

USS Cyclops: The Ship That Never Arrived

STR-SECRET-020 / REV A / 2026.09.08

The American cargo ship Cyclops disappeared during a wartime return voyage from Brazil. The vessel and those aboard were never recovered, leaving an authentic maritime loss that later legends repeatedly borrowed.

STATUS	Documented disappearance; cause unknown
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Atlantic Ocean
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Secrets & conspiracies
STORY HISTORY	March 1918

THE ACCOUNT

Cyclops was built to carry the unglamorous weight of naval power: fuel and cargo. In early March 1918, returning from a voyage to Brazil, the large American vessel disappeared with everyone aboard. There was no recovered wreck to open, no survivor able to describe the last minutes. Searchers sailed out, but the sea returned no account detailed enough to settle the cause of the loss.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The Naval History and Heritage Command records Cyclops's disappearance and states that its wreck has not been found and the cause remains unknown. German submarine action was considered during the wartime search. The lack of a recovered vessel limits what can be concluded about mechanical failure, weather or other possibilities. Later supernatural interpretations do not gain evidentiary support merely because the ordinary explanation remains unresolved.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

Most shipwreck stories eventually narrow to a location. Cyclops leaves the listener with a route, an absence and an immense cargo ship that never reached the expected end of its voyage. Its power comes from scale: something so large seems as though it ought to leave an answer. The authentic mystery is enough without assigning the missing vessel to an invented force.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

USS Cyclops (1910-1918)

Naval History and Heritage Command

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/ships-us/ships-usn-c/uss-cyclops.html>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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