

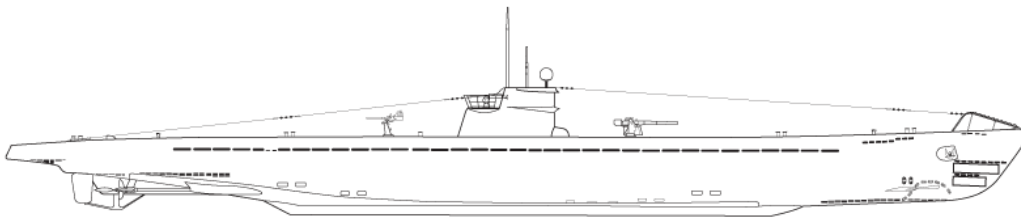


# Wreck Diving U-853 and the SS *Black Point*



Join Sea Ventures in diving the U-853 in June 2010.

The U-853 was a Type IXC/40 U-Boat that has the dubious distinction of being the last U-Boat sunk by hostile action in World War II. Commissioned on the 25th June 1943, the U-853 was already a veteran of a single war patrol to the North Atlantic. Under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Helmut Fromsdorf, she sailed from Stavanger, Norway for her second war patrol on 23rd February 1945. It was one of the last U-Boat patrols to North America to be mounted by the German Navy in World War II. It was to be U-853's last patrol. On the 23rd April 1945, U-853 possibly sank the USS *Eagle* off Portland, ME. On 4th May, Grossadmiral Doenitz, Commander in Chief of the German Navy, issued an order to cease hostilities effective 0800 hours Berlin time the following day. On 5th May, however, instead of ceasing hostilities, U-853 sank the SS *Black Point* off the coast of Rhode Island. Why Fromsdorf did so remains one of the unsolved mysteries of World War II. Within hours, a US Navy hunter-killer group was hot on the U-853's trail. She was sunk with all hands during either the late hours of 5th May or early on 6th May. Today, U-853 lies in roughly 130 fsw. She is the only Type IX U-Boat within recreational diving limits in US waters.



We can take 5 divers on this trip. We will be diving with Atlantis Dive Charters of New London, CT. (<http://www.atlantis.nu>). We will make two dives on the U-853 on 12th June and two dives on the U-853's final victim, the SS *Black Point*, on 13th June. As this is New England, full 7mm wetsuits or drysuits with hood and gloves are required. Visibility is nominally in the 30-foot range. Cost of the charter is for diving only. Tank fills, fuel surcharge and crew tips are additional.

**Required Equipment:** Two tanks (filled); regulator w/alternate air source; buoyancy compensator; weights and weight belt; 7mm wetsuit or drysuit; gloves; hood; submersible pressure gauge; depth gauge; bottom timer or computer; dive tables; knife; certification card(s); logbook; tether-line wreck reel; lift bag; light; safety sausage.

**Recommended Equipment:** redundant air source (pony bottle); sea sick medicine; camera; save-a-dive kit; dry bag; slate; lunch/drinks; sunglasses; sunscreen; hat; dry clothes; towel; redundant light; dive insurance.

You are responsible for your own transportation to the dock and lodging. Divers will be expected to dive both Saturday and Sunday. U-Boat Diving, Wreck Diving, Limited Visibility, and Nitrox training are available through Sea Ventures.

Contact Bill Chadwell to join the fun at [wrcadwell@aol.com](mailto:wrcadwell@aol.com) or call the shop at 703-425-7676 .

**Deadline for signing up is May 15th. Payment due at sign-up. Prices subject to change.**

If a diver cannot make the trip after signing up, every effort will be made to fill that slot.

[www.seaventures-scuba.com](http://www.seaventures-scuba.com)

<b>Diving the U-853 &amp; SS <i>Black Point</i></b>	
<b>Dates:</b>	June 12-13, 2010
<b>Cost: \$270.00</b>	
There will be two dives each day on this charter.	