

FLANDRES

## REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &amp;c.

No. 24528 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 26/40

Date of writing this report 18th March, 1940

Vessel's Name Steel SS "Flandres" of Antwerp

Tons {Gross 5827  
Net 3634

Built at Bremen When 1914 3

Casualty notice sent to Owner 5/3/40 Owner's reply

Owner's Name Cie Royale Belgo-Argentine (Armement Deppe, 16 ans)

Address 8 &amp; 10, Rue de Bordeaux, Antwerp.

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

Case previously before  
Classing Committee.

Date

## Particulars of Classification.

10091	10,36
1039	BS 10,39
SS 2nd No 3-10,36	TS 10,39CL

Last Minute

Date of Casualty 12th February 1940

Précis of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have sunk following a collision, due to poor visibility, near the Goodwin Fork Buoy. She lies in eight fathoms of water and it is feared there is no prospect of salvage.

(No reply has been received to the casualty notice addressed to the Owners on the 5th instant.)

The Belgian steamer Flandres, of 5827 tons gross, has been beached after having been in collision off the south coast of England with an unnamed vessel. It is stated that the two vessels remained locked together for some time. The Flandres was badly holed and making water fast; all her port side boats were damaged. Her crew were taken off by motor boats and the master and officers later boarded a lifeboat. The Flandres, which is owned by the Soc. Anon. Armement Deppe, of Antwerp, was on a voyage from Antwerp to Montevideo, and had received her clearance papers to proceed from the Downs contraband control base only a short time before the collision occurred.

LL 13/2

## STEAMER BEACHED AFTER COLLISION

With water pouring into a gap made in her side when she came into collision off the South Coast of England with an unknown steamer yesterday, the Belgian steamer Flandres (5,827 tons) was taken in tow and beached just in time. The ship was bound from Antwerp to Montevideo with a cargo of isinglass. For some time both vessels were locked together. The Flandres's port-side boats were all damaged and her wireless installation was wrecked, but all her crew of 45 were rescued uninjured by motor-boats skilfully manoeuvred beside the ship to enable them to jump in.

Times  
13/2

## CREW LEAP FROM SINKING SHIP

## BOATS' DARING RESCUE

The Belgian steamer Flandres, 5,827 tons, was rammed by an unknown ship early yesterday morning and now lies submerged in eight fathoms of water off the south-east coast.

All the crew of 45 were saved but many had remarkable escapes before being landed by motor-boats from the shore.

By clever manoeuvring these motor-boats were driven past the wallowing hull and every time a boat passed two or three men jumped to safety. This manoeuvre was repeated until the captain and his officers of the Flandres saw all their men safely off the ship.

It was at first thought that the Flandres could be towed ashore and for this reason the captain and some of the ship's officers remained on board while a lifeboat stood by in case of need. But the steamer foundered before salvage tugs could reach her.

"I had to persuade the captain and officers to leave the ship," said the lifeboat coxswain, "as it was foolhardy for them to remain. Hatches were bursting and great pieces of timber and cases of cargo were being shot to the surface and might have holed the lifeboat."

The Flandres was in collision shortly after leaving the Downs contraband control base while bound from Antwerp to Monte Video with isinglass.

Tel 13/2

RETAINED

WB No 166  
SECTION 3

Suggested Record

Sunk by collision 240

Date of Committee

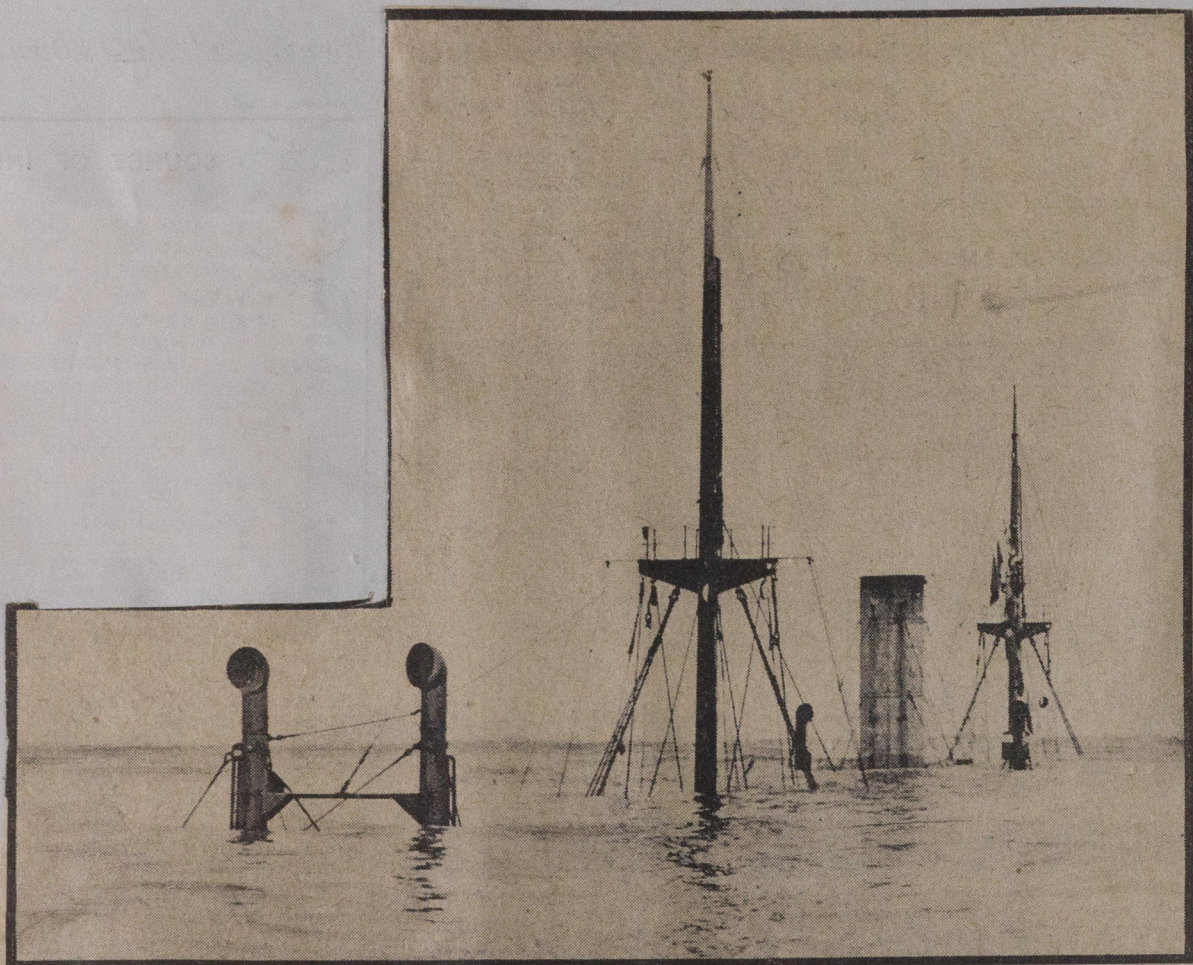
TUE. 19 MAR 1940

Committee's Minute

Sunk by collision 240



NC 13/2



## Wrecked Crew Jump To Passing Boats

**C**HANNEL motor-boat men risked their lives yesterday to save the crew of the holed Belgian steamer Flandres (5,827 tons).

They daringly manœuvred the boats time after time along the wallowing hull as the ship was towed towards the shore. Each time a boat passed two or three of the crew jumped to safety.

Others got away in the ship's boats and were towed in by a lifeboat.

The Flandres was in collision with an unknown vessel shortly after leaving the Downs contra-band control base while bound from Antwerp to Montevideo.

### HUGE GAP IN SIDE

A huge gap was torn in her side through which the water poured. Her port side boats were all damaged and her wireless wrecked.

The Flandres was beached, but the ship's officers remained on board with a lifeboat standing by.

Eventually the lifeboat coxswain persuaded them to leave.

"It was foolhardy for them to remain," the coxswain said. "Hatches

were bursting and large bulks of timber and cases of cargo were being shot to the surface and might have holed the lifeboat at any moment."

The ship now lies submerged in eight fathoms. Nothing can be seen of her as she rests on the sea-bed except her stern, funnel and masts.