The Polar Ship *Belgica*. Brief history of the ship.

*Kjell-G. Kjær*
The famous ship rest on the bottom of the sea in a fiord in Northern Norway.
Belgica 1884 – 1940 barque 118 feet
Constructed by Johan Christian Jacobsen
Antarctic, Balena, Diana, Scotia (Endurance, Godthaab)
He designed, constructed and built the Patria (Belgica).
**Patria / Belgica in the ice**

- *Patria* built for the Arctic Ocean
- "The bottlenose boom"
  - Price on blubber
  - Price on bottlenose whaling vessels
- 1896 sold to Adrian de Gerlache
  - The *Castor* owned by Chr. Christensen.
  - Ice navigation.

Equipped for an Antarctic expedition
Roald Amundsen signed on as 2. mate.

- Helmer Hansen
  - 2. mate of the Ino
  - North West Passage
  - South Pole party
  - Captain of the Maud

Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen met for the first time on the deck of the Belgica.
Duc d’Orléans purchased the Belgica in 1905.

- Expedition leader
- Captained by Adrian de Gerlache
- Norwegian sealing masters - icepilots
- Co-operation with Bergen Museum Investigation of the sea bottom.
- Sealing and science
- The voyages in 1905-1907 – 1909 public attention.
1916 renamed *Isfjord*

Norwegian railways need coal during WW1
SNSKK purchased *Belgica*

Prime Minister Gunnar Knudsen

Conditions:
*The vessel to Norway*
*Register under new name.*
*To Oslo to collect money*
*Spitsbergen – Northern Norway during WWI.*
Isfjord problem reaching Longyearbyen – problem departure.

Put on a ship yard:

Long dispute between SNSKK – Tromsø Skipsverft
Masts, sails, ice sheating, tools etc sold
Hull and steam engine sold to Kristian Holst, Harstad in 1918.
Renamed *Belgica* in 1918 – a ”new” life.

- A floating fishmonger
- Cod oil production
- Store for fish products
- Freighter
- Coal hulk
- Roald Amundsen saw the ship in Harstad
- 1940 – a floating ammunition depot for the allied forces.
On 19th May 1940 the Belgica disappeared

Sunk by the British? / By the Germans?
Kristian Holst jr. contact with Allied forces.
Kristian Holst sen. – compensation.

1990: "We knew that this was a grand old Lady, an exhausted grand old Lady”.

Holst told us that she was the Belgica