

# Wreck: River Wye, SS



Port Mouton Island – Nova Scotia

Wrecked: November 24, 1923

## The Event

On November 24, 1923, the British steam collier River Wye ran aground in dense fog along the rocky ledges of Port Mouton Island.

What began as a routine coal run from Saint John to Boston ended abruptly when the vessel struck rock in near-zero visibility.

## The Ship

- Built: 1906, England (as SS Glamorgan)
- Length: ~342 ft
- Steel-hulled steam collier
- Gross Tonnage: ~3,576

## Why It Was Lost

A combination of navigational failure and conditions:

- Dense fog reduced visibility significantly
- No reliable position fix before landfall
- No soundings or bearings taken

The vessel unknowingly approached too close to shore

## The Wreck Event

- Lookout visibility limited to short range
- Sudden impact on rock ledges
- Hull driven onto shoreline

The vessel became a total loss, stranded in heavy seas

## The Rescue

All 27 crew abandoned ship safely

Rescued by local residents of Port Mouton Refuge found at the island's emergency shelter

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## The End of the Ship

- Declared a constructive total loss (~£40,000 value)  
Salvage limited
- Hull broke apart over time, leaving a scattered wreck field along the island's eastern side

## Diver Notes

- Depth: ~20–50 ft
- Bottom: rock and sand
- Key features: shaftline (~120 ft), scattered structure

Good recreational depth but subject to surge and current

Accessible by boat from Port Mouton

## Requires

- Advance planning
- Proper vessel support

## Why This Site Matters

- A classic fog-related grounding on Nova Scotia's South Shore
- Represents tramp steamer trade era
- Part of Port Mouton's multi-wreck environment
- Modern rediscovery through side-scan sonar

## Final Thought

She was not lost to storm.

She was lost to misjudgment in fog—

on a coast that offers no second chances.