

# OVERLORD



**Sail No:** 430  
**Launch Date:** 1936  
**Type:** 100 Sqm  
**Owner:** Offshore Cruising Club

<b>Designer:</b>	<i>H Rasmussen</i>	<b>Builder:</b>	<i>Abeking &amp; Rasmussen</i>
<b>Construction:</b>	<i>Carvel</i>	<b>Sail Plan:</b>	<i>Sloop</i>
<b>LOA/LWL:</b>	<i>17.2m / 12.50m</i>	<b>Beam:</b>	<i>3.45m</i>
<b>Draft:</b>	<i>2.3m</i>	<b>Displacement:</b>	<i>18.3 Tonnes</i>

## History

OVERLORD is a 100 Square Metre Seefahrtkreuzer Class yacht built by Abeking & Rasmussen in 1936. Originally "Pelikan" was based in Kiel as a sail training vessel for the Luftwaffe in the Baltic and North Sea and sailed throughout the war years, winning a regatta in the Baltic in 1943. In 1945 she was taken by as a "Windfall" yacht, renamed "OVERLORD", and continued her career providing adventurous sail training. The Army campaigned "OVERLORD" with notable success in RORC series until, in 1961, she was dismasted and put up for sale by The Treasury. Tony Venables bought her unseen, based on the scrap value of her lead keel and re-commissioning her, to sail for a couple of seasons intending to sell her on. Instead, in 1963 Tony set up a members' club to own, maintain and sail her. The Offshore Cruising Club has 220 members, and is affiliated to the RYA; Tony remains its Admiral.

OVERLORD is a fantastic, bluewater cruising yacht with a busy and varied sailing programme, spending 130 to 150 days at sea. Every few years a "back to back" programme is organised to give greater scope for exploration, including the Baltic (as far as Estonia), Scotland, Eire, France, Spain, Portugal, the Mediterranean, North Africa, Adriatic, Aegean, Madeira and the Azores.

OVERLORD has never been restored, in 74 years. During major works carried out in her winter refit she lost her six-berth mahogany and leather interior when converted to 10 berths. Engine fitted, mid-1950s; re-planked below the waterline in 1979; deck replaced in 1982; parts of topsides re-planked (so chainplates could be replaced). 1961 a "cut down" aluminium masthead rig, which was replaced in 2000 by an aluminium rig to the original  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 100 Sqm design.

Membership of the Offshore Cruising Club is open to anyone. Club web site [www.sailoverlord.org.uk](http://www.sailoverlord.org.uk)