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A Rolex Sea Dweller by 1200m background

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From my readings to the young deep offshore

By Pol Palacios

(Text and images owned by Pol Palacios except special mention - right)

O o o

Small course of a tight watch amateur

o o o o

Child, I had an impressive collection of *Geo*. I took my first long-distance travel between Ténéré and Vanuatu, among factors and organ factory Beretta, between text and stunning photographs.

In leafing through the magazine, I often m'arrêtais on full-page advertisements, invites magic to a life of adventure traveler and refined. Here a stereo Mitsubishi, is a reflex or Cognac Lavoisier, and most importantly, in front page or at the rear, the renowned Rolex advertisements. I read and read the exploits of Reinhold Messner, Tazieff and divers from the Comex.

I said to myself then, one day, I would watch me also noteworthy adventures around the globe.

One summer, in 1986, in Holland, we were at a friend of my parents, the great Dutch photographer Wim Nordhoek. We were gone we swim, and Wim had forgotten to remove his watch to go swimming. Trempée, stopped, it has given me.

With hope, I asked about a pillar of the fence, in full sun, in the garden behind his home. She never remarqué. Even with a new battery! Disappointed by this fragility, it was there that I learned that a watch could be automatic, and especially take in water. What wonder!

Since then, I have always had a tight watch in sight. Everything began with a Casio, I wanted with an alarm, which cost the prodigious costs 140 francs. After a long wait, I finally have it. Long hours spent user buttons being in the college, the timing anything. Then, what pride of putting it under the tap and the note on the move!

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Horror, what disappointment when I emerged, after a swim in the river, an ominous fog beneath the ice.

Then I sighed long months in front of a shop in the Rue des Abbesses in Paris, before a blue Swatch, shiny and pearly. Long economies have allowed me. I kept for years, with it being my first apnea at the pool, amazed by the miroité his Plexyglas when you look at the flat under water.

Later, with mask and snorkel in Brittany, a second Casio, thin and black, dual display. Purchased \$ 34 in Los Angeles, my wrist worn for 8 years, until he lost his glass, which I still recollé carefully during my first trip to Africa.

A brief Lip Chronograph, bought second hand in a deposit-sale, not sealed for two followed me until I can enter without stairs in watchmaking d'Homme.

I always knew that the real dream was unreasonable since I found the best prices in a jewelry objects of Rouen. In particular, Tissot titanium sitting on his little pedestal, cleverly hiding the label of a microscopic astronomical 4200 Francs.

That, plus one metre left, in the window, I discovered the New World: Jaeger, Baume and Mercier, Breitling and... nominated for wrist Reinhold Messner!

Suddenly, the years students spend. J'oublie watches.

O o o

Passage in the act

o o o o

Soon, I chose my profession at the convergence of my passions, travel and cutting-edge technologies: it will be extreme oil exploration.

A boring winter afternoon Norwegian, strolling on the net, I discovered the site of Bruno, Accro of Tic Tac. I was done.

Damnation! Hypnotized by the beauty of the macros Sea-Dweller. Impressed by the technicality of the watch.

I have in front of me the shows that I need, yet at a distance of my scholarship sidereal then gravitate to a few parsecs's budget quidam.

For me calm, I buy quickly, in Mr Lee, a Seiko, titanium and quartz, has come with me to the funds of prodigious Tuamotus, the Gulf of Siam, or Easter Island.

True and accurate it does not leave me until recent days, when flight between Beijing and Moscow, the needle stops, fault current in a heart-mail. This is the

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drama. I have no more time, after a battery failure. The situation is no longer tenable long.

Al'escale of Sheremetyevo, a showcase full of Royal Oak reminds me of the existence treacherously luxury watch. No Rolex.

I do not want any other since two months ago, I finally tried the Sea Dweller. I almost buy it, not me reasoning that the price of a terrible effort. Since then, I scrutinizes each showcase, Grenada in Chengdu, guettant during fall...

A full day passes in Lille, and nobody can change the battery of Seiko. My plane hand tonight for Angola and I still do not now. Never mind, I said to myself, to the shop at the airport, they will change me this pile. I am going.

The payoff is brief. Terminal F. 21 hours.

"- No, Sir, I can not change the battery.

-- Ah, it's annoying, I do not have the time. I absolutely necessary.

-- In this case, I can offer you a small Swatch...

-- Not ... But if you have a Sea-Dweller, I took him.

-- ...

-- Are you serious? Well, wait. I appeal to terminal C. Yes, it's good.

-- Give the coming time. Thank you. "

I try a patient Aquatimer colorful and Master Compressor Geographic. Very dangerous test, moreover, we'll probably in the coming years.

The Sea-Dweller eventually arise, great lady dressed in velvet.

A sigh of Amex and **JE The IA!**

O o o

To put you in the mouth, a magazine voyageuse

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*All photos that follow just taken **after** hiking oceanic my SD. You can see that she is doing as a charm after the race!*

At the corner of North America, travellers leaving on a veil of Fiji

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NB: For the rest of this post, I deleted photos all references to trademarks or companies, which a few shots here and there buffer.

O o o

A test in the depths of the Gulf of Guinea

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The pamphlet says: Submariners are comfortable to business and the city, while remaining dive watches.

Yes, a Sea-Dweller often resembles an old English explorer enjoying the comforts of his cottage, his destiny of brilliant adventurer well in shelters spray under asylum protective sleeve of a shirt luxury not scraping as coral, a button jade cufflinks.

I wanted to put myself in context, making it an adventure to live its own.

Clear any snobbery, my *Superlative Chronometer*, beating the second by 1200 m of water, take its true meaning, showing that I did not buy a product marketing

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hackneyed, but a jewel technique.

This is the story of a technical diving off the coast of Angola.

Even before having, I knew it down on a remote controlled robot at the earliest opportunity.

Some caution, however, before you flirt with the limits.

Even if it is given for 1220 meters, it is the fresh water meters or meters of seawater? In fact, at that depth, the difference in density between fresh water and salt water creates a gap of over 4 bar or soft 40 m of water.

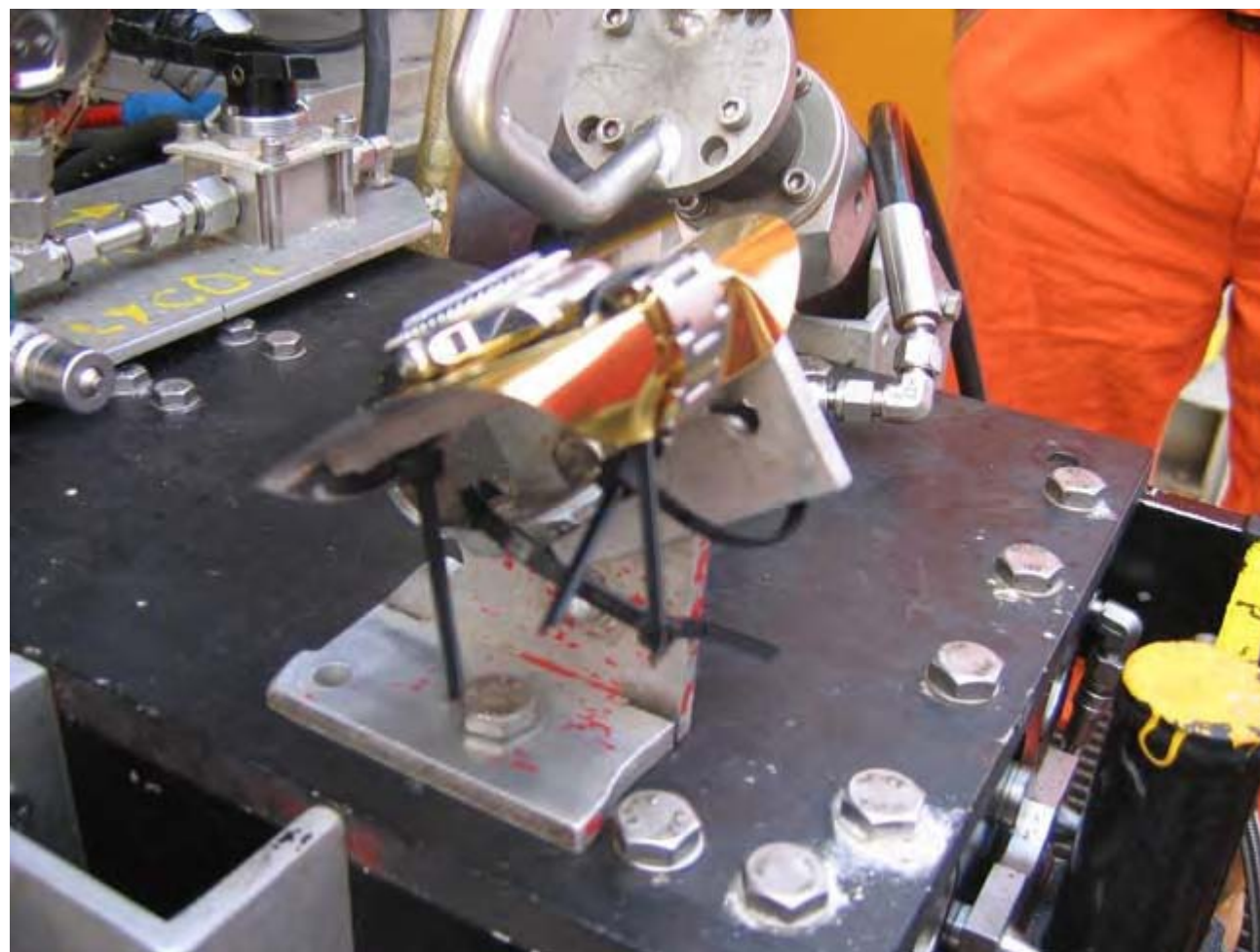
When in doubt awful, I decided to call the factory to learn more about the tests leak. A very gracious Monsieur says that the test pressure of 130 bars in the hyperbaric chamber. I can be quiet for the rest. The test is decided. I still have to wait during a test dive of a tool. Impatience.

On the forum HFR, bets are committed to whether the shows will...

The ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle), the submarine on which it will fall, can be unpredictable, its propellers create strong currents and his arm is very powerful. One false move and it is a disaster. It will be necessary to exercise caution in attaching the clock.

We set ourselves on a small platinum aluminum recovery, through small plastic collars. For security, I double attachments that make the bracelet attached to the robot itself, you never know.

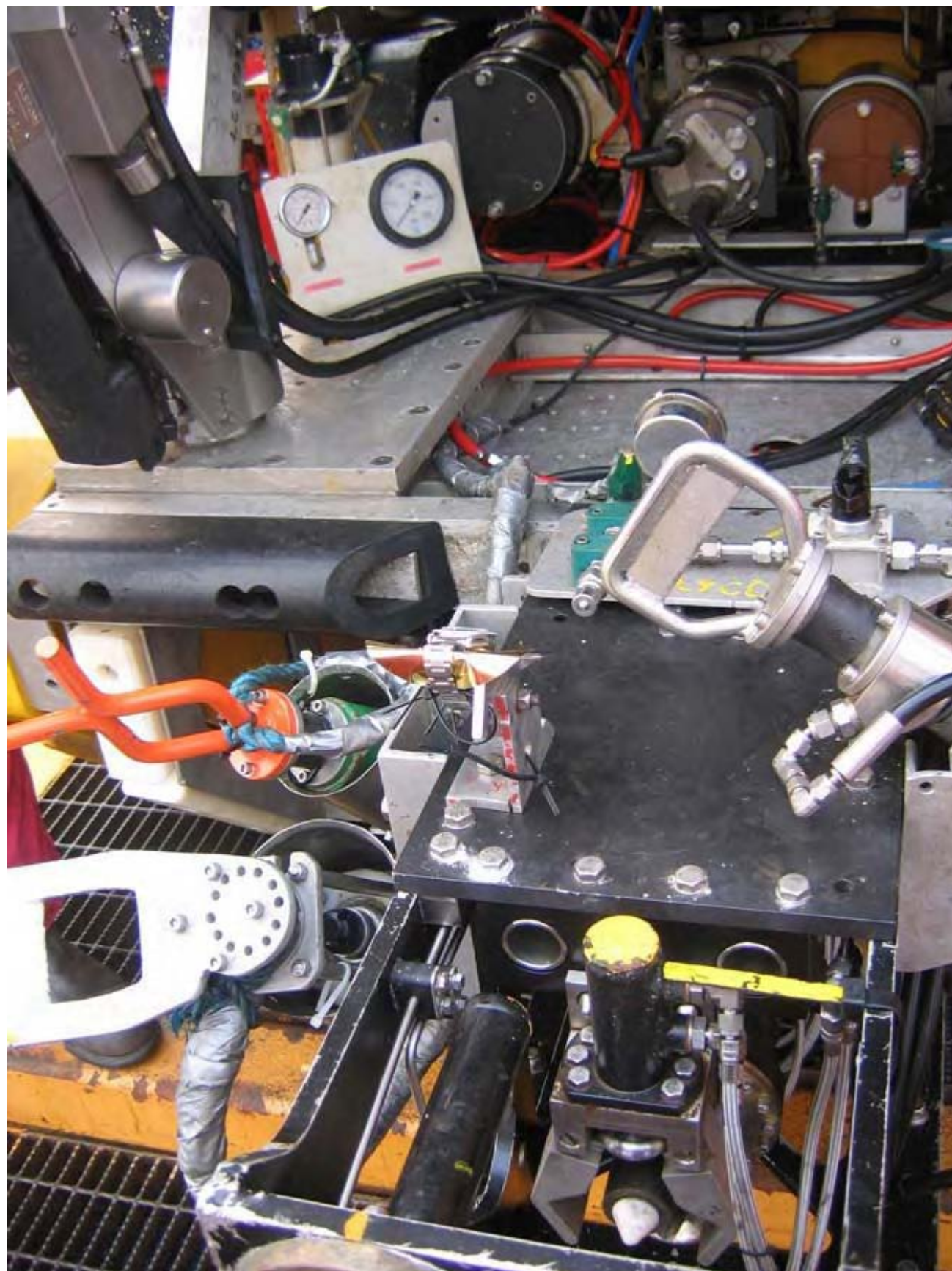
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The set boasts a reassuring impression of robustness. It seems that the assembly takes the road.

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A sticker DVD acts as a golden display. When! It is extreme and rustic, but with class.

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More than attach the commemorative plaque. Done. During the dive, I realize the bourde, mess: The date is wrong for one year! Do not worry, there is the date on the screens. But still... big regret.

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Recent audits. To say that this photograph is perhaps the last! I am confident, but my colleagues are not convinced...

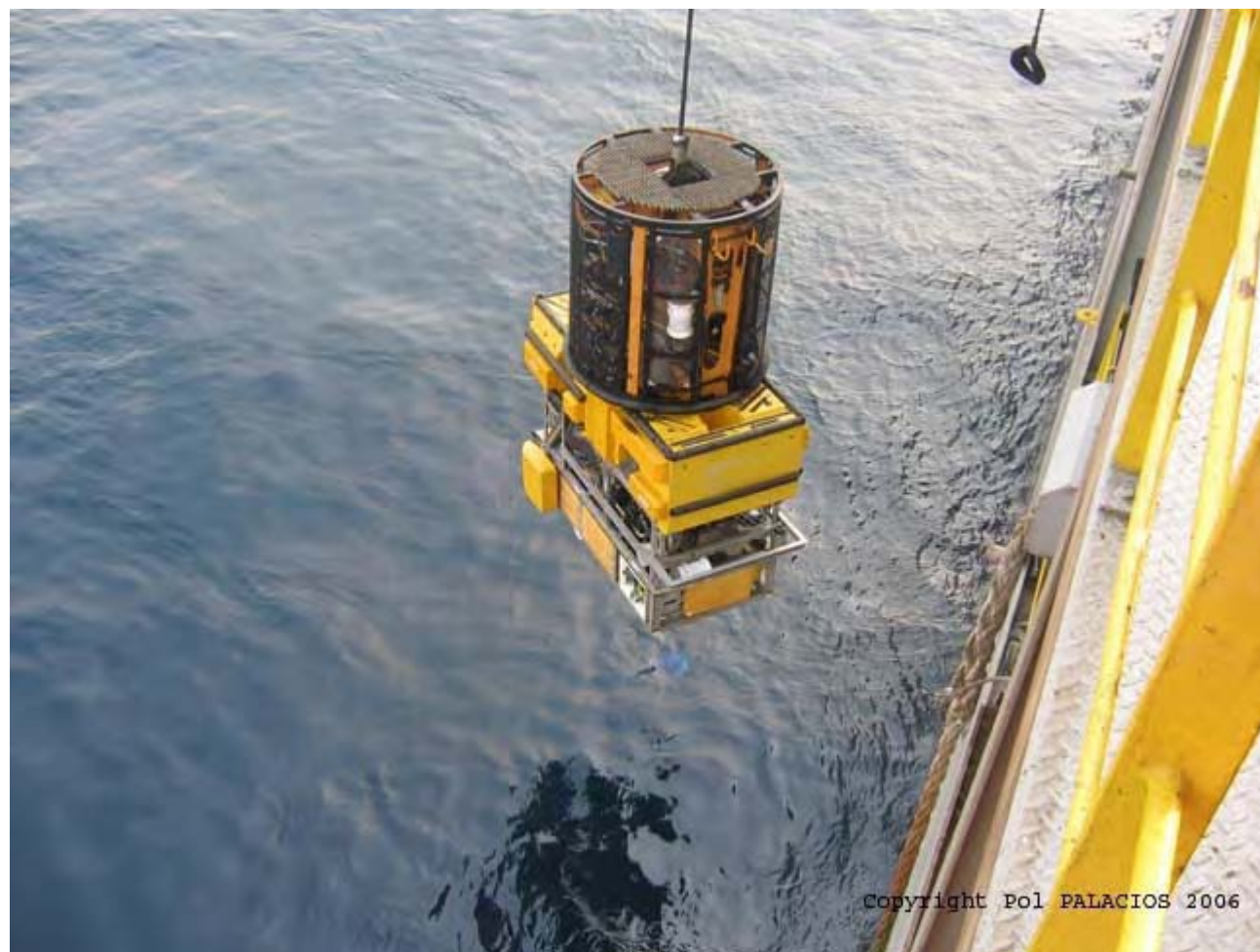
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That's down to starboard, with stops scheduled cautious at 500 and 1000 m.

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Vision technique inside the cabin. Peaceful atmosphere and monitoring of parameters, so far everything is going well, the hand works regularly.

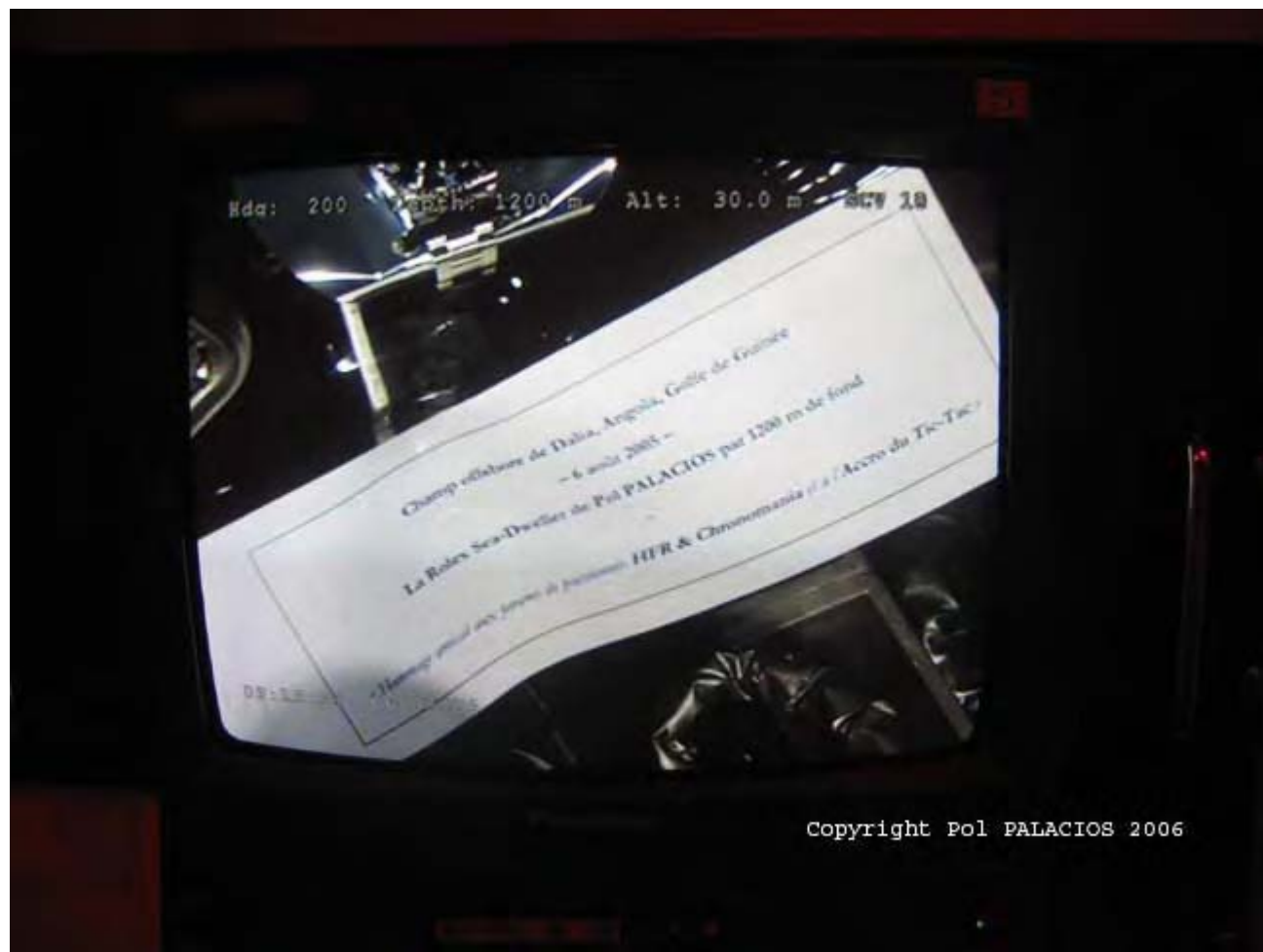
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We are. The time for the development of the camera on the ROV to dedicate this paper to test all enthusiasts.

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The moment is fantastic. The sapphire of ice cash at that time, on its own, a pressure of 122 kg per cm²... a stub-needle raging in full support! We are quiet, the Sea-Dweller is tailored for the worse.

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Let us not forget that we came to work anyway. Sequence cold sweat when the arm is on the verge of shows. That day, a hydraulic problem did lagging. Its power is frightening, to the point of cutting the cables. I do live longer... breath suspended.

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It takes me to check the glow indexes in the black absolute. Extinctions of lights at the rally.

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At the rally, we take the video to a superb bench poisons from behind.
After exiting the water, the clock is still there. Soon in my hands again.

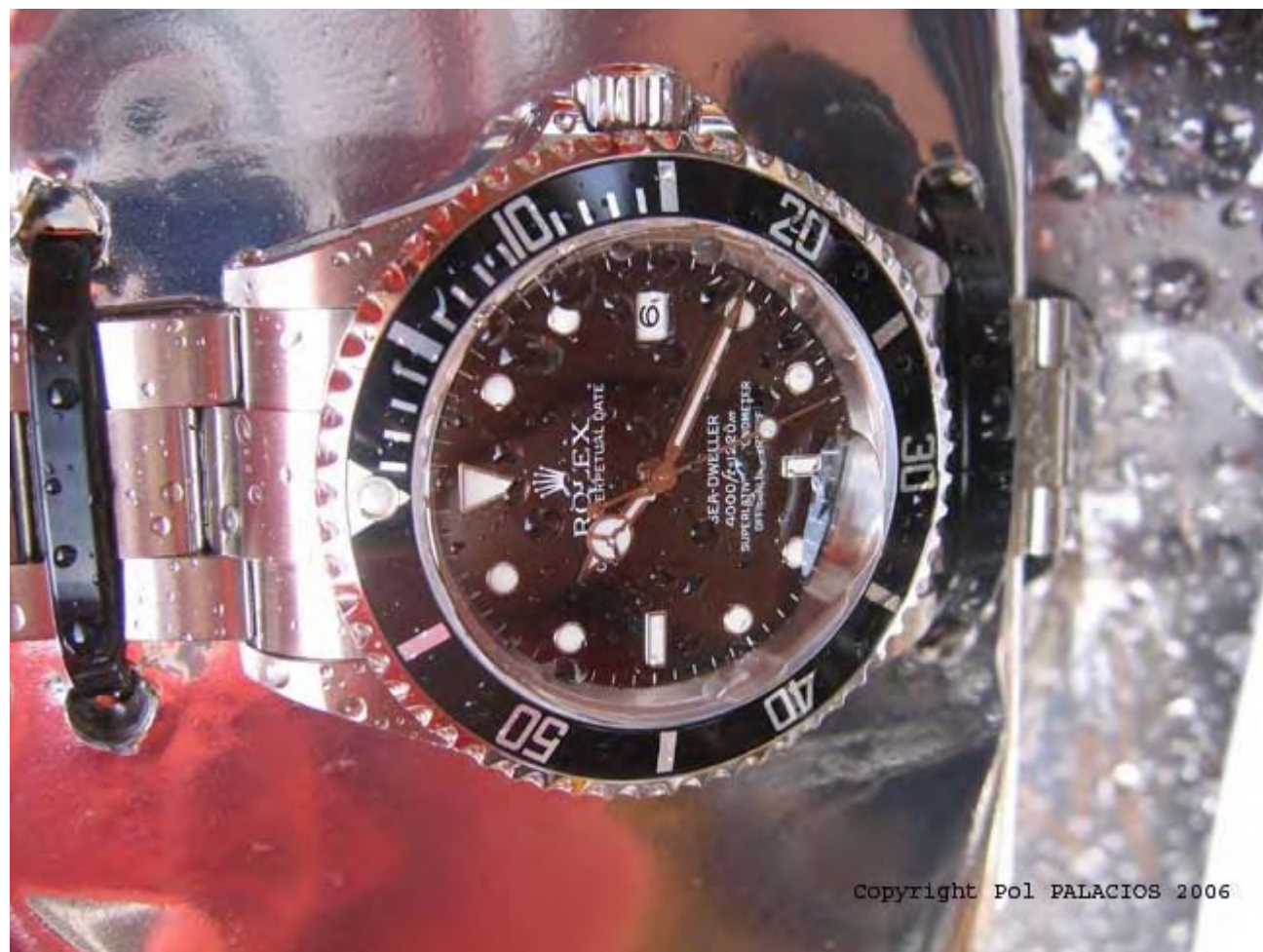
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Intact, it has not moved one iota. First photo in the light of the tropical sun.

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Raking view of the watch, with drops of water on its perlant ice. The crown is fully screwed. Relax. As if they went out of the pool of any 4-star Dubai.

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The small paper friends, too, the trip, is back.

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Frozen, SD dry in the sun after rinsing with fresh water.
Basically, the temperature was 4 ° C. An hour and a half of this trip was cooled to heart. It will be several minutes to warm up to my wrist.

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We are rendered at the end of this journal-trip.

What conclusions drawn from this experience in the field?

Whenever I look, I think the Sea-Dweller is not made by the marketing, but rather that it is she who is marketing. Rare quality for a watch in this category.

So I can wear every day.

Under a combination of work or a worldly cocktail, first class or on foot, tight Champagne as a mud solfatare, every second beat it tells a unique adventure.

I hope you had a good time in the company of this wonderful Rolex diving and wish you much similar pleasures watch.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Pol Palacios - in October 2006.

Note from the host

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Pol has made this experience in the dedicating, among other things, to my site because of the contamination that he had suffered from reading my review of the Sea-Dweller. Je l'ai warmly thanked by the attention because I was very touched.

I wanted to meet the man who had had the courage to subject its Sea-Dweller this test, for which it is cut, but that she had statistically far less likely to suffer.

We lunched of Defense on the day he returned to his oil field in Angola.

We talked about the passion that motivates us, technical details of the odyssey of its SD, fears, moments and joys of the operation, as well as many other things as always when one encounters a chronomaniaque chronomaniaque other.

Broadly speaking, those who watch are numerous in the middle of exploitation... oil at the same time, who questioned? The descriptions of guys leaving for the countries of the oil zone of influence of France (Africa), on Monday night in Roissy, which are glued to the windows of the Royal Quartz terminal Fm'a too recalled the chronomaniaques who find themselves before watch an event, or Saturday, Place Vendome.

For those who still doubt the side of the Sub baroudeuse and other SD, Pol me present a panorama of the tests that are inflicting "pétroleurs" at their watches, there would be enough fuel Every Rolex Tells a Story, if the we were a bit more in the field of heroism than in paris guys with time (24h/24h on the platform or in the barge for several weeks), imagination and equipment ultra hi-tech at their disposal.

Among the crowd of Pol, many people are alumni of the COMEX, with real COMEX wrist. In short, the atmosphere on the PF and barges looks quite cool and there must be good times laugh.

Pol returned the aircraft to its oil fields and its life baroudeur, for which the DS was made. I have immortalized the moment.

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