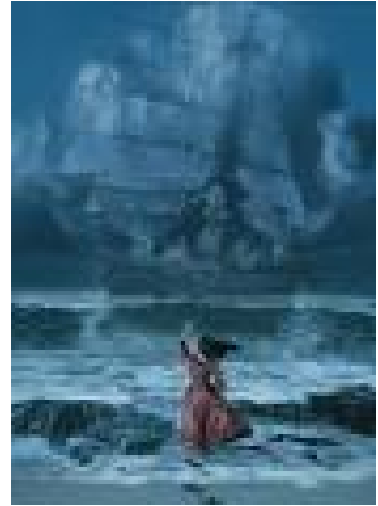


## The Legend of the Flying Dutchman

Of course we are not referring to Disney's Flying Dutchman, the ship captained by Davy Jones, but the original, which Disney took its cue from. The Flying Dutchman was a real Dutch ship that sailed in 1641 and sank off the coast of Cape Good Hope.

The ship, under command of Captain van der Decken, was on its way home from the Far East when a violent storm blew up. While battling the storm for hours the ship eventually hit a treacherous rock and began to sink. As his ship went down the captain shouted, "I will round this Cape even if I have to keep sailing until doomsday!"



True to his word, the Flying Dutchman makes an appearance near Cape of Good Hope to sailors in the midst of a storm. The legend makes a dreadful warning, however, that if you see the Dutchman you are as doomed as it was.

There have been many accounts of visions of the Flying Dutchman. The most famous reported sighting was by King George V (at the time a midshipman on the Royal Navy Ship, The Bacchante in) in July of 1881. He reported that two of his crewman had seen the ship and they relayed this to the then prince: "A strange red light as of a phantom ship all aglow, in the midst of which light the mast, spars and sails of a brig 200 yards distant stood out in a strong relief." True to the curse, one of the men who made this report died soon afterwards from an accidental fall from a mast. King George, not having seen the ship himself, survived the ordeal and went on to rule England.

A German submarine boat crew also reported a sighting of the Dutchman during World War II. It is not verified if anyone from that ship died as a result; but it was during wartime and any death at that point could not be necessarily attributed to the Dutchman!