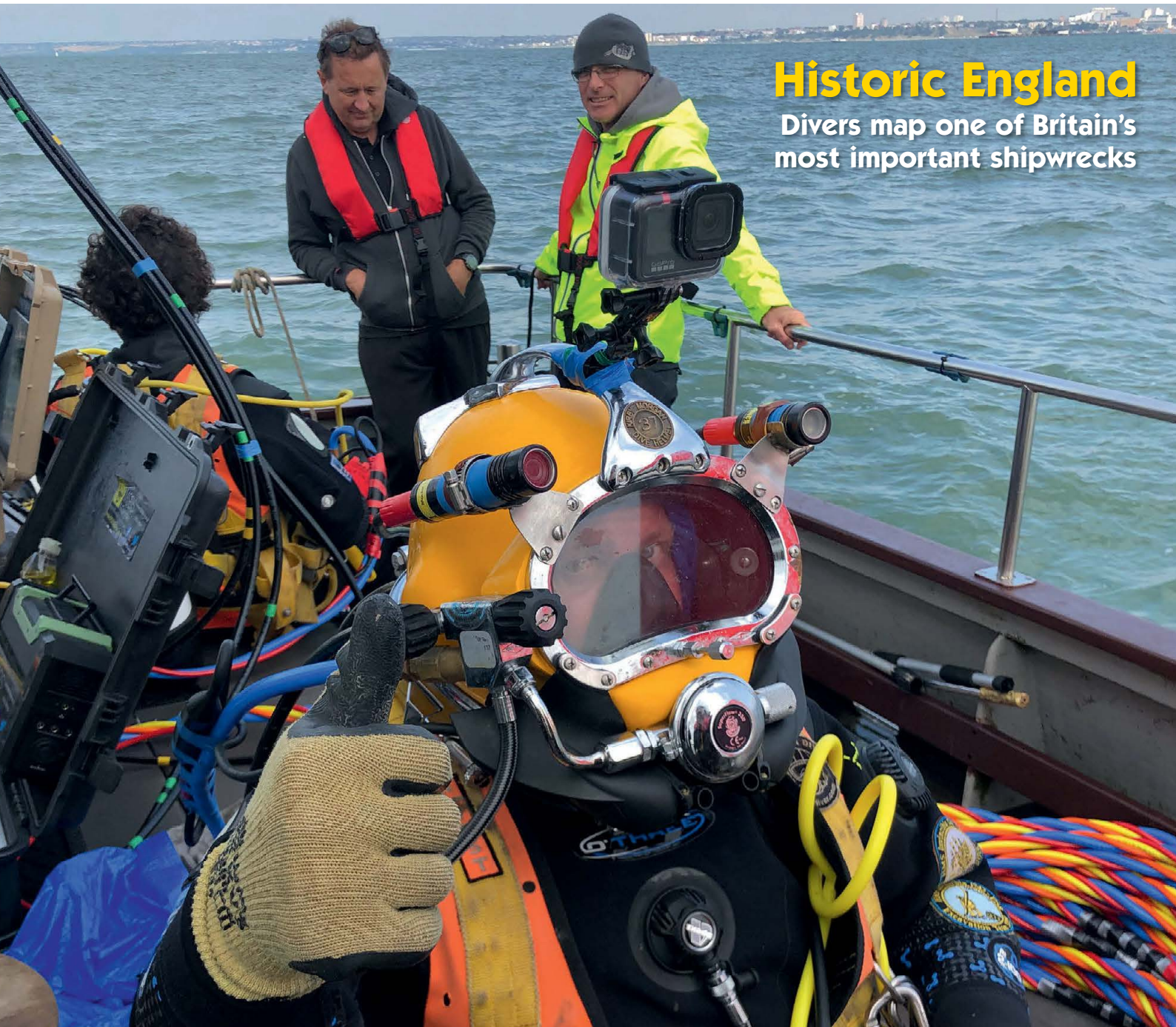
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INTERNATIONAL



Historic England

Divers map one of Britain's
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Rudder repairs carried out in Zeebrugge, Le Havre and Dunkirk

Teams from Belgium-based Hydrex have recently carried out several rudder repairs on ships in both Belgium and France. In all cases cracks were found that needed to be repaired to prevent them from spreading and causing further damage to the rudders.

"We can perform repairs at anchorage on any type of rudder or while the vessel is berthed." The firm says. "In most cases this can be done without interrupting cargo operations."

CRACK

In Zeebrugge, Belgium, a 230-metre roro ship had suffered cracks on both sides of the rudder flap. On the starboard side a branching crack was found

Hydrex teams help vessels' owners steer clear of trouble



Crack of the rudder of a bulker in Le Harve

while a single crack was present on the port side.

"Our divers first drilled arrests on all extremities of the cracks to prevent them from spreading," explains Hydrex. "They then positioned C-shaped

plates over the crack arrests and secured these with wet welding.

"This allowed the owner to sail the ship without having to worry about the condition of the rudder. A permanent repair carried out during the ship's next scheduled drydock visit at a more convenient time and location."

ARREST

On two 229-metre sister bulker ships in Le Havre and Dunkirk, France, cracks were found on the upper pintle corner of the hinge that connects the rudder flap to the main rudder blade. Fortunately these cracks could be repaired by

grinding them out after a crack arrest had been drilled. The affected area was then filled with clad welding.

"The cracks on these rudders were spotted during an underwater inspection before they caused problems for the ship. This once again shows the benefits of having regular inspections carried out by competent divers, followed by comprehensive and accurate reports," says Hydrex.

"Our teams can detect any problem so that they can be corrected early and prevent the more costly repair which neglect and further damage would bring about," it adds.



Diver getting ready for the underwater rudder operation in Dunkirk

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