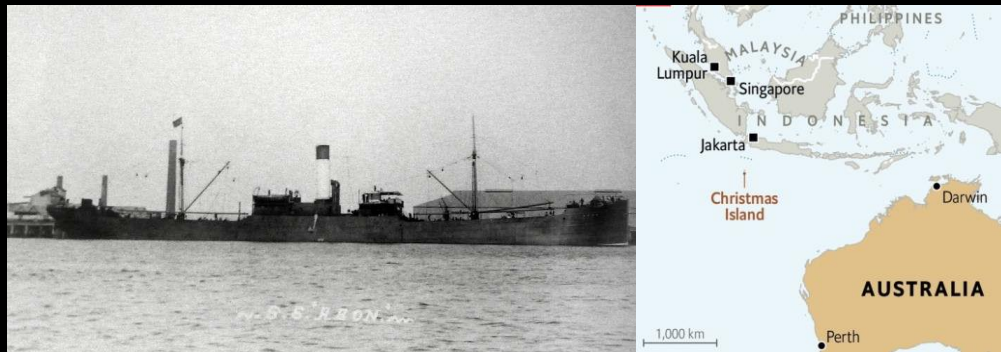


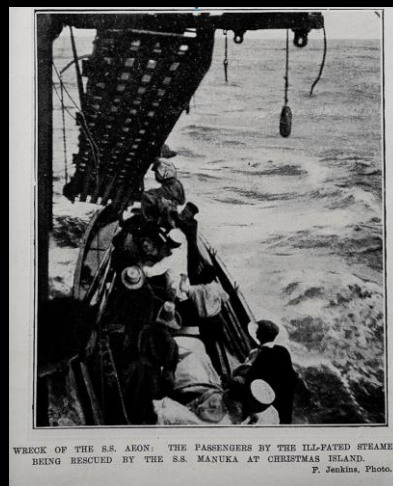


S.S. AEON



The story of *SS Aeon* is legendary. This huge British steamer (4221 tonnes gross) was wrecked in the Christmas Islands on 18th July 1908, due to the strong currents carrying it off course and leading it to run aground in shallow water. The ship was on its way from San Francisco to Sydney. 56 people were shipwrecked including 35 Chinese crew members and 4 female passengers.

The Captain, an ingenious man, made an improvised motorboat in order to reach Fanning Islands, which were 196 miles away and had a cable relay station. Their first attempt failed, but they did not give up hope, and repaired the boat, making the journey again in three days.



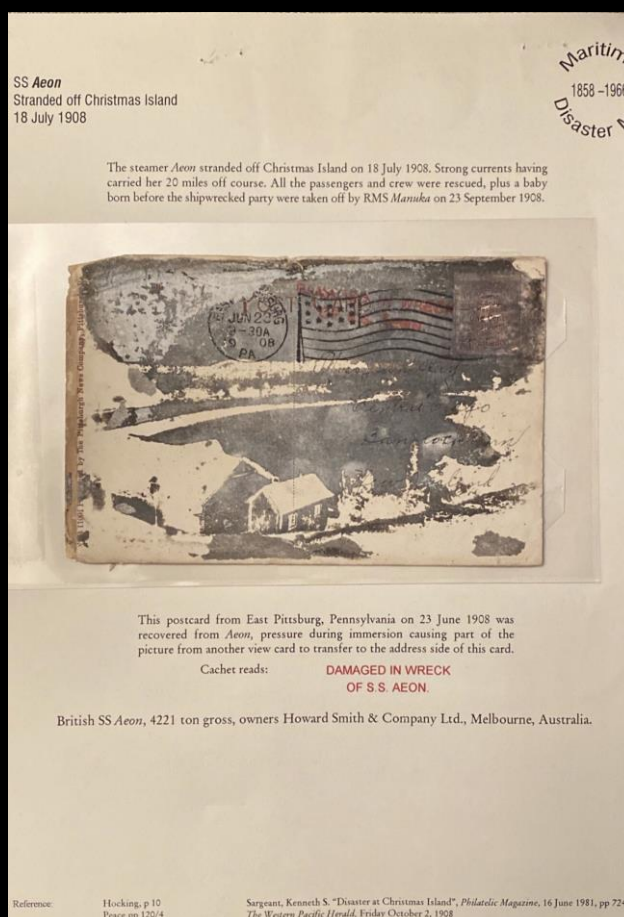
WRECK OF THE S.S. AEON: THE PASSENGERS BY THE ILL-FATED STEAMER BEING RESCUED BY THE S.S. MANUKA AT CHRISTMAS ISLAND.
F. Jenkins, Photo.



During the time they were on Christmas Island there was plenty of excitement. The Chinese crew pilfered from the wreck, and an armed guard had to be stationed around the Europeans' huts, to keep the Chinese in check. Mrs. Patrick, one of the female passengers was forced to deliver a baby in an improvised hospital.



Improved Hospital



(This cover is a part of the Rudraksh collection)

(Salvaged postal cover from The S.S Aeon)

This is one of surviving covers of the wreck of SS *Aeon*. The ship *Manuka* rescued the stranded party on 22nd September 1908.