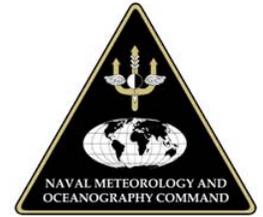




Search for the *Bonhomme Richard*



Search for *Bonhomme Richard* 2010

The U.S. Navy, in conjunction with the Ocean Technology Foundation (OTF), the British Royal Navy, and the French Navy, is participating in a 10-day search for the remains of the Revolutionary War ship *Bonhomme Richard* in mid-September. The Military Sealift Command's oceanographic survey ship USNS *Henson* (T-AGS 63) with an embarked survey detachment from the Naval Oceanographic Office will be the platform for the search off the coast of Flamborough Head, England.

Representatives from, the U.S. Naval Academy, Office of Naval Research, and the Naval History and Heritage Command also will conduct the search and identification of found artifacts. The team will use state-of-the-art underwater survey technology to map the ocean floor and a free-swimming underwater vehicle to conduct underwater searches. A French Navy mine-hunter with embarked divers will join the search to dive on any artifacts that require closer inspection.

Bonhomme Richard, the ship commanded by U.S. naval hero John Paul Jones, was lost off the coast of England in 1779 after a decisive battle with HMS *Serapis*, during which Jones shouted his famous words "I have not yet begun to fight." Although Jones emerged victorious, his ship was damaged in the battle and sank 36 hours later.

About the Search

Participating U.S. Navy units:

- Military Sealift Command's oceanographic survey ship USNS *Henson* (T-AGS 63)
- Oceanographers from the Naval Oceanographic Office
- Midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy
- Underwater archeologists from the Naval History and Heritage Command
- Members of the Office of Naval Research

Other participants:

- Ocean Technology Foundation
- French Navy mine hunter with embarked divers

Equipment used:

- USNS *Henson*'s towed side-scan sonar
- Naval Oceanographic Office's underwater vehicle, REMUS 600, equipped with side-scan and multibeam sonar
- Office of Naval Research's underwater vehicle REMUS 600 with Buried Mine Identification (BMI). The BMI system consists of an ultra-sensitive laser scalar gradiometer, a side-scan sonar and electro-optical imager.



REMUS 600

- Computer program developed by the faculty of the U.S. Naval Academy that integrates historical data, including weather and tidal information, crew actions and last known position, to establish where the ship might have sunk

Dates of expedition:

- Mid-September

Location:

- Off the coast of Flamborough Head, England, in the western part of the North Sea



USNS *Henson*

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Key Links

- Ocean Technology Foundation *Bonhomme Richard* Project
<http://www.oceantechnology.org/BHR.htm>
- Naval History and Heritage Command Underwater Archeology Branch
<http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg12.htm>
- USNS Henson (T-AGS) 63
<http://www.msc.navy.mil/inventory/ships.asp?ship=103&type=OceanographicSurveyShip>
- Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command
<http://www.public.navy.mil/usff/cnmoc>
- Naval Oceanographic Office
http://www.public.navy.mil/usff/cnmoc/Pages/navo_home1.aspx
- Office of Naval Research
<http://www.onr.navy.mil/>



REMUS 600