

## **BARON GAUTSCH**

The steamship Baron Gautsch was launched on water in 1908 from the shipyard in Dundee in Scotland. The ship was custom built for the Austrian company Lloyd, which put the steamship, together with its sister ships Prinz Hohenlohe and Baron Bruck, on the dalmatian quick line since 16.06.1908. The ship was named after the baron Paul Gautsch von Frankenthurn, who was the prime minister of the c. and k. monarchy in the end of the 19th century.

After outbreak of the First World War, the steamship was rented on 27.7.1914 by the c. and k. military fleet for transport of reinforcements to Kotor. While rented, the steamship realized 4 voyages in total, covered 1810 nautical miles and transported 2855 persons. On the way back, it usually evacuated population to northern Istria. After fulfilling its mission, Baron Gautsch was returned to the company Lloyd in Kotor on 11.08.1914. On 13.08.1914, approx. at 11:00, the ship departed from the port Veli Lošinj. Since leaving the port until arriving at Pula, the officer Luppis was on duty, but he handed the duty over to the second officer Tenze - without consent of the commander – and went to have lunch with the passengers of the first class. Seven nautical miles north of the Brion Islands, around 14:50, the steamship Baron ran into a minefield at full speed and it sank within six minutes. The balance of the disaster was terrifying: 159 passengers were rescued by the ships Csepel, Triglav and Balaton, which rushed to their help. 68 dead bodies were drawn out. 177 people, among them women and children, who should have been transported from the islands to Terst, drowned or died in boiling oil.

## **EXPEDITION "BARON GAUTSCH"**

The expedition Baron Gautsch took place in two phases, in April and in June of 2006, for the purpose of taking photographic and film shots for the television documentary cycle about shipwrecks from the 1st World War. The whole stage crew participated in it, with several cameras and with a sound engineer, so that even unique reportages and interviews were made, for example in the naval cemetery

## **IGC DIVING PRAHA**

Expedition - Baron Gautsch

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Kriegsmarine in Pula, in the naval museum in Terst, in the club of Italian modellers of military ships and in the military fortress in Pula. During eight dives to the shipwreck, virtually the entire ship was thoroughly documented both from inside and outside. The expedition was prepared and led by Miloš Pilař, technical provision was prepared in cooperation with the headquarters of the SSI Adriatic Group in Rovinja and the base IGC DIVING PRAHA.