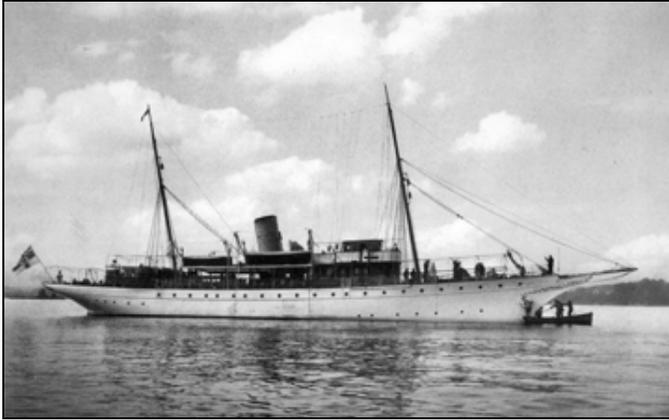


## IDENTIFICATION OF THE "SOUTH JACK WRECK" – KAISER WILHELM'S YACHT LENSAHN

The Association of Underwater Explorers (AUE) announces the tentative identification of a wreck resting off the mouth of Tampa Bay known locally as the "South Jack Wreck" as the luxury yacht NOHAB, formerly the LENSAHN (III).



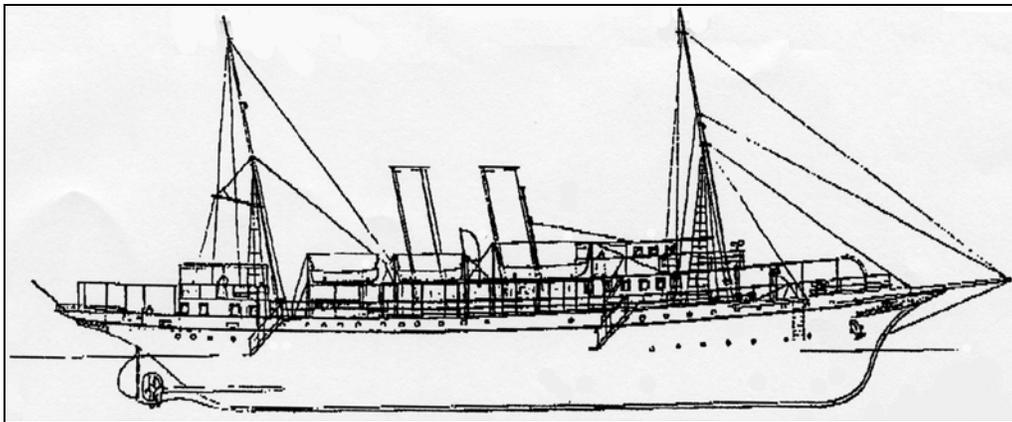
Early image of LENSAHN (III) in original configuration.

The steel-hulled yacht LENSAHN (III) was built in Kiel, Germany, in 1901 by *Howaldtswerken* for the Grand Duke Friedrich August von Oldenburg. Reportedly constructed at a cost of close to four million dollars, the ship had the following dimensions:

Length: 142.68 feet

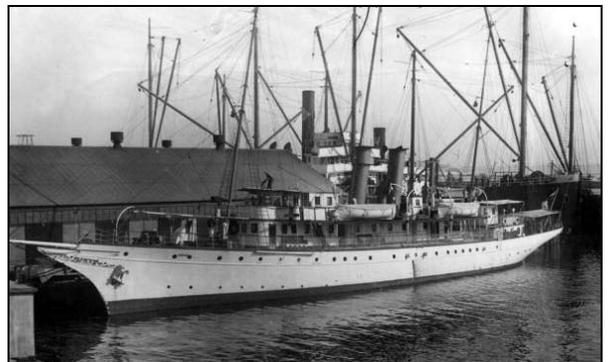
Breadth: 23.29 feet

Tonnage: 427 tons



Post-1904 configuration of LENSAHN (III).

The Grand Duke eventually gifted the yacht to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. The LENSAHN (III) hosted world leaders and other dignitaries including the Czar of Russia, King George of England, and President Theodore Roosevelt. Kaiser Wilhelm was reportedly aboard the LENSAHN (III) when war was declared in 1914. Towards the end of World War I the ship was turned over to the Teuton Red Cross Service and served as a hospital ship. In 1923, the yacht was sold to a Swedish owner and her name was changed to NOHAB.



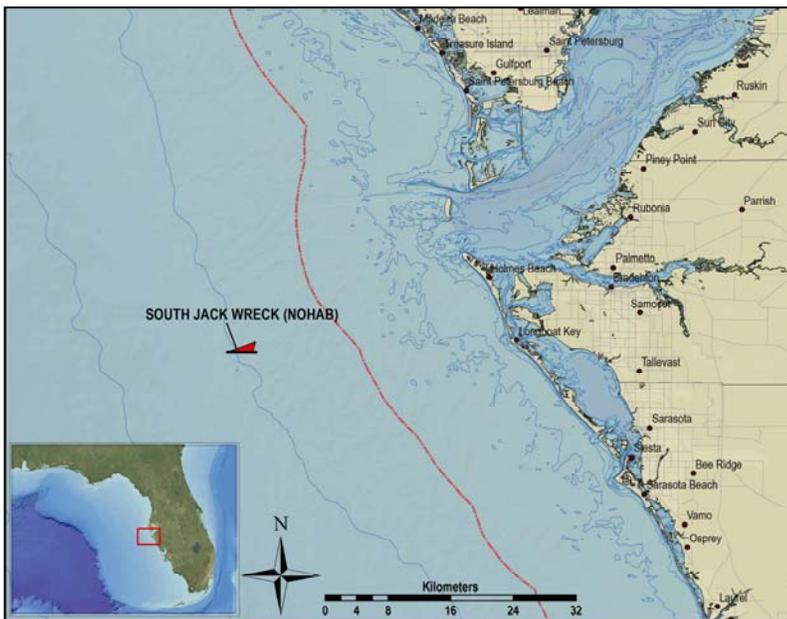
NOHAB dockside in 1925.

She was later sold to American owners who intended to put her into service running between Miami and the Bahamas. However, the yacht soon became enveloped in legal issues and was sold at auction. In September 1926, a massive hurricane swept through South Florida, which resulted in the capsizing of the NOHAB in Biscayne Bay; five of the seven attending crew perished in the storm.



1926: NOHAB capsized in Biscayne Bay.

The NOHAB was raised and anchored off Miami for two years. In 1928, a Californian businessman purchased the wrecked NOHAB for \$5,000 and had her towed to Tampa to be overhauled. He soon found his plan cost prohibitive and abandoned the once-palatial yacht at her dock to eventually sink yet again. In 1934, Tampa authorities “ordered her raised, towed out into the Gulf of Mexico, and sunk in 66 feet of water, where shipping will not be menaced.”



A popular fishing and diving destination, the “South Jack Wreck” rests in 65 feet of water approximately 15 nautical miles off Egmont Key and the mouth of Tampa Bay.

The remains of the wreck are collapsed and flattened generally within a 150-foot long by 40-foot wide area, though some sections can be found 60 feet away from the central portion of the site. The engines, boilers, and twin shafts, which terminate at two large bronze screws, dominate the site.

Based on the dimensions, diagnostic features, and location of the “South Jack Wreck” in comparison to those of the NOHAB (ex-LENSAHN), as well as the historical scuttling location of the yacht, we tentatively conclude that the “South Jack Wreck” is the final resting spot of the luxury yacht NOHAB.

More information on this identification along with a more thorough site report will be presented on the AUE website (<http://uwex.us>) in the near future.