

UP NEXT



THE FRIGATE ST. THEODORE



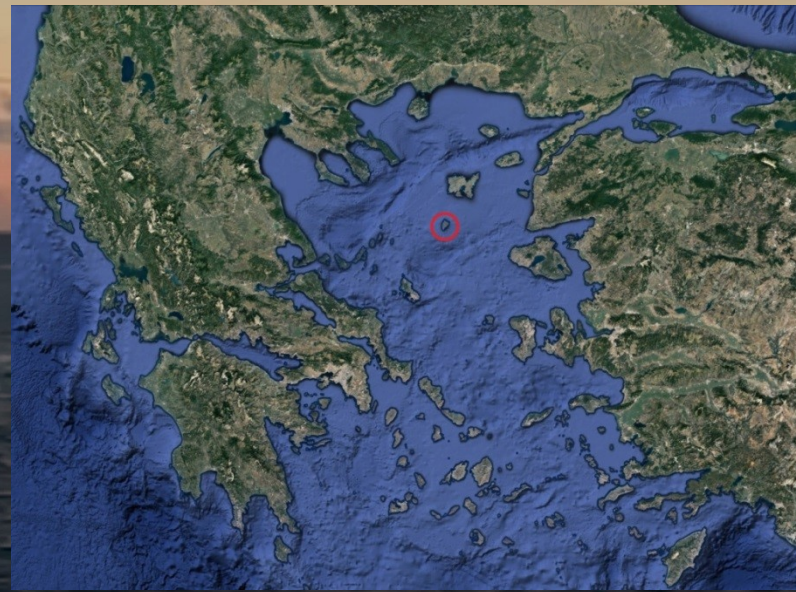
**VALERIA
SHEMYSHEVSKAYA**

**STUDENT AND
MEMBERS STAGE
SUNDAY**

#THATSNAUTICALARCHAEOLOGY

Frigate "St. Theodore"

Project - search of ships of 1-st Archipelago expedition



Russian-Turkish war of 1768-1774

There was one of Russian-Turkish war in 1769.

The Russian Empire goes to the Black sea, but it does not have a fleet there yet.



Map of the Russian-Turkish war of 1768-1774.

1-st Archipelago expedition 1769-1774 years.

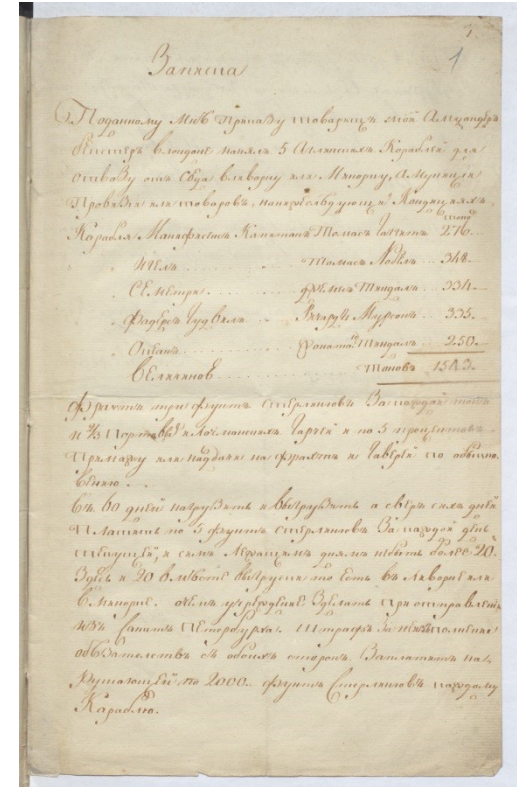


Empress Catherine the Great decides to send warships from the Baltic sea to the Mediterranean to strike at the rear of the Ottoman Empire.



Route of the Russian fleet during the 1st Archipelago expedition.

Great Britain's participation in the expedition



Admirals participating in the 1st Archipelago expedition: squadron commanders John Elphinstone and Samuel Greig

Note from a Russian merchant agent in London about renting 5 ships to deliver food and ammunition to the Mediterranean sea.

1-st Archipelago expedition 1769-1774 years.



**Commander of the
Russian fleet count
Alexey Orlov**

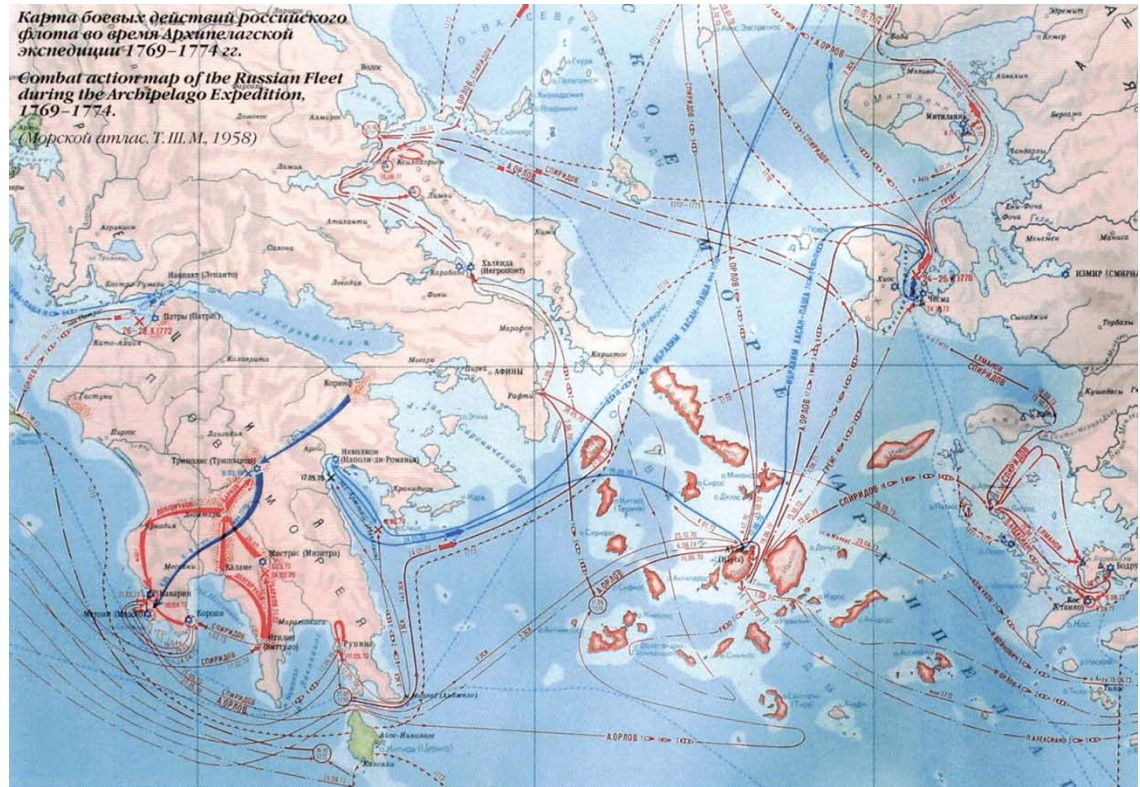


The Plan of the Chesma battle

In 1770, the battle of Chesma took place in the Aegean sea between the Russian and Turkish fleets. The Turkish fleet was completely destroyed.

1-st Archipelago expedition 1769-1774 years.

After the battle of Chesma, the commander of the Russian squadron, count Orlov, decided to take control of the Aegean sea, but he had very few ships for this: 9 battleships, 1 bombardment ship and 3 frigates.



Map of the Russian fleet's operations during the 1-st Archipelago expedition. Red color indicates the Islands occupied by Russian sailors.

Light forces of the 1-st Archipelago expedition

To create a light fleet, count Orlov began to take on service along with their ships, Greek merchants and pirates who expressed a desire to become corsairs in the Russian service. The fastest merchant ships captured from the Turks were also converted into warships.

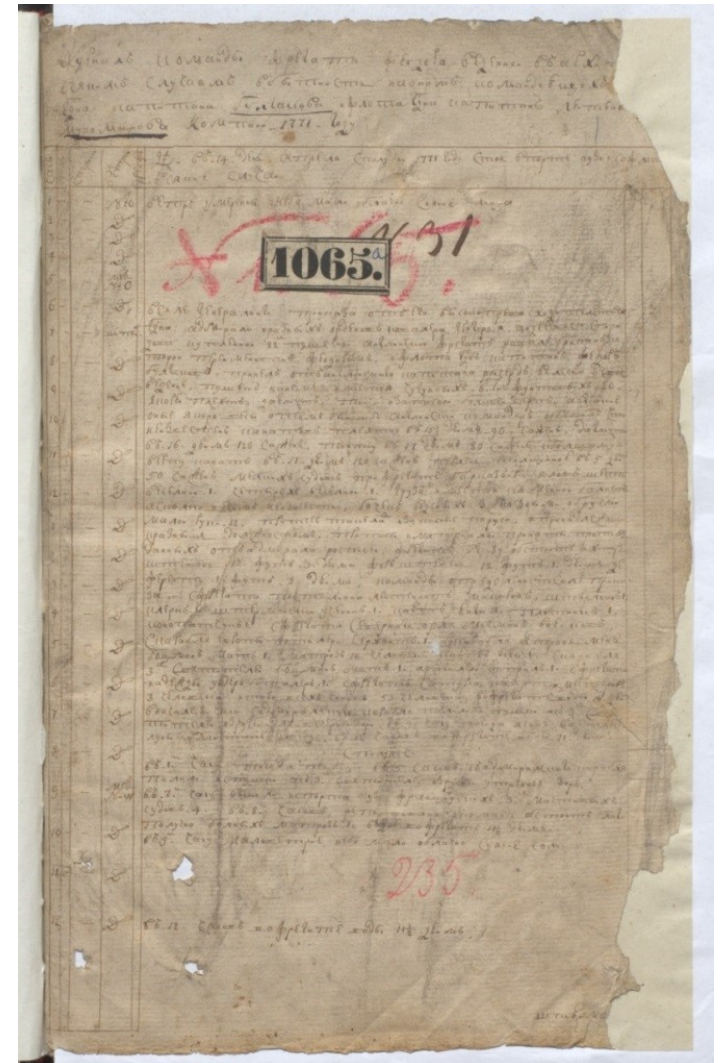


Painting by Jacob Hakkert "a Detachment of Russian ships off the coast of Egypt in search of the Turkish fleet". In fact, the canvas depicts a detachment of Greek corsairs, although under Russian flags.

Ship's log of the frigate " St. Theodore»

Another source of warships was purchases in the the Great Britain.

Ship's logbook begins in April 1771 Russian Navy base in the Archipelago, on the island of Paros. It describes transfer of the frigate by the British captain Richard Wilson to the Russian captain Fyodor Bulgakov. It is further recorded that the frigate is called **Royal Britain** and Fyodor Bulgakov renames it "Saint Theodore". But we did not find a frigate with the name Royal Britain in the lists of the British Navy.



First page of the frigate's logbook "St. Theodore"

Hypothesis № 1. Origin of frigate St. Theodore

The ship's log indicates that the frigate is 22-gun, with 20 cast-iron 6-pounders available.

Most similar to it is the British frigate **Sphinx**, built in 1748 and sold in 1770.

Sphinx was a 24-gun frigate. 20-guns 9-pounder on the sides, 2 of the same in the stern and 2 small 3-pounders on the quarterdeck.

And about this is what 2 small guns on the quarterdeck looked like. After removing those 2 guns, frigate would have looked like 22-gun.

Right: The frigate Sphinx and an example of a light gun on the quarterdeck.



Hypothesis № 2. Origin of frigate St. Theodore

Diagram of the battle in the Strait of Chios during the 1-st Archipelago expedition.

The red line is drawn around armed transport vessels leased in the Great Britain. The number of guns they have: 18, 18 and 22. the "St. Theodore" had 20 guns.



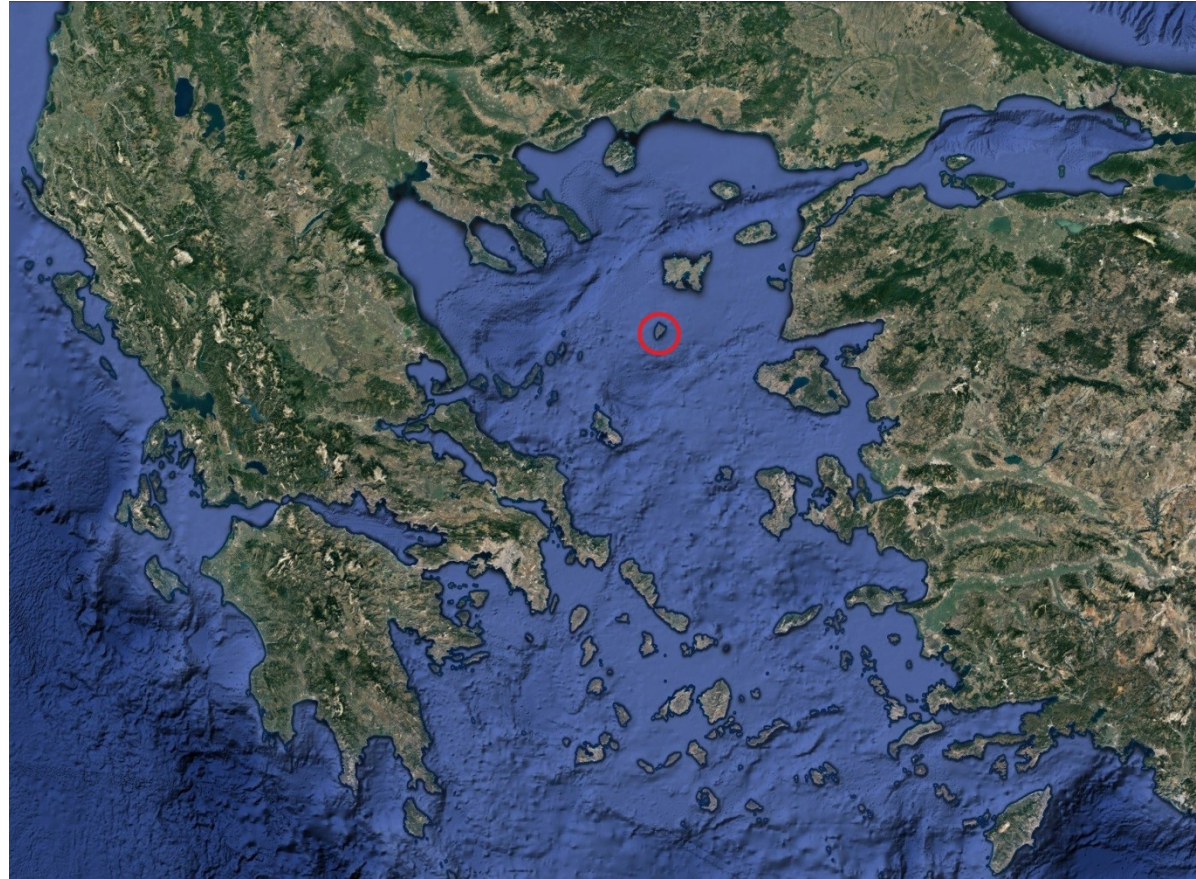
The frigate St. Theodore could have been purchased from great Britain and converted from a cargo ship to a warship.

Frigate St. Theodore

The Frigate was already badly worn out at the time of transfer to the Russian captain. In the ship's log is indicated that there was 20 inches of water in the hold.

During one of the military campaigns, the frigate opened a strong leak.

The crew brought the ship to the island **Agios Efstratios** and there it sank while anchored.



The island Agios Efstratios in the Aegean sea.

The island Agios Efstratios in the Aegean sea.

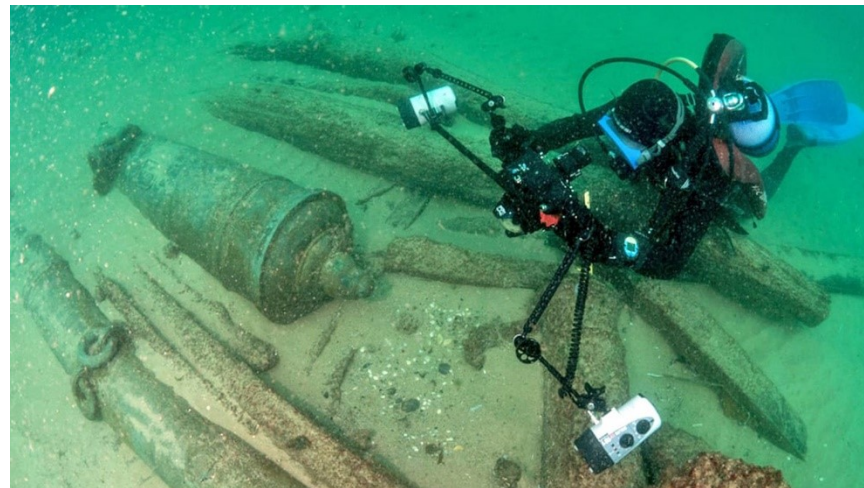


According to the ship's log, we were able to calculate the place of death of the ship. It is close to the coast, at a depth of about 20 sea fathoms (about 37 meters or 120 feet).

Research of shipwreck

If a ship will be found, it is necessary to carry out a full range of research to identify, measure, and fix the remains of the ship. Then, together with Greek specialists, it is necessary to make a decision on the ship's museumification - either partial lifting of individual artifacts or preserving the entire complex "in situ". It is necessary to take into account the issues of conservation of the materials raised and their further transfer to museums.

After carrying out all scientific research, it is possible to organize a dive site that is open to tourists. Creating dive sites on the site of underwater archaeological sites that are accessible to tourists under the guidance of dive guides is a very popular in Greece.



The Crew of frigate St. Theodore

As a result of studying the ship's documents, it turned out that an international crew fought on the St. Theodore.

At the end of the document, it is separately recorded that on Board are a Greek pilot, a hieromonk (probably as a ship's priest) and 5 Greek sailors" from a three-masted Greek ship "sent to "strengthen".

List of the crew of the frigate "St. Theodore". In addition to Russian sailors, including sailors from local residents.

[illegible]

DIVE IN BLUE GROWTH 2021

To discuss with our Greek colleagues the possibility of an archaeological expedition to St. Theodore, we plan to take a part with report at the international scientific conference on underwater archaeology in Athens in may 2021.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

DIVE IN BLUE GROWTH II

13–14th May 2021
*Acropolis Museum,
Athens*

The Conference draws attention to the operation of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites (AUCHS) and their promotion as a means for their sustainable protection.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
– deadline 30th November 2020

More info:
www.medrydive.eu



Thank you !

The authors of the project are a team of underwater archaeologists "Sail and Sea", which is currently working together with the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences on a project of a museum exhibition dedicated to the 1-st Archipelago Expedition. This report is part of a project to create a museum exhibition.

Authors: Valeria Shemushevskaya, Yury Tkachenko, Sergey Khokhlov, Michael Bardashov, Ivan Gorlov, Rolan Sadekov, Ivan Nikolaev.

Speaker: Valeria Shemushevskaya, student of the Higher School of Economics, faculty

www.parusimore.ru