

Paddle Steamer “PARIS”

The “Paris” was one of the last two paddle steamers built for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. Both the “Paris” and sister ship “Rouen” were built in 1888 in the Fairfield Shipyard, Govan, Scotland. They were designed by William Stroudley.

They were considered to be amongst the finest ships of the era and made some impressive crossing times from Newhaven to Dieppe. The fastest crossing was achieved by the “Rouen” on 12 September 1888 in 3 hours 20 minutes, a speed of 19.2 knots (22 miles/hour, 35 kilometers/hour).

The “Paris” remained with the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, working the Newhaven to Dieppe crossing, until December 1912 when it was sold to the Shipping Federation. Leased to the Admiralty in March 1916 for use as a minesweeper it was renamed “Verdun”. Returned to the Shipping Federation and given back the original name “Paris” in April 1922, it only survived another 2 years before being broken up at Upnor on the River Medway in Kent.