



Dive 120 - Portimão - 06-06-2014



The "Hydrographical ship Ex-NRP Almeida de Carvalho" with NATO designation A527 started construction in 1961 in California, in the summer of 1965 the ship was struck by a merchant navy vessel, sinking in the shipyard. With salvage operations the ship was afloat again; however, the recovery work on the ship was carried out by another shipyard in New Orleans. In January 1969 the "Kellar" was put into service for the US Navy and later acquired by Portugal and incorporated into the fleet of the Armed Forces on January 1972 with 47 crew members.

Due to lots of algae floating in the water at twenty five to thirty meters, visibility was limited to 3 to 4 meters. The ship has been in the water for only about a year or two, and is therefore not completely corroded. The wreck has large areas covered with mussels.



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The waters of the Algarve were very cold.

Water temperature was a mere 13 degrees Celsius. This being my second dive today, I am now shaking like a leaf. During my safety stop I could not hold



my arm still to read the dive computer. It was 13:00 Hrs. when I got out of the water. It took till 19:00 Hrs. when I started to feel comfortable again.

I have been offered some better protection against the cold for the upcoming dives. It is a semi-dry suit and a thermo shirt underneath that. This proved to be a lot better than my own 7mm wetsuit.