

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY--IDAHO

'Mightie' HMS Victory wreck found

The wreck of a ship which has been found off the Channel Islands has been confirmed as the legendary warship HMS Victory which sank in 1744. No one even knew its existence.

A sum of more than 1,000 sailors drowned when the British warship, the predecessor to Lord Nelson's Victory, sank in a storm. The wreck was caused when boards allowed at least 20 tons of water to enter the ship.

The wreck, which could contain more than \$1bn of gold, was discovered near a site at the bottom of the English Channel by Odyssey Marine Exploration in May. The search for the HMS Victory took nearly eight weeks in extremely poor weather.

It was found 100km from where it was thought to have sunk near Alderney. The wreckage was in pieces dispersed over 5 km.

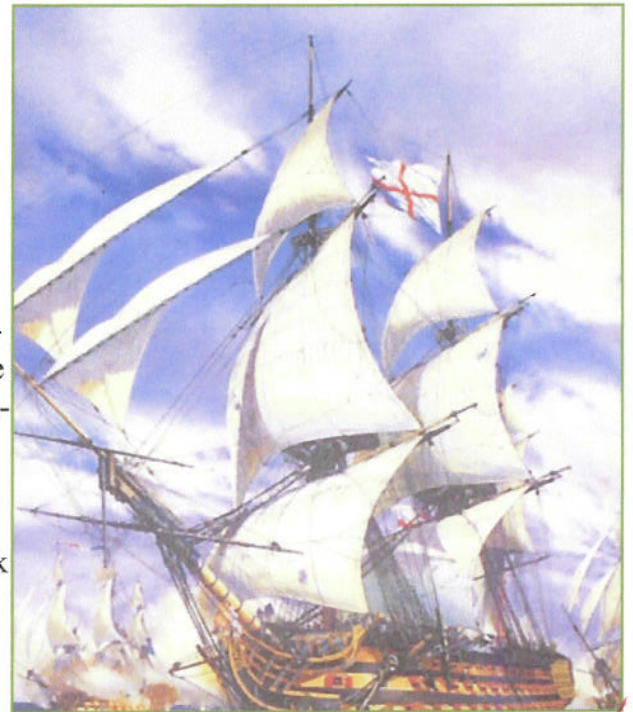
Although the remains of HMS Victory were found in international waters, as a military wreck, any gold recovered will be the property of the British government. This is only fair, considering the tremendous loss the British government

suffered.

Greg Stemm, chief executive officer of Florida-based Odyssey Marine Exploration, said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had given the company access and permission to go back down to the wreck to try to find the treasure. The company received permission to proceed from the British government on Monday. Odyssey Marine Exploration's personnel were very satisfied with the find and appraised the total value at over \$400 million euros.

Greg Stemm said he was in counsel with the MoD and would expect to be rewarded for the find. The MoD said in a statement on Tuesday that they will ensure Stemm is treated fairly to prevent any law suits.

"The money is not as impor-



HMS Victory

Photo courtesy Royal Navy

tant as the cultural and historical significance of the discovery," Mr Stemm said.

"It is a monumental event, not only for Odyssey but for the world. It is probably the most significant shipwreck find to date.

"HMS Victory was the mightiest vessel of the 18th Century and the eclectic mix of guns we found on the site will prove essential in further refining our understanding of naval weaponry used during the era."



Cowboy Dave's Dude Ranch

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March 28, 2009

Mr. Steve Brower
3636 Summer Hill Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Dear Mr. Brower:

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Sincerely,

David Dillion
Owner/Operator

dnp
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