

## Finnish divers find a Russian WWII submarine in front of Porkkala

***The finding of previously missing Soviet submarine Sch-311 Kumzha (Trout) confirms, that it was the only Russian submarine sunk by Finnish Air Force during World War II. The boat is located in the Gulf of Finland, in front of Porkkala.***

### History

The Finnish listening station on Kallbåda records under water explosions 14<sup>th</sup> October 1942. Lieutenant **Erkki Palosuo's** Tupolev SB-10 naval bomber is soon sent to find the cause.

Meanwhile on the Gulf of Finland, a Soviet submarine crew is working desperately. Their boat has hit German anti-submarine mines. The explosions have not been powerful enough to sink the submersible, but they have caused considerable damage. The boat is totally exposed.

Palosuo's bomber reaches the area. Machine gunner **Kalle Ahvensalmi** soon spots a submarine, which is making an emergency dive. Palosuo drops the depth charges, presumably sinking the submersible.

### Today, 70 years after the incident

A Finnish diver **Mikhail Ivanov**, a member of the Divers of the Dark dive team, has years of detailed naval history research behind him. He has located numerous ships and submarines. His latest discovery, this time as a part of a Russian search team, was the 19<sup>th</sup> century battleship Lefort in front of Hogland.

With the help of Russian archives and historian **Miroslav Morozov**, Ivanov located an unidentified submarine during the spring of 2012.

"When dived to the submarine, we quickly identified it as Sch-311 Kumzha. By what we saw, we could picture the last moments of the ship. German antisubmarine mine(s) had damaged the ship's light hull and forced crew to surface the boat, during the daylight and in the middle of a minefield. This was when Palosuo attacked", Ivanov summarizes his finding.

*"Finnish Air Force claims dozen victories against Soviet submarines. Now that archives data is available in Russia, we have checked all claims. It turned out that Kumzha is actually the only submarine sunk by Finnish pilots. It is clear that Palosuo's depth charges hit the target."*

"The main hatch is torn open by depth charge explosion. The shockwave by anti-submarine mines has forced the torpedo tubes open. The details reveal that up to the last second crew was trying to stabilize the submarine and save it", Ivanov continues.

Kumzha was one of the most successful Soviet submarines during the Winter War. It earned the highest military recognition available at the time, the Order of the Red Banner. The submarine was on its way from Kronstadt to its area of operation, between the islands of Gotland and Öland.

There are still over 20 Soviet submarines missing at Baltic Sea.

### More information

Under water photos and video available for publication at [www.diversofthedark.com](http://www.diversofthedark.com), including 15 minute webisode covering the story of Sch-311 Kumzha in detail.

Antti Apunen, 041 449 7250, antti.apunen@ediste.fi

Janne Suhonen, 050 538 7885, foto@jannesuhonen.net



**Divers of the Dark** is a Finnish dive team which is specialized in underwater documentary. The members of the team are Antti Apunen, Jarmo Kuusinen, Mikhail Ivanov, Pasi Lahtinen, Veli Elomaa, Sami Paakkarinen, Janne Suhonen and Harri Urho.