

Who is your go-to dive buddy?

During a recent trip to French Polynesia I proposed to my now-fiancée Roseanne Keatley! The ring was with me during several dives and the box it was in started to deteriorate. We were at 95 feet (30m) with sharks circling us, I got Roseanne's attention by signalling that I wanted the guide to take a picture of us with the sharks. I handed the guide my camera and signaled Roseanne underwater if she would "be my dive buddy". She was a bit confused at first and started to swim away, thinking I was giving her directions to go to another spot! I stopped her and signaled again. This time revealing the box and opening it to present the ring. Luckily I didn't lose it, although I did nearly lose my Mrs, as she burst into a gasping excitement underwater!

What is your favourite dive site?

During the summer I really enjoy fresh water diving in the lakes and river canyons of Vancouver Island (right). I'm drawn to these locations for the unique photography they present with tadpoles, lily pads, and schools of salmon. During the winter months diving with the stellar sea lions of Hornby Island is another favourite.

Congrats on winning this years Monterey Shootout, what was your approach?

The greatest challenge of the competition are the unknown factors like weather and water clarity. You only get 32 hours to shoot and produce your work. It's very difficult to plan, especially if you are making a video. I like to spend as much time in the water during the first day to be able to piece together a video in the evening. During the second day I focus on photography and pick scenic and hidden positions in the kelp forests and wait for the wildlife to come to me.

Where would you like to dive but haven't?

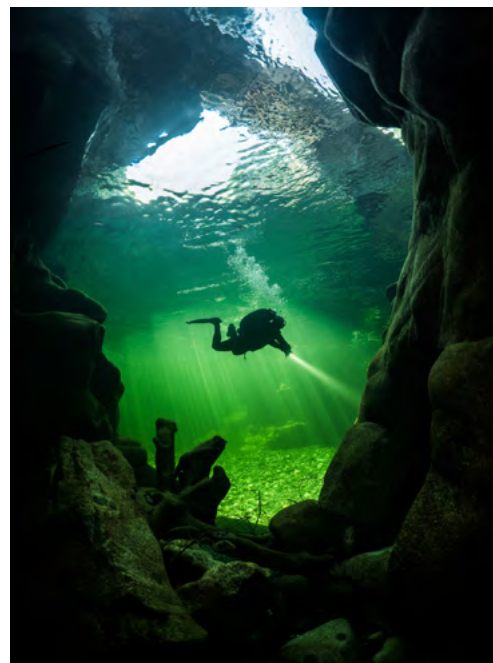
Antarctica is on the top of my list. One day I'd love to get in the water and film penguins and leopard seals -what could be better?!

Craziest thing you've seen underwater?

I was working underwater on a survey and had a pod of Orcas swim by! A large bull came close and I'll never forget the eye contact he made with me.

Favourite diving movie?

It may sound cheesy, but I really enjoyed Into The Blue. What's better than finding treasure underwater? The movie inspired me to purchase my



own underwater metal detector and go hunt for my own treasure chest.

Proudest diving moment or achievement?

Getting offered a position as a Ambassador for the Huish Outdoors Team. As an ambassador for Huish Outdoors I get to test new products for BARE, Hollis, Atomic Aquatics, Oceanic, Stahlsac, Suunto, and Zeagle. Being part of the team has connected me with so many like-minded divers. It's been a dream!

What dive gear do you use?

BARE Sentry Tech Drysuit, Hollis Neotek Semi Dry, Hollis LX200 Regulators. Hollis Elite II



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Harness and Wing, Hollis M1 Mask, Hollis F1 Fin, Suunto EON Steel Computer, Suunto D5 Computer, BARE SB mid layer thermals

What camera gear do you use?

RED Komodo x 2, Nauticam RED Komodo housing, Canon lenses for RED Komodo, Panasonic GH5 and GH5s, Aquatica AGH5 housing x 2, Light & Motion Sola Video Pro lights

www.maxwelhohn.com

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com

www.uwpmag.com

My Shot

by Steve Jones

Text by Peter Rowlands

The definition of a twist of fate is “A highly unexpected or coincidental event, especially one that has an important or far-reaching influence on the future”. This fateful story dates back to 1944 but really started in 2017 and has recently come to fruition four years later.

I am one of the three judges of the Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition along with Alex Mustard and Martin Edge and in early 2017 we met to judge the UPY 2017 entries. The images this particular year were of an extremely high standard; especially in the wreck category. This particular shot by Steve Jones was, believe it or not, in 11th position as we went into the final round of judging. I so liked this shot that I pushed to have it promoted and eventually persuaded the other judges that it should move up to 10th place.

Once promoted this shot was in the winners enclosure and included in the press pack which was sent out to hundreds of publications and websites worldwide. Had it remained in 11th place, the following events would almost certainly never have happened.

The shot in question is an American B17 bomber which was

hit by flack in 1944 and made an emergency landing over water near the island of Vis, Croatia. US Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau was the co-pilot and was killed during the attack and whilst the remaining crew had time to escape they were not able to rescue the fallen co-pilot and he went down with the plane into 70 metres of water.

The wreck of the B17 was rediscovered by divers in 2001 and Steve Jones took this shot and entered it into UPY 2017.

Shortly after the results were announced and the UPY Yearbook released for downloading I received an e mail from the deceased airman’s nephew, Robert Vienneau who had seen Steve’s shot in the worldwide publicity. Steve Jones was also contacted by Ernest’s great niece, Chelsea Carbonell. Until that point the Vienneau family were not aware that Ernest’s aircraft had been discovered years earlier in 70 metres of water near the island of Vis, Croatia.

Steve put the family in contact with Croatian historian and author Danijel Frka who was not only amongst the first to have dived the wreck back in 2001 but had since



Steve Jones entered this shot of the B17 bomber into UPY 2017.

carried out the vital research and actually met some of the surviving crew members in the years that followed. Danijel and the family were able to share their historical knowledge of Ernest’s life and the events that led to his tragic death at the young age of 25. The whole group have remained in regular contact since as the journey continued towards this incredible conclusion.

As a result of these contacts the remains of the co-pilot have been recovered by a specialist team led by archaeologist Dr Brendan Foley of Lund University, Sweden.

“It was an honor to participate in this recovery mission. We hope it has brought some closure to the family of this fallen service member”, says Brendan Foley, archaeology researcher at Lund University in Sweden.

https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/article/lund-marine-archaeologist-leads-wwii-pilot-recovery?fbclid=IwAR3o4dTPipwLXkfbP7lm9tDNeT7u0Fxb4njfQafHOXoWZScZ_K8T5JrTgJw



The recovery mission involved a crew of technical divers and archaeologists diving 70 meters, or 230 feet, to reach the wreck. This meant that the team only had 25 minutes at the site, as they needed two hours of decompression to perform the dive safely. In addition, the work that had to be completed in that time was technically challenging.

“We had to worm our way into the jagged metal of the wrecked aircraft, with wiring harnesses, parachute shrouds and risers all around us. We then had to excavate in zero visibility, because we stirred up the sediment”, says Brendan Foley.

Vienneau was buried in Oct. 9, 2021, in his hometown of Millinocket, Maine. His name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Florence American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Impruneta, Italy, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to



indicate he has been accounted for.

DPAA is grateful to the Croatian divers who discovered the underwater crash site, as well as the Croatian Ministries of Veterans Affairs, Culture, and Defense, the Croatian Conservation Institute, the University of Zadar, and the team from Lund University for their steadfast partnership in this successful mission.

For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website.

www.dpaa.mil

Steve Jones
www.millionfish.com

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com



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PERSONNEL PROFILE

Service Member
2D LT ERNEST N VIENNEAU

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Conflict **WORLD WAR II**
Service **UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES**
Status **Accounted For**
Date of Identification **04/16/2021**



On April 16, 2021, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Second Lieutenant Ernest N. Vienneau, missing from World War II.

Second Lieutenant Vienneau entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from Maine and served in the 340th Bombardment Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group. On November 6, 1944, he was the copilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress (serial number 44-6630) carrying eleven crew members on a bombing mission over enemy targets in Maribor, Yugoslavia. While over the target, the B-17 was hit by anti-aircraft fire, damaging the plane and killing 2LT Vienneau. The pilot was forced to ditch the damaged aircraft in the Adriatic Sea, roughly half a mile from the island of Vis, Yugoslavia. The remaining ten crew members exited the aircraft after it crash-landed on the water and were rescued by locals. 2LT Vienneau's remains could not be removed from the aircraft before it sank. In the mid to late 1990's, a wreckage site off the coast of Vis, believed to be 2LT Vienneau's B-17, became a popular diving site. In 2005, U.S. personnel were made aware of the wreck, and in April, 2006, they met with a Croatian official who provided the exact location of the plane and confirmed that it had been identified by its tail number. Between September 17 and October 15, 2020, a DPAA research team investigated the site and recovered possible human remains, which were accessioned into a laboratory for testing. The analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established the remains from the crash site as those of 2LT Vienneau.

2d LT ERNEST N VIENNEAU

Unit 340 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON 97 BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

Historical Country of Loss Yugoslavia

Current Country of Loss Croatia

Home of Record ME

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