Royal Navy detonate bomb found by divers

A Second World War mine discovered by two divers off the coast of Milford Haven in west Wales has been exploded by the Royal Navy.

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Local divers Nick Jeremy, 34, and Dylan Evans, 41, discovered the 2m-long corroded bomb about 30m west of the HMS Caroline wreck at 18m.

'The top half of the bomb was sticking out of the sand,' Jeremy told DIVE. 'We initially thought it was an engine canister, but as we weren't entirely sure we contacted the coastguard when we got back.'

Jeremy, who regularly dives in the Milford Haven area, said that the coastguard asked them to return to the site to pinpoint exactly where they found the object.

'The hardest part was finding it again,' he said. 'We had to fix a marker buoy near it, which is quite scary thinking about it now.'

Bill Hirst, deputy harbourmaster at Milford Haven Port Authority, told DIVE that the Royal Navy was contacted and an explosives team arrived at the site to inspect the sunken object. The Navy dive team returned a day later and, after setting up a 1.25-mile exclusion zone, carried out a controlled explosion.

Residents from the village of Dale were instructed to keep all their windows open to avoid damage from the blast. The bomb was completely destroyed.

'My grandfather worked as a mine sweeper, so everyone here has been joking that he left this one for me,' added Jeremy.

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