

VISIT to 'WHITE WIFE' at Otterswick - 29.11.07 a.m.

From the B9081 take the Aywick turn off and then the nearby Otterswick/Queyon, road to see the 'White Wife'.



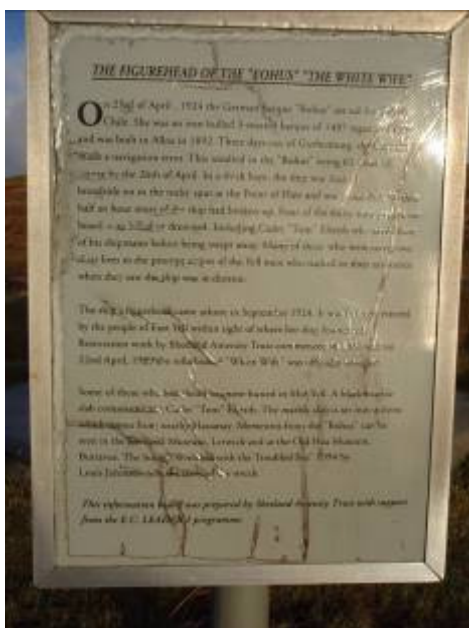
Look out for the clearly marked blue and white sign post and the convenient, easy opening, metal gate. Follow the fence down to the wooden style and way marker post. From here, head down past an old square ruined building towards the sea. The 'White Wife' figure head will soon come into view.



The notice board reads:

THE FIGUREHEAD OF THE "BOHUS" "THE WHITE WIFE"

On 23rd April, 1924 the German barque "Bohus" set sail for Tahal, Chile. She was a 3-masted iron barque of 1487 registered tons and was built in Alloa in 1892. Three days out of Gothenburg, the Captain made a navigation error. This resulted in the "Bohus being



60 miles off course by 26th of April. In a thick haze, the ship was dashed broadside on to the rocky spur at the Point of Hatt and was grounded. Within half an hour most of the ship had broken up. Four of the thirty nine people on board were killed or drowned. Including Cadet “Tom” Eberth who saved four of his shipmates before being swept away. Many of those who were saved owe their lives to the prompt action of the Yell men who rushed to their assistance when they saw the ship was in distress.

The ship’s figurehead came ashore in September, 1924. It was fittingly erected by the people of East Yell within sight of where her ship foundered. Restoration work by Shetland Amenity Trust commenced in 1986 and on 22nd April, 1989 the refurbished “White Wife” was officially unveiled.

Some of those who lost their lives were buried on Mid Yell. A black marble slab commemorates Cadet “Tom” Eberth. The marble slab is set into a stone which comes from nearby Hascosay. Mementos from the “Bohus” can be seen in the Shetland Museum, Lerwick and at the Old Haa Museum, Burravoe. The book, “Wrestlers with the Troubled Sea” 1994 by Louis Johnson tells the story of the wreck.