

**Welsh Wreck Web Research Project
(North Cardigan Bay)
On-line research into the sinking of the:
SS Argos**

**Report compiled by:
Gareth J.S. Davies**

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*SS Argos***

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1.0 Abstract

Since 2001 the Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit (MADU) has developed a database of vessels known to have wrecked around the coast of Wales.

This project is to discover information relating to the history and sinking of the SS Argos in the Irish Sea in November 1907 (MADU Ref. 366).

The SS Argos while sailing from Liverpool bound for Callao, Peru via Buenos Aires sank in the Irish Sea due to a storm in Nov 1907. Research on the SS Argos has shown that very little information is available.

The research has been conducted from information gathered from MADU and on-line sites as I do not reside in the U.K.

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2.4 Contributors

Ian Cundy MADU Archaeological Diving Unit,
 Nautical Archaeology Society (Regional co-ordinator for Wales)

2.5 Abbreviations

MADU Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit

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3.0 Introduction

The SS Argos was chosen as:

- it covered a period of sea history from the very late 19th century to early 20th century.
- it was a similar ship and time to other ships I had researched from the MADU Wreck list.
- I live overseas online information would be my priority research tool and similar to my previous research a ship from this period should be reasonably well documented online.

The following topics form the basis of the research:

- What were the vessel's specifications?
- What historical information is available relating to the vessel?
- What was the story leading up to the sinking?
- What happened after the sinking? Has anyone previously investigated or researched the vessel back story?
- Has anyone dived, recorded, surveyed or worked on the site?
- Has any salvage, etc. been carried out?
- Have there been any previous reports produced relating to the vessel?

4.0 Background

Prior to starting this research the only known data available to me was from the MADU Master Wrecksite Database Listing (Table 1) supplied by Mr Ian Cundy.

Table 1: Extract from MADU Master Wrecksite Database

MADU Ref. No.	Date Wrecked	Name	Location 1	Location 2	Details	Vessel Type	Matls	Ref.
366	19/11/1907	Argos	Cardiganshire	Cardigan Bay L/s, 13M W		Steamship	iron	rl

In Nov 1907, the SS Argos enroute from Liverpool to Buenos Aires sank during a storm in the Irish Sea approximately 13miles west of the Cardigan Bay Lightship (Fig 1). The captain and crew of 6 were saved by the steamer Griqua.

Fig 1: Location of SS Argos Sinking (as reported)



5.0 Research Methodology

Computer System

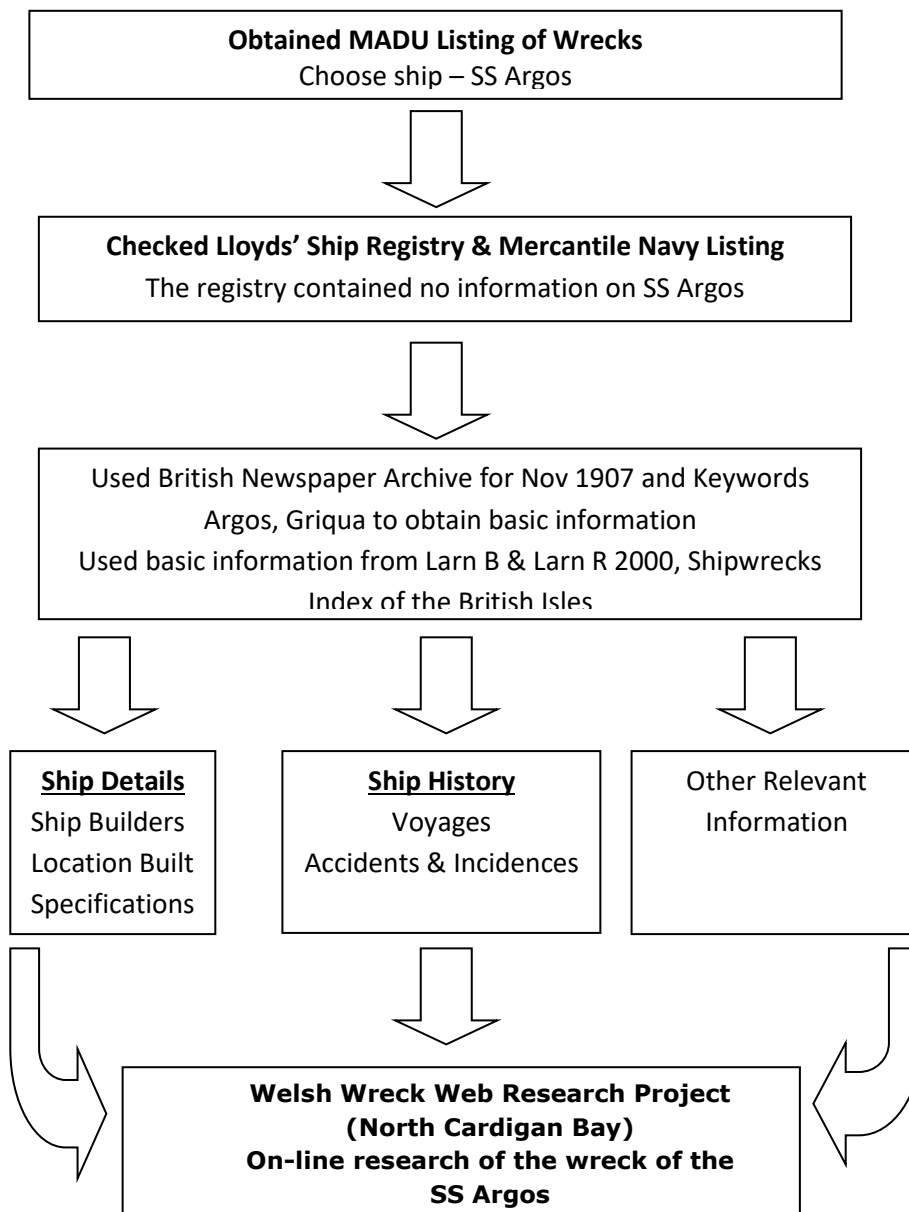
Acer Desktop 64 bit OS; 8 GB Memory, wireless connection.

Windows 10Pro

Microsoft Office 2007

Search engines used: Google Chrome

Methodology



See Section 9 for list of websites viewed

6.0 Results

Table 2: SS Argos Specification and History

Vessel	Name/s	Argos	
	Type	Steamship	
		Steam Tug, Steam Trawler?	
Built	Date	Laid Down: N/A	
		Launched: N/A	
		Delivered: 1895	
		Cost: N/A	
	Builder	N/A	
Construction	Materials	Iron	
	Decks	N/A	
	Bulkheads	N/A	
Propulsion	Type	Engine, Steam	
	Details	1 x screw	
Engine	Details	2cyl comp	
		N/A	
		HP: N/A	
		Manufacturer: N/A	
	Boilers	1	
Drive	Type	Propeller	
	Number	1	
Dimensions	Length	N/A	
	Beam	N/A	
	Draught	N/A	
Tonnage	Gross	N/A	
	Net	?13	
Owner	First	N/A	
	Last	Stewart, Esplan	
		Liverpool	
	Others	N/A	
Registry	Port	Callao	
	Flag	Peru	
	Number	N/A	
History	Routes	N/A	
	Cargo	N/A	
Final Voyage	From	Liverpool	
	To	Callao, Peru via Buenos Aires	
	Captain	H. Baker	
	Crew	6	
	Passengers	0	
	Cargo	N/A	
Sinking	Date	19/11/1907	
	Location	52.28N 05.07W, 13 miles west of Cardigan Bay Lightship	
	Cause	Bad weather, Force 7 gale	
	Loss of life	0	
	Outcome	Sank	

7.0 Analysis

- Very little data for the SS Argos could be found other than a few newspapers articles and one publication on its sinking.
- SS Argos is reported as a 13 ton iron steam tug registered in Callao, Peru. In one source it is mentioned as a steam trawler.
- SS Argos set out from Liverpool bound for Callao, Peru via Buenos Aires and put in at Holyhead due to bad weather. In one newspaper report the SS Argos was bound for Calais. Being a very small ship the SS Argos may have sailed down the French, Spanish, Portuguese coast before crossing the Atlantic.
- After setting out from Holyhead on the Nov 18th during the evening the SS Argos began to take on water due to the bad weather.
- At around midnight on Nov 18th when between the Cardigan Bay Lightship and Bishops a decision was made to return to Holyhead as the pumps were unable to handle the water entering the ship.
- By 8am on Nov 19th flooding in the SS Argos was over the plates in the stokehold and a decision to abandon was made after sighting the steamer Griqua.
- The captain and crew boarded a lifeboat and were picked up by the steamer Griqua which was headed for the Persian Gulf. Whilst rowing to the Griqua the lifeboat required continuous bailing out due to the sea conditions and as it came along the Griqua it was heavily damaged.
- After picking up the crew the Griqua steamed close to the SS Argos and observed her to sink stern first, approximately 15 miles west of the Cardigan Bay Lightship.
- The Griqua took the crew of the SS Argos to Holyhead where they were housed at the Sailors' Home (Appendix A).

8.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

The project took approximately 1 working day with half of that time spent on on-line research.

I set out with the goal of researching the history of the SS Argo with basic information provided. Reading the report here, I believe I have collated sufficient information on the history of the SS Argos from available data.

Many different WebPages were viewed ranging from large organisations e.g. Lloyd's Registry Listings to smaller WebPages such as local history or people with a given interest in a subject. Very little information was found on the SS Argos from any sites.

What data was available was somewhat sketchy and should be treated as such. Two omissions noted were, firstly that the SS Argos is not listed on any Lloyd's Registry and secondly is not in the list of wrecks on <https://www.wrecksite.eu> which is normally a good source for initial information.

From the research conducted, setting a goal and how to reach that goal should be mapped out first. Careful use of specific words in search engines is very important.

9.0 References

9.1 Online WebPages

The following websites and pages have been used in the compilation of this report:

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Keyword: Argos, Griqua

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/272958/details/argos>

<https://www.google.co.uk/>

9.2 Personal Correspondences

I would like to thank Mr Ian Cundy for supplying the initial information and other information with regards to the research project.

9.3 Publications

Larn, R. & Larn, B., 2000, *Shipwreck Index of the British Isles: Volume 5 – West Coast and Wales*.
Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Lloyd's List - Wednesday 20 November 1907

ARGUS (s).—*Liverpool*, Nov. 19, 4 44 p.m.—Small steamer Argus, Liverpool for Buenos Ayres, foundered Cardigan Bay. Crew landed Holyhead by steamer Griqua.

————— . *Holyhead*, Nov. 19, 5 20 p.m.—Captain Baker and six men, belonging a small tugboat named Argus, of Callao, 13 tons register, bound from Liverpool for Callao, via Buenos Ayres, were landed here by the steamer Griqua, bound to Persian Gulf. Latter vessel, after putting men in a shore boat, immediately proceeded. Captain Baker, of Argus, reports having left Holyhead yesterday, wind east, all going on well until evening, when steamer commenced to leak, wind hauling south, fresh. At midnight, when between Cardigan Bay Lightvessel and Bishops, water gaining on pumps, then decided to run back for Holyhead. At 8 this morning, water still gaining, now over plates in stokehold, decided to leave the ship; lowered boat and all the crew went in and were picked up by steamer Griqua, bound to Persian Gulf. The Griqua then steamed close to Argus and saw her founder, going down stern first. Position 15 miles west of Cardigan Lightship.