



Dive 125 - Portimão - 10-06-2014



The "Frigate Ex-NRP Hermenegildo Capelo" with NATO designation F481 started construction in 1966 at the Compagnie des Ateliers et Forges de la Loire shipyard in Nantes, the ship has seven levels and more than 300 compartments, having the effective entry date to the Portuguese Armed Forces on April 1968. The Hermenegildo Capelo Frigate had 164 crew members.

Due to lots of algae floating in the water at twenty five to thirty meters, visibility was limited to 3 to 4 metres. 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.

A wreck penetration is made easy due to numerous large openings in the ship's hull. Openings have also been made in the decks, allowing vertical



penetration. This is how we got into the engine room; you need a good torch here because it is very dark. Some good buoyancy is preferable, since there is some sediment inside the wreck that will obscure the viz if you are a wild one!



The waters of the Algarve were very cold. Water temperature was a mere 13 degrees Celsius.

