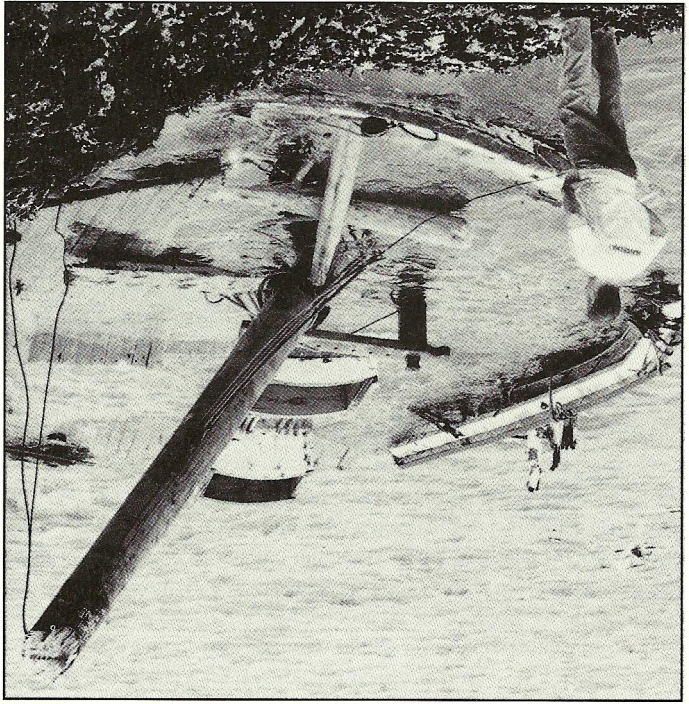


World's oldest sailing vessel wrecked



Three people died when the world's oldest working square rigged sailing vessel hit rocks and sank near Padstow in Cornwall. The 125-foot brig *Maria Assumpta* put out a distress call after grounding on rocks at Rumps Point in North Cornwall. Falmouth Coastguard coordinated the operation, alerting Coastguard teams from Polzeath and Port Isaac and inshore lifeboats from Rock, Port Isaac and Padstow. The crew of 14 were on a voyage in fair weather from Swansea to Padstow and were preparing to enter the harbour on the early evening high tide when the vessel's engines failed. Although every effort was made to sail clear of the rocks, the wind and tide set the brig on to them, where she started to break up in minutes.

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Port Isaac Auxiliary Coastguard Ken Richards surveys the wreckage of the *Maria Assumpta*.

A Mayday was received at Oban on rocks off the Kyle of Lockalsh and *Children* after the vessel ran aground the tug continued to lose oil. The divers to block the outflow of diesel, Coastguard from the tug *Flying Children* after the vessel ran aground the tug continued to lose oil. The harbour authorities asked for help from Coastguard's Marine Pollution Control Unit (MPCU), who sent their chief scientist David Bedborough and lifeboat and the Coastguard team from the Kyle of Lockalsh were summoned to the scene, along with the Coastguard tug *Brodospas Sun*.

Tony Arden District Controller of Oban commented: "The rocks in this area are notorious to scafarers and on other occasions have claimed the lives of many. On this occasion, all lives were safely rescued with an excellent coordinated response from Coastguard. The ferry *Loch Dunvegan* in particular played a vital role. Fortunately the ferry was only a short distance away and could help in the rescue of the crew *Flying Children* was salvaged, made seaworthy and towed to the Clyde after she ran aground and sank off the vessel's stern sank in seven metres of water, and despite efforts by

SIX SAVED from sinking tug

Search & Rescue

