

Anyone with information on this stamp?



## Naval Transports of Argentina

**VILLARINO, ARA** (sail and steam transport)  
 Argentina # (2004) 25 + 25c; #1269 (1980) 500p  
**1880 – Argentine Navy; Cammell, Laird Bros, Birkenhead, Liverpool, England (yard no. 477); L. 1880, comm. April 1881; Displ. 1,192 tons, 776 ton (bm), Gt. 649, nt. 365; 54,58m x 9,14m x 3,20m (draught), (180.0' x 30.0' x 14.8'); compound steam engine, 800 hp, bunker capacity 110 tons coal, one propeller, 10,5 kn; Armament: 2-20 pdrs, Armstrong muzzle-loaders; 2 MG Hotchkiss machine guns; crew 50; brigantine-rigged ; carried 500 troops fully equipped; iron hull.**

The transport **VILLARINO** was launched in Liverpool on December 11, 1879, at a cost of £18,000. Intended as a transport along the South Coast in case of a conflict with Chile, she was equipped to transport

500 infantry soldiers and their equipment. In her inaugural trip to Buenos Aires, she stopped at Boulogne Sur Mer to repatriate the body of General José de San Martín back to Buenos Aires, where she arrived on May 28, 1881.

In June, she was engaged in transporting troops and bombarding rebel positions daring a revolt. Later in the year she made a voyage to Patagonia for the transportation of cargo for the governor and for private citizens.

During her 19 years of service, she completed many transports of naval and military provisioning, recognition hydrographic and attendance and

supply to the colonies and small towns in the Patagonia. She was part of an expedition that in 1884 installed a lighthouse in the Staten Island.

In 1885, she recovered and helped the survivors of the wrecked Italian barque **ANNA** and the survivors of the British barque **RIVER LAGGER**.

From June 1887 to February 1888 she returned to Birkenhead for a major overhaul. Her armament was modified to two 75mm Armstrong guns on the bridge; two 75mm guns on deck; two 75mm guns below deck; and two machine guns. After refit, she continued her activity as a transport.

In 1889, she rescued 16 survivors from the British barque **JEANNE**. In 1890, **VILLARINO** was one of six units which mutinied in favor of rebels; and in 1891, she rescued the survivors from the British ship, **NEW YORK**.

She grounded on the rocks of Islas

Blancas, in the Bay of Camarones and sank during a storm in the night of March 16, 1899. It was her 101st trip. The cruiser **9 DE JULIO** rescued the crew..

In 1970, a group of divers found the wreck and salvaged several objects that were sent to museums around Argentina.

Source: M. Rosner; Argentine Post; Capt. E. Arguindeguy, *Apuntes Sobre Los Buque de la Armada Argentina*; David Asprey; Ian L. Buxton; A. Palmhof; Gruppo Tem. Nav. Sup., July-Aug. 1981; *WP* 29:12

