



# HMS Vala (Q8)

## 1. Details

### General

Nationality: British  
Purpose: Transport  
Type: Patrol boat  
Subtype/class: Q-ship  
Propulsion: Steam  
Date built: 1894  
Is nickname: No



### Details

Tonnage: 1016 grt  
Dimensions: 65.8 x 9.8 x 4.3 (m)  
Material: Steel  
Engine: 1 x 2 cyl. compound steam engine, single shaft, 1 screw  
Power: 98 n.h.p. (nominal horsepower)  
Yard no.: 122  
IMO/Off. no.: 90911

### About the loss

Cause lost: Torpedo  
Date lost: 20/08/1917  
Casualties: † max.43 rank: 674

### About people

Captain: Leopold Arthur Bernays  
Last owner: [1]  British Royal Navy - Admiralty - RN, London  
HMS Vala (Q8) (+1917)  
period 1915 ~ 1917  
IMO/Off. no.: 90911  
Prev. owners: [2]  Salvesen J. T. & Co., Grangemouth  
SS Vala  
period 1894 ~ 1915

Builder:  Ramage & Ferguson Ltd., Leith

Engine by:  Ramage & Ferguson Ltd., Leith

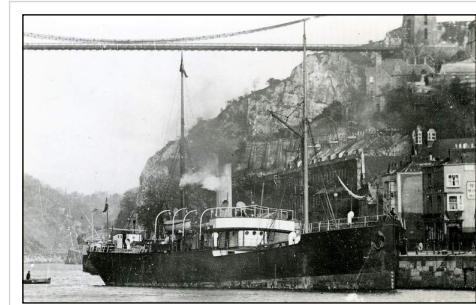
### About the wreck

### References

References: [1] Lloyd's of London, Lloyd's Register of Casualty Returns  
[2] Clydeships.co.uk

### Updates

Entered by: Allen Tony †, 01/09/2007  
Last update:  
Source: <https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?13517>



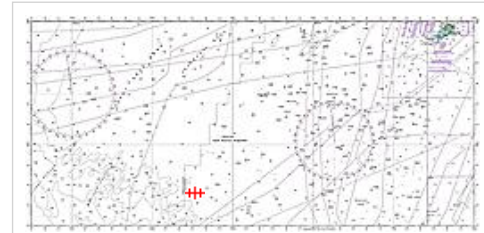
Ref: Bomans, Robert J. collection

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by: Vleggeert Nico, 30/03/2020

## 2. Position

Latitude: 48°37'N  
Longitude: 09°28'W  
Last update: Jan Lettens, 11/12/2011  
References: KTB - Kriegstagebuch



This is a thumbnail version of the chart King Arthur Canyon - Isles of Scilly.  
© UK Hydrographic Office  
by: Jan Lettens, 30/04/2016

## 3. History

Vala, built by Ramage & Ferguson, Ltd., Leith in 1894 and operated at the time of her loss by Royal Navy, was a British Q-ship of 1.016 tons. She was originally a cargo ship owned by J. T. Salvesen, Grangemouth.

On August 20th, 1917, Vala was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UB-54 (Egon von Werner), 120 miles southwest of Scilly Island. Most of the crew survived the double torpedo attack and went into the boats, but nothing was ever heard of them. 43 persons were lost.

Last update: Jan Lettens, 11/12/2011

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ADAMS WILLIAM J. C.P.O. 189087  
ATHERTON JAMES A.B. J 41809  
BEER ALBERT E. P.O. 193877  
BERNAYS LEOPOLD A. CDR  
BURNS JOHN TY/ENGINEER LT, RNR  
CAPEWELL BRIAN H. SHIP'S STEWARD'S ASST M 15985  
CHARLES RAYNOR H.L. A.B. J 47206  
CHURCH JOHN J. A.B. (RFR B 2312) 178787  
CLARK DAVID L/STOKER K 6744  
COLES VYVIAN H. PAYMASTER, RNR  
CULLEN THOMAS M. E.R.A., RNR E B 379  
DUDDY CHARLES A.B. J 47698  
DUNHAM WILLIAM J. A.B. J 47904  
EVANS EVAN J. STOKER, RNR T 2901  
FOOTT JAMES A. CARPENTER'S CREW M 15887  
FULL GEORGE J. PAINTER 2c M 3112  
GRAY SAMUEL TY/LT , RNR  
HALFYARD WALTER H. A.B. (RFR B 4083) 197331  
HARRIS RICHARD H. P.O. 213377  
HODGES LAWRENCE J.A. A.B. J 28634  
HOY THOMAS STOKER, RNR S 1561  
HURRELL PERCY H. SIGNALMAN, RNVR Z P 1237  
JOHNSON HENRY TY/LT, RNR  
JORDAN WILLIAM H. A.B. 224463  
KENDRICK DAVID J. OFFICER'S COOK 2c L 9688  
LANG WILLIAM G. COOK'S MATE M 11881  
LIGGITT ROBERT STOKER, RNR S 3957

LOWER LEONARD D. L/SEAMAN, RNR A 3190  
MANGER ALFRED O/TELEGRAPHIST J 41168  
PHENNA EDWARD STOKER P.O., RNR U 1504  
PYNE GEORGE R. A.B. SS 6408  
PYNE HARRY OFFICER'S STEWARD 3c L 9177  
RADFORD ALFRED S. L/SEAMAN J 4513  
RENNIE MARK N. TY/LT, RNR  
SAMBELLS BENJAMIN E.R.A. 1c 269327  
SCOTT ROBERT G. A.B. (RFR B 2569) SS 363  
SLATER FRED TELEGRAPHIST J 36567  
STEPHENSON ALEXANDER STOKER, RNR T 3021  
THOMPSON LEONARD O/TELEGRAPHIST J 34769  
THORBURN JAMES OFFICER'S STEWARD 2c L 8297  
VINNICOMBE FREDERICK W. A/P.O. 198783  
WHITE WILLIAM C. A.B. J 17154  
WOOD JOHN B. C.P.O. TELEGRAPHIST 179611  
Last update: Jan Lettens, 11/12/2011

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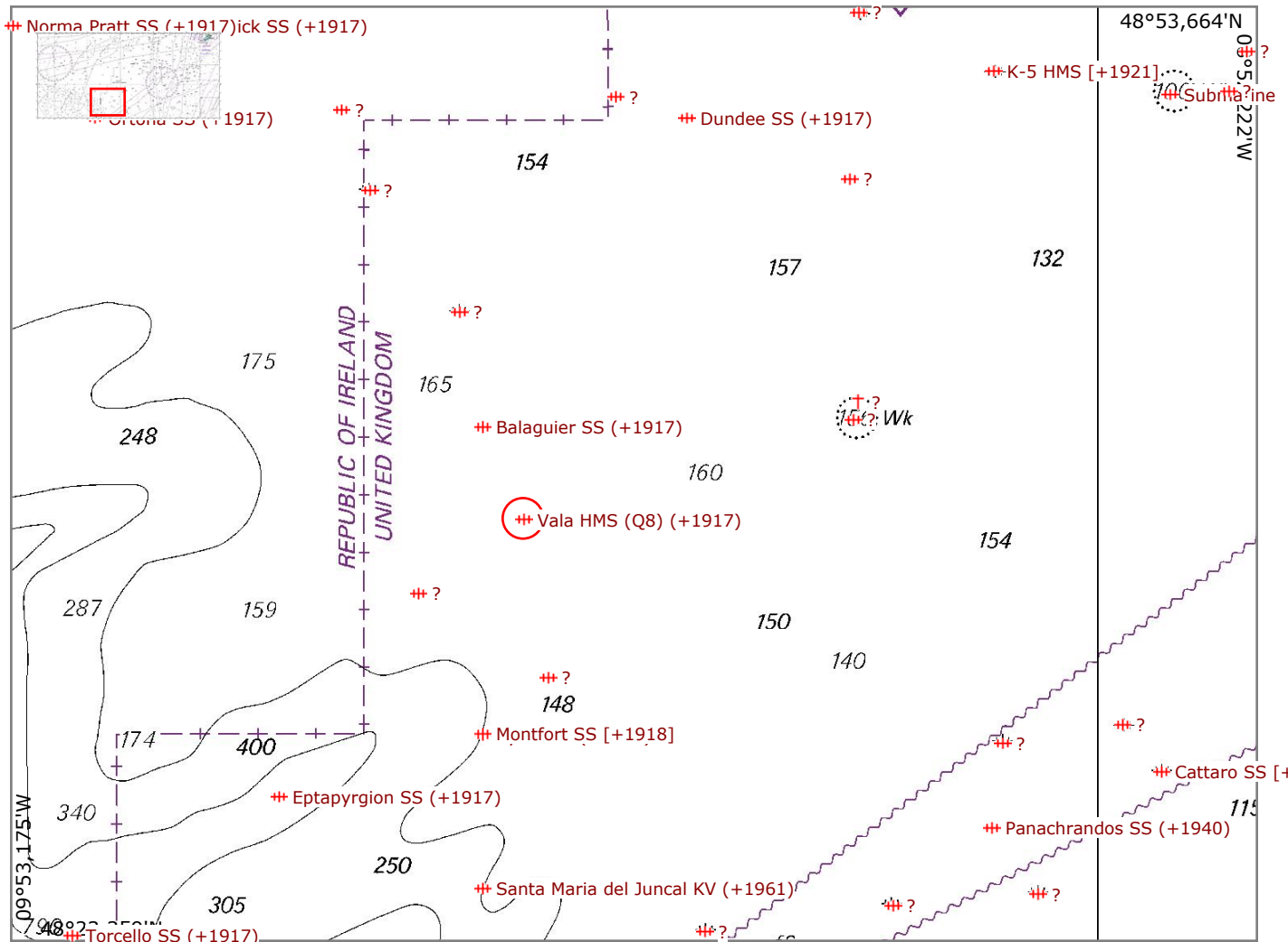
VALA SS was a British Special Service ship of 1,016grt. On the 20th August 1917 when on Government Service she was torpedoed by German submarine UB-54 when 120 miles SW from the Scilly Isles, England. Owned by J. T. Salvesen & Co, Leith.

Last update: Allen Tony †, 01/09/2007

References: H.M.S.O. - His Majesty's Stationary Office, British Vessels lost at Sea WW1

## 4. Chart

### King Arthur Canyon - Isles of Scilly [BA2649\_X]



This map has been derived in part from material obtained from the UK Hydrographic Office with the permission of the UK Hydrographic Office and Her Majesty's Stationery Office and custodian authorities © British Crown Copyright, 2024.

## 5. Crew

ADAMS, WILLIAM JOHN (37), Oberfähnrich (no. 189087), D S M and Bar, Mentioned in Despatches, HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of John Adams. of Exmouth, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

ATHERTON, JAMES (19), Able Seaman (no. J/41809), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Thomas and Susannah Atherton, of 1, Queen St., Sunnybrow, Willington, Co. Durham, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

BEER, ALBERT EDWARD (36), Petty Officer (no. 193877), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Susan Beer, of 2, St. Edmund's Rd., Plainmoor, Victoria Park, Torquay, and the late Richard Beer, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

BERNAYS, LEOPOLD ARTHUR (32), Commander, C M G, D S O, HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of the late Rev. A. E. Bernays, Memorial: Portsmouth Naval Memorial

BURNS, JAMES (42), Engineer Lieutenant, D S C, HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Robert Burns and Jean Wason Burns, of Dalmuir, Dumbartonshire; husband of Elizabeth Wylie Burns, of Standalane, Stewarton, Ayrshire, Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial

CAPEWELL, BRIAN HARVEY (23), Ship's Steward Assistant (no. M/15985), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Brian Charles and Lily Rosina Capewell, of 35, Union Rd., Clapham, London. His brother Frederick Harold also fell, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

CHARLES, RAYNOR HENRY LEONARD (20), Able Seaman (no. J/47206), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Charles, of Aylburton, Lydney, Glos, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

CHURCH, JOHN JAMES (40), Able Seaman (no. 178787), HMS Vala, Royal Fleet Reserve, †21/08/1917, Husband of M. V. Williams (formerly Church), of 12, Brook Rd., Bedminster, Bristol. Served in the South African War. Service: RFR/DEV/B/2312, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

CLARK, DAVID, Leading Stoker (no. K/6744), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

COLES, VYVIAN HARCOURT (25), Paymaster, HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Maj. Lewis Harcourt Coles and Fanny Coles, of Grove Park, Denmark Hill, London. Educated at Dulwich College, Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial

CULLEN, THOMAS MARTIN, Engine Room Artificer (no. 379EB), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

DUDDY, CHARLES (20), Able Seaman (no. J/47698), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Brother of Catherine Duddy Gill, of 8, Shaw St., Greenock, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

DUNHAM, WILLIAM JOHN (21), Able Seaman (no. J/47904), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Thomas and Emily Dunham, of Dennings, Lymptstone, Devon, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

EVANS, EVAN JOHN (33), Stoker (no. 2901T), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Evans, of New Dock, Llanelly; husband of Catherine Ann Evans, of 7, Tin Works Row, New Dock, Llanelly, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

FOOTT, JAMES AUNGER (25), Carpenter's Crew (no. M/15887), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Oliver and Ellen Foott, of Berrio Bridge, North Hill, Launceston, Cornwall, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

FULL, GEORGE JAMES (27), Painter 2nd Class (no. M/3112), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of George James and Mary Emily Full, of 106, Fleet St., Keyham, Devonport; husband of Blanche Alice Savage (formerly Full), Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

GRAY, SAMUEL, Lieutenant, HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Memorial: Portsmouth Naval Memorial

HALFYARD, WALTER HUMPHREYS, Able Seaman (no. 197331), HMS Vala, Royal Fleet Reserve, †21/08/1917, Service: RFR/DEV/B/4083, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

HARRIS, RICHARD HENRY (34), Petty Officer (no. 213377), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of the late Richard Albert Harris, of St. Mawes, Cornwall; husband of Lizzie Harris, of St. Austel Row, Bohilla, St. Mawes, Cornwall, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

HODGES, LAWRENCE JOHN ARDEN (20), Able Seaman (no. J/28634), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Charles Samuel and Margaret Maud Hodges, of High Hurst Cottages, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

HOY, THOMAS, Stoker (no. 1561S), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

HURRELL, PERCY HENRY, Signalman (no. ZP/1237), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, †21/08/1917, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

JOHNSON, HENRY (36), Lieutenant, D S C, HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of James Johnson, of Delting, Shetland; husband of Esther Park Johnson, of 362, Easter Road, Leith, Memorial: Portsmouth Naval Memorial

JORDAN, WILLIAM HENRY (24), Able Seaman (no. 234463), D S M, HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Frederick Charles Jordan, of Rotherhithe, London, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

KENDRICK, DAVID JAMES (33), Officers' Cook 2nd Class (no. L/9688), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of James and Margaret Kendrick, of Llanelly; husband of Eliza Kendrick, of 33, Rope Walk Rd., Llanelly, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

LANG, WILLIAM GEORGE (23), Cook's Mate (no. M/11881), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of William Hext Lang and Jessie Lang; husband of Beatrice Annie Lang, of 22, Hillmans Rd., Newton Abbot, Devon, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

LIGGITT, ROBERT (21), Stoker (no. 39575), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Robert and Norah Liggitt, of 19, Glasgow St., Thornaby-on-Tees, Yorks, Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial

LOWER, LEONARD DILLON (29), Leading Seaman (no. 3190A), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Capt. Charles Tiller Lower and Mary Jane Lower, of Portscatho, Cornwall; husband of Ellen Elizabeth Lower, of 20, Manor Park, Redland, Bristol, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

MANGER, ALFRED (18), Ordinary Telegraphist (no. J/41168), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Thomas and Alice Manger, of 85, Cottesmore Rd., Leicester, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

PHENNA, EDWARD (39), Petty Officer Stoker (no. 1504U), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Frederick Jones Phenna and Ellen Phenna. of Liverpool; husband of Ellen Phenna, of 75, Woodchurch Rd., Birkenhead, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

PYNE, GEORGE RICHARD (19), Able Seaman (no. SS/6408), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Lucy Pyne, of 14, Bath Rd., Exeter, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

PYNE, HARRY (24), Officers' Steward 3rd Class (no. L/9177), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Lucy Pyne, of 14, Bath Rd., Exeter, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

RADFORD, ALFRED SYDNEY, Leading Seaman (no. J/4513), D S M, HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

RENNIE, MARK NORMAN (29), Lieutenant, HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Thomas Edward and Elizabeth Ellen Rennie; husband of Dorothy Rennie, of 5, Highgate, Beverley, Yorks, Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial

SAMBELLS, BENJAMIN (45), Engine Room Artificer 1st Class (no. 269327), D S M, HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Native of Keyham, Devonport. Son of Mrs. C. Sambells, of Sandleford, Saltash, Cornwall, and the late Mr. W. Sambells, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

SCOTT, ROBERT GEORGE (30), Able Seaman (no. SS/363), HMS Vala, Royal Fleet Reserve, †21/08/1917, Son of Robert and Annie M. Scott, of 41, Cranbury Rd., Fulham, London. Service: RFR/DEV/B/2569, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

SLATER, FRED (19), Telegraphist (no. J/36567), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of George and Harriett Slater, of 7, Clare St., Whitehall Rd., New Wortley, Leeds, Yorks, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

STEPHENSON, ALEXANDER, Stoker (no. 3021T), HMS Vala, Royal Naval Reserve, †21/08/1917, Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial

THOMPSON, LEONARD (19), Ordinary Telegraphist (no. J/34769), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of Arthur and Hannah Thompson, of 14, Westbury Terrace, Hunslet, Leeds, Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial

THORBURN, JAMES, Officer's Steward 2nd Class (no. L/8297), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Son of James Thorburn, of Victoria Park, Manchester; husband of Dorothy Swanel (formerly Thorburn), of 18, New Hall Lane, Bolton, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

VINNICOMBE, FREDERICK WILLIAM (35), Petty Officer (no. 198783), D S M, HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Medaille Militaire (France). Son of Charlotte Vinnicombe, of Westwood, Cofton, Starcross, Devon, and the late John Vinnicombe, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

WHITE, WILLIAM CHARLES (20), Able Seaman (no. J/17154), HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Brother of Mrs. Mary Rowe, of 29, Waverly Rd., Freemantle, Southampton, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

WOOD, JOHN BELLETT (39), Chief Petty Officer Telegraphist (no. 179611), D S M, HMS Vala, Royal Navy, †21/08/1917, Husband of Freda K. R. Wood, of 7, Mansard Terrace, Dartmouth, Devon, Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial

## 6. About Owners - About Builders

### **Ramage & Ferguson Ltd.**

Makes iron ships and 1st launch is in 1878. 1880 > Capacities growing and began with steel vessels. 1910 > Top of production, size and variety. 1920> Over equipement facing demand. 1933 > Closed. The yard is then bought up by the shipbuilder Henry Robb

Lance son premier navire en 1878 et produit en fer. 1880> Aggrandissement des capacités et production en acier. 1900 > période d'apogée en nombre, taille et variété. 1920 > Suréquipement par rapport aux commandes. 1933: Fin de l'entreprise. Le chantier est racheté ensuite par le constructeur Henry Robb

Lanza su primero buque en 1878 y los construye de hierro. 1880 > Crecimiento y inicio de la producción de buques de acero. 1910 > Cumbre de la producción, tamaño y variedad. 1920 > Exceso de oferta. 1933: Cierre de la empresa, A continuación, el constructor Henry Robb compra el astillero.

Lança o seu primeiro navio em 1878 y os constrói de ferro. 1880 > Crecimento y inicio da produção de navios de aço. 1910 > Pique da produção, tamanho e variedade. 1920 > Excesso de oferta. 1933: Fechamento. Depois o estaleiro é comprado pelo construtor Henry Robb

Last update: Jan Lettens, 28/05/2014

References: Gracesguide.co.uk

### **British Royal Navy - Admiralty - RN**

In 1509 when Henry VIII was crowned he realised the growing navel power of King James IV of Scots. James had built an impressive fleet to control the Western Isles and was allied to France. Henry built up of his own fleet, the Navy Royal, as it was then known. New ships were constructed, the best known being the Mary Rose. Smaller types of warships (galleases) combining the best features of oars, sails and guns were also built. By Henry's death in 1547 his fleet had grown to 58 vessels.

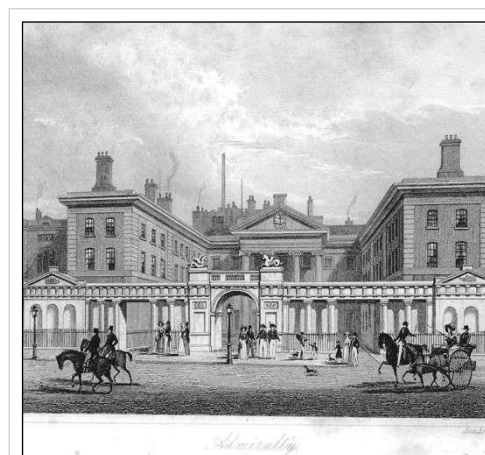
In 1546 a 'Council of the Marine' was established which later became the 'Navy Board'. The Navy Board was in charge of the daily administration of the navy until 1832 when it was combined with the Board of the Admiralty.

Elizabeth I inherited a fleet of only 27 ships in 1558. Instead of building up her own fleet Elizabeth encouraged private enterprise against Spain's new empire. Men like Sir John Hawkins and Sir Francis Drake to command groups of Royal and private ships to attack the Spanish. When Spain threatened invasion with its Armada in 1588 the Navy of England both Royal and private defended the realm. Early in the Seventeenth Century, larger galleons were built with heavier armaments. the largest English ship was Sovereign of the Seas built for prestige purposes by Charles I in 1637. The first ship with three gun decks to carry her 102 guns, she was the most powerful ship in the world for many years.

When King Charles II came to the throne in 1660 he inherited a huge fleet of 154 ships. This was a permanent professional national force and the beginning of the Royal Navy as we know it today.

Last update: Carl Racey †, 27/05/2014

References: www.royalnavy.mod.uk



The Admiralty was the authority responsible for the command of the Royal Navy in the Kingdom of England, and later in Great Britain and until 1964 in the United Kingdom.

© Unknown

by: Carl Racey †, 27/02/2015

## 7. Media

The pictures listed below can be found inside the img directory in the zip file

### **pic1.jpg**

as SS Vala

Last update:

Vleggeert Nico, 30/03/2020

References:

Bomans, Robert J. collection

Copyrights:

Unknown

### **pic2.tif**

King Arthur Canyon - Isles of Scilly

This is a thumbnail version of the chart King Arthur Canyon - Isles of Scilly.

Last update:

Jan Lettens, 30/04/2016

Copyrights:

UK Hydrographic Office

### **pic3.jpg**

The Admiralty

The Admiralty was the authority responsible for the command of the Royal Navy in the Kingdom of England, and later in Great Britain and until 1964 in the United Kingdom.

Last update:

Carl Racey †, 27/02/2015

Copyrights:

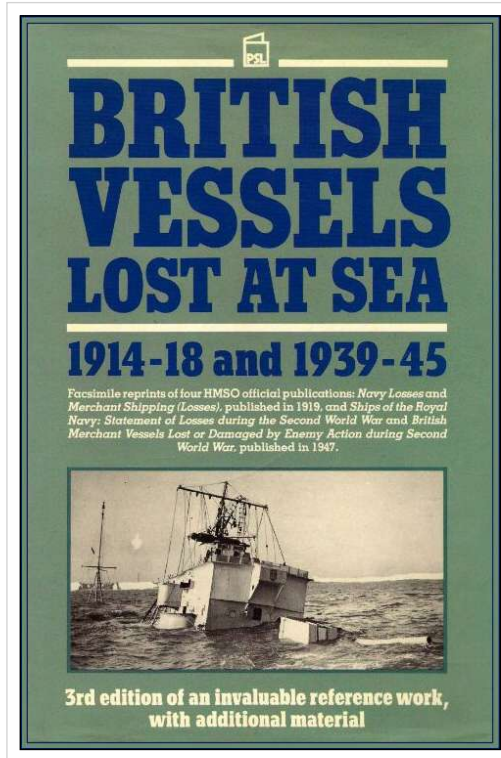
Unknown

<b>pic4.jpg</b>	British Admirals A famous and iconic symbol the 'British Admirals' - NELSON surrounded by HOWE, St VINCENT, DUNCAN & COLLINGWOOD. Engraved by Meyern and first published by Edward Baines in 1816. --- By definition King Charles II was the founder of the British Royal Navy in 1660. Much is owed down the years to many prominent figures in the development and success of the British Royal Navy. Last update: Carl Racey †, 03/03/2015 Copyrights: Unknown
<b>pic5.jpg</b>	Naval ensign of the united kingdom Last update: Jan Lettens, 22/10/2009
<b>pic6.jpg</b>	Last update: Chipchase Nick, 30/11/2013 Copyrights: Unknown
<b>pic7.jpg</b>	Royal Navy Losses 1914 - 1915 Last update: Chipchase Nick, 04/06/2016 Copyrights: Unknown

## 8. References

### 8.1 BOOK, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE

### 8.1.1 British Vessels lost at Sea WW1



British Merchant Vessels Captured or Destroyed by Enemy. British Fishing Vessels Captured or Destroyed by Enemy. British Merchant Vessels Damaged or Molested by Enemy but not Sunk.

Author: H.M.S.O. - His Majesty's Stationary Office

### 8.2 COMPANY, MUSEUM, ORGANISATION, CLUB

### 8.2.1 Commonwealth War Graves Commission - Cwgc



### 8.2.2 UK Hydrographic Office

The UKHO provides nautical charts and navigational services of the world's oceans and ports to support world shipping, including the Royal Navy. Admiralty products and services have been developed over 200 years, and the UKHO uses the very latest techniques to continue to help protect lives at sea today.

## 8.3 ARCHIVE, COLLECTION

### 8.3.1 Bomans, Robert J. collection

Robert Bomans Collection.


### 8.3.2 Lloyd's Register of Casualty Returns




### 8.3.3 KTB - Kriegstagebuch

## 8.4 WEBSITE

8.4.1 <https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?13517> 

8.4.2 <http://www.clydeships.co.uk> 

8.4.3 <http://www.gracesguide.co.uk> 

Grace's Guide is the most comprehensive source of information on the engineering industry in Britain from the start of the Industrial Revolution to the 1960s. - - - You can copy and use any of the content of Grace's Guide for any purpose provided you make a clear link on your web site to Grace's Guide as the source of that information.

8.4.4 <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk> 