



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:  
DannaKay Duggar, Coordinator  
Jacksonville Museum of Military History  
501-241-1943  
[dkduggarmilitarymuseum@centurytel.net](mailto:dkduggarmilitarymuseum@centurytel.net)

**Underwater Treasure Hunter Visits Museum of Military History  
With Valuable Artifacts and Tales of Adventure**

**JACKSONVILLE, Ark. (March 10, 2009)** – Sunken treasure and historic shipwrecks are the stuff of legends, but for Wilf Blum, underwater explorer and president of Deep Blue Marine Inc., it’s all in a days work. The public is invited to view artifacts and hear first-hand accounts of these rare sightings at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History on Thursday, March 19, 2009, during the lecture “Treasure and Tales from the Deep Blue Sea.”

One of Blum’s recent expeditions is of a sunken 18<sup>th</sup> century French gun ship, Le Scipion, which sits off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, 30 feet below the surface. Le Scipion was one of 20 ships sent to America by the French to assist in the War of Independence and was involved in the Chesapeake Bay blockade on August 18, 1781. This conflict is acknowledged by some historians to be the turning point for America in her struggle for independence from the English.

Following many enemy encounters, the ship came to rest in her watery grave on October 18, 1782 after running aground during a battle with two English vessels. Many of the crew lost their lives, but an injured Captain de Grimoard survived to write a full account for the loss of his ship and was promoted to Admiral by the King of France.

Vital information and artifacts have been recovered from Le Scipion by Blum's team, including blue prints and construction history of the ship, five bottles of wine and many of the vessel's cannons. Blum and his team use modern technology to assist in their exploration and salvage of treasure that, in some cases, hasn't been seen for centuries. Many marine wreckage sites have lain undisturbed since their tragic ends and can provide us with a glimpse of what life was like at that particular moment in history.

A contract with the Government of the Dominican Republic allows for the Government to keep fifty percent of the findings from Le Scipion and to purchase the other fifty percent from Deep Blue Marine if desired.

The lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. and the museum opens at 6 p.m. for general viewing. Admission is \$2. Call 501-241-1943 or visit [www.jaxmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.jaxmilitarymuseum.org) for more information.

### **About the Jacksonville Museum of Military History**

The Jacksonville Museum of Military History is a non-profit organization that was created to foster an appreciation for the men and women who served our country and to ensure that the freedoms we enjoy are not taken for granted. It educates the public on the important military and home front roles played by the central Arkansas community and by the men and women of the armed services. The museum is located at 100 Veteran's Circle in Jacksonville, Arkansas.

###