

TOBERMORYSPANISH GALLEON MAY REVEAL LOST TREASURES

Mull - largest of the Hebrides and its capital Tobermory - became the storylike setting for a real-life "Treasure Island." In the 'George,' naval divers tell budding Long John Silvers of their amazing finds. These leave little doubt that a Spanish treasure ship lies buried in Tobermory Bay. Two naval craft - anchored off the new pier - lead the treasure hunt. By studying the latest Admiralty charts, the Navy has found a way to beat fast-flowing silt which, at first, seemed likely to block all their efforts. Frogmen will use these high-pressure hoses to clear the silt from the buried galleon.

A London diver, Ordinary Seaman Alan Clarke, was first to discover the location of the hidden treasure. Thought to be the Doque de Plencia - a ship identical to this model - the galleon was sunk in Tobermory Bay after the scattering of the Spanish Armada, nearly 400 years ago. Aboard her, says legend, was a three million pound fortune, among it the crown for the coronation of Philip of Spain as King of England. Early finds - among them a sword, a cannon ball and an exquisite candlestick, prove that part of the legend is true. Will they strike rich? The Scots remain sceptical, the Navy optimistic.