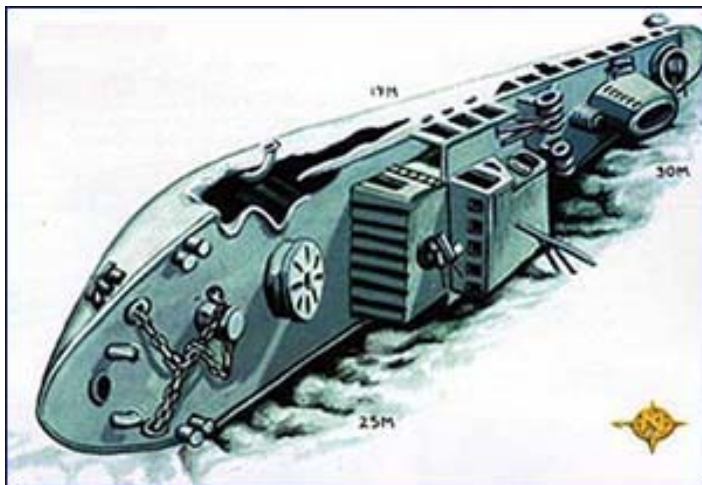




## Dive 84 - Hurghada - 17-04-2013



The El Minya minesweeper was bombed by the Israelis in 1969 in Hurghada bay, but still has a sister ship afloat nearby which is worth looking at to compare to what you are about to dive.

The wreck now lies on its side and there are a lot of small holes to peer into and penetration is possible,

although tight. El Minya is Arabic for "The Harbour" and the fact that this wreck lies in the Harbour at Hurghada is the only link between the name and the wreck.

The "Harbour Wreck" as it is commonly referred to, is an Egyptian owned, Soviet built type-43 minesweeper, 570 tons, approximately 60m in length and with a beam of 9m. It lies on its port side in 33m of water at the stern, 26m at the bow.

Armament consisted of 2 manual dual 37mm anti-aircraft guns, 2 manual dual 25mm AA guns, 2 manual dual 12.7mm guns and 2 DC mortars. The T-43 was the NATO code name for this vessel type; standard Soviet designed ocean minesweepers.





There are two popular wrecks in Hurghada harbour - the El Minya minesweeper and within a minute dive the Mohamed Hasabella fishing vessel. The El Minya lies in about 32 meters depth, while the Mohamed Hasabella is slightly deeper at 34 meters.

#### Observations:

I forgot to hang the nitrox label on the bottle, so last time it was filled again with regular air, hence the low oxygen percentage.

The first attempt to reach the El Minya failed. During the briefing it was said that the boat had moored right above the El Minya. This proved to be wrong, it was the freighter wreck. After a little confusion we managed to get to the minesweeper.