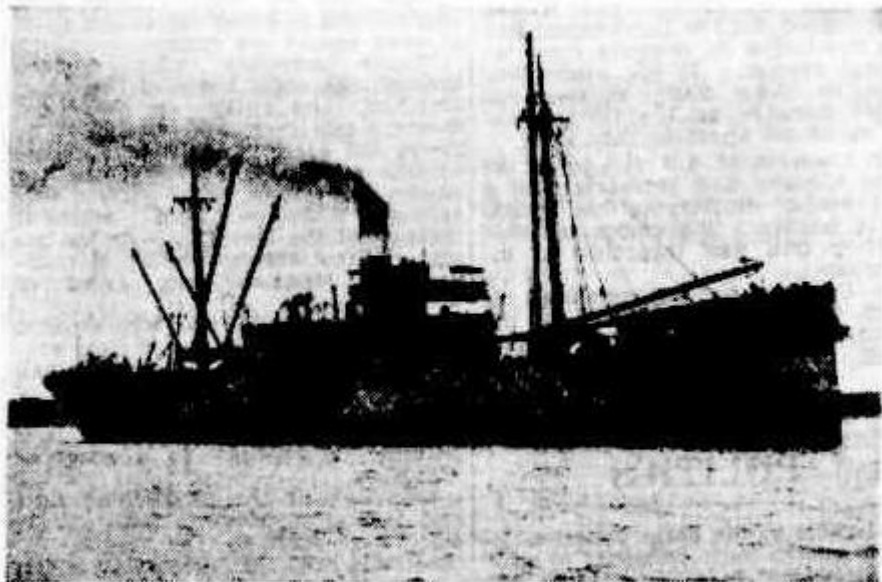


SHIPS COLLIDE OFF COAST; WEAR SUNK

A coastal steamer, the *Wear* (shown in picture below), was sunk in a collision with an oversea vessel off the south-east coast of Australia early yesterday morning. All her crew were rescued, but one seaman—Harold Pring, of Newcastle—was fatally injured.



The *Wear* was almost cut in half and sank immediately. The other vessel picked up her entire crew of 56.

The oversea ship then proceeded to a small port, where she anchored.

An ambulance from the local hospital met the ship on arrival.

Pring, who was injured in the collision, was taken ashore by boat but died before he could be given medical attention.

A resident of the district said that, in the early morning hours he heard a ship's siren. It sounded like a ship in distress, but it was bright moonlight at the time and he did not take it seriously.

The *Wear*, 1,892 tons, was well known on the Australian coast. She was built in England by J. Crown and Sons, of Sunderland, in 1911, and came to Australia the same year. She was owned by James Paterson and Co. Pty. Ltd., of Melbourne.

In the last war she served for a time as a collier for British warships in the Pacific, and narrowly escaped being caught by a German raider.