

NEWS

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Startled pearl divers discover wreckage of

Pearl divers off the coast of Indonesia have discovered what could be the greatest archeological find in history — the wreckage of an ancient starship piloted by aliens 4,000 years ago.

A highly unusual salvage operation is underway where the underwater wreckage was sighted.

Teams of frogmen from a maritime salvage company in Jakarta, Indonesia, are at the site of the bizarre find near the remote island of Buru in the Banda Sea.

According to sketchy reports from the Indonesian island, pearl divers discovered the coral-encrusted wreck six weeks ago while harvesting oys-

Ancient UFO found

ters near the town of Leksula, Buru. A typhoon had

passed near the island a week before, churning the ocean bottom and revealing the wreckage.

"Apparently, the divers discovered a place where the coral had been dislodged, uncovering a cylinder-shaped object about 40 feet long with wing-like structures on one end," said Dr. Kenjiro Watanabe, a Japanese archeologist doing field work in Indonesia. "They reported that the object was made of a black metal-like substance and had what appeared to be portholes or windows at the end opposite the wings.

"We have very little information about the wreck because the Buru natives are frightened of it. None of them has been down there since it was discovered."

According to Dr. Watanabe, archeological interest in the strange wreckage was intensi-



THE CALM of this Indonesian island paradise was broken by the underwater discovery of an alien spacecraft.

fied by a relic found near a gaping tear in the craft's right side and brought to the surface by one of the divers.

Watanabe said he has learned through telephone conversations with officials in Lek-

sulu that the relic is an alabaster lion inlaid with gold.

"From the description they gave me, I would say this object is almost certainly of Egyptian workmanship and dates back to about 2600 B.C."

4,000-year-old starship



ocean floor

WRECKAGE of an alien vessel was discovered by divers off the coast of Indonesia. The churning action of a recent typhoon may have helped dislodge the cylinder-shaped craft from its undersea crash site.

Craft may contain untold treasures, says jubilant scientist

Watanabe said, around the time the Great Pyramid was built. "That's just shocking to me — there simply isn't any explanation for how it might have ended up in that wreckage.

"One theory is that the craft may have been some sort of

alien spacecraft that was taking examples of earth art back to its home planet. The craft crashed in the ocean and has been buried under the sea all this time.

"It's a fascinating theory, but there are other explanations. For example, the relic

could be a copy of an Egyptian work, or a stolen Egyptian antique which was being transported to Djakarta where there's a flourishing black market in art objects. The craft might have been an unusual motor launch or something — just a type of boat

that is unfamiliar to the local natives."

Rumors about the unusual wreckage have spread as far as Japan and Hong Kong, Watanabe said, and they have drawn the interest of salvage companies in several countries. A Djakarta firm has es-

tablished rights over the site and is organizing salvage operations, he said.

"They have already sent several men down there and they're finding enough to hush up what's on the sea bottom," Watanabe said.

— SUSAN JIMISON