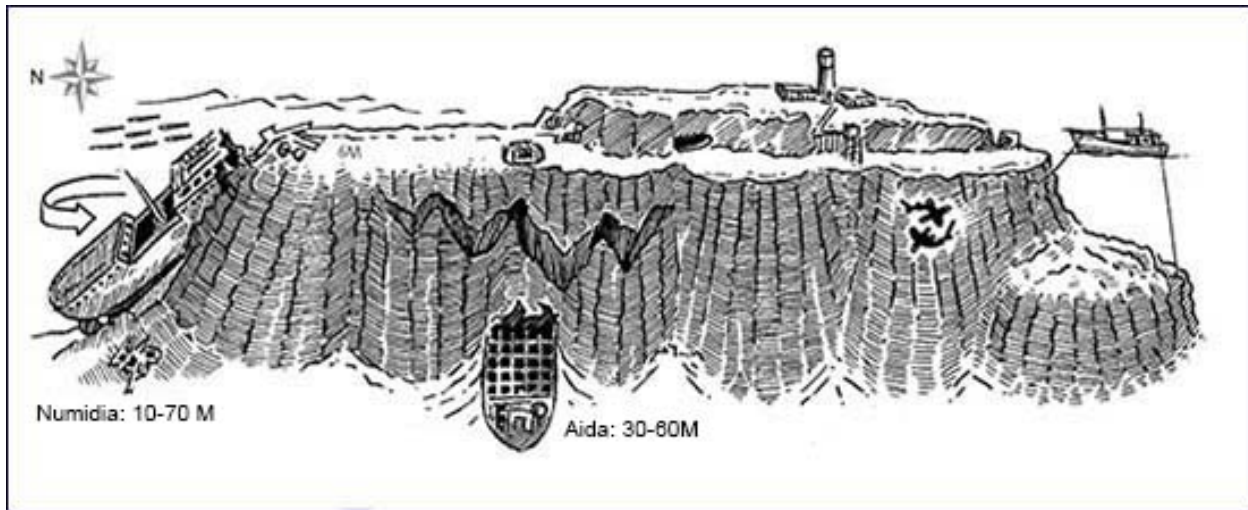




## **Dive 77 - Big Brother Island - 14-04-2013**



### **The Numidia wreck:**

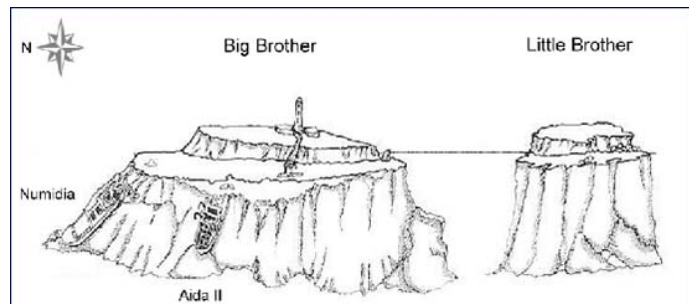
**The 'Numidia' was a British cargo ship, built in Glasgow in 1901 by the Henderson Company who operated her under the Anchor Line Shipping Company. At 6399 tons and 140 metres long, she was a large vessel, powered by a 3-cylinder triple expansion steam engine. This gave her top speed of 10 knots. On 28th February 1901 the Numidia left her home port on her Maiden voyage, an uneventful return trip to Calcutta. This was to be her only successfully completed voyage.**

The Numidia is also known as the Railway Wreck due to the 2 locomotive wheels that she was carrying as cargo and now lie in the shallows. She met her end in 1901 when bound for India on only her second voyage. This was a 130m long British wooden cargo ship that ran aground. The bow is broken up and lies in only 8m of water.



Egypt's offshore islands were declared natural protectorates in 1983, which granted them marine park status. Amongst these islands are the now legendary Brother Islands, or El Akhawein as they are called in Egyptian.

The Brothers are a pair of tiny islands situated about 5 minutes from each other. They are located 200 km south of Ras Mohammed and are basically steep-sided cones, likely formed by volcanic eruptions. They are barely visible and easy to miss, was it not for the Victorian stone lighthouse, a legacy of British rule, which towers some 32 metres above Big Brother Island.



Big Brother Island lies about 1 km to the north of its smaller sibling. Characterised by an impressive healthy fish population, it is dominated by tiny anthias, glassfish and sweepers. All are resident on or around a fringing reef that plunges steeply away on all sides. The walls are densely covered by huge gorgonians and colourful soft corals.