

SUBJECT TITLE: ABERLADY BAY MIDGET SUBMARINES

and Kilspindie herring boat remains

Subjects: (i) 2 XT-Craft moored on the sands as targets for aircraft gunnery practice.
(ii) Frames of 9 fishing boats in the Peffer Burn off Aberlady village.

Chart No: Lat/Long:

734

56⁰ 0'.8 N

02⁰ 52'.3 W (X-craft)

OS 1:50,000 sheet number Grid Ref.:

Sheet 66

NT 459803 (X-craft)

Subject description: Training versions of the miniature submarine that attacked the Tirpitz. They are around 300m apart, with a concrete block roughly halfway between them standing about 1.2m above the sand. Little remains of the Northern most submarine, the more Southerly one is substantially intact. Further up the sands are stumps of posts, remains of wartime glider anti landing poles. Above the beach are some concrete tank obstructions. The area is a nature reserve.

The remains of the fishing boats in the mud of the Peffer Burn at Aberlady village are listed historical monuments. Ballast mounds and well worn frames sticking out of the mud are all that survives.

Approach by sea: The approach to Aberlady Bay is free of off lying dangers but there is a charted obstruction (dries) at the low water mark. The bay is best approached near low water when the concrete block between the submarines is visible. Half buried in the sand and pointing to seaward the silhouettes of the submarines are small. The frames of two wooden vessels lie further to the North and South but are less substantial than the submarine hulls, from a distance looking like rows of posts.

Navigation of the Peffer Burn for the Kilspindie herring boat remains at Aberlady village requires a shoal draft boat and a low water reconnaissance, see the FYCA Pilot Handbook

Directions by land: Half a mile East of Aberlady village on the A198, just before a sharp right hand bend, is the Aberlady Nature Reserve car park. A path leads from here to a wooden causeway over the Peffer Burn. Follow the path and past the small freshwater loch branch off to the left over the saltings for the middle of the bay. Wellies are necessary. Heading slightly to the right of the Burntisland radio mast one will come to the sand and two dark shapes become visible well down the beach. These are the submarines.

Anchoring / Mooring: Anchor in 5-6m to keep one clear of the charted LW obstruction.

Landing: A sea breeze develops on sunny days as the flat lands of East Lothian warm up and complicates getting ashore.

Other local information: Shop and hotels in Aberlady village. .

References / weblinks:

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5. Undersea warfare website:
http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/n87/usw/issue_19/royal_navy2.htm
6. The Frogmen, T.J. Waldron and James Gleeson, Evans Bros Ltd, 1950 and by Pan Books 1954, New Edition 1965.
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