

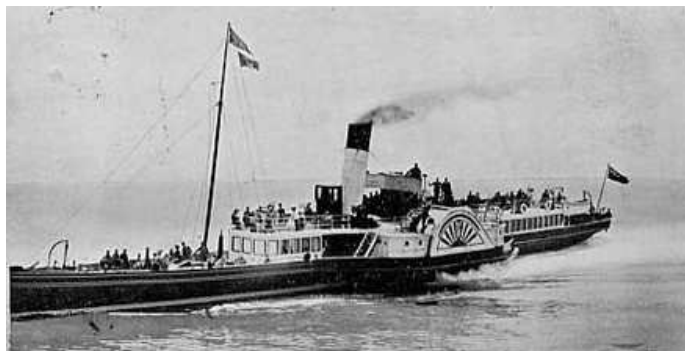


# Factsheet 4

## The Age of the Paddle Steamer

By the late 19th century, many piers had landing stages.

19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century paddle steamers were powered by a steam engine that drove the paddle wheels to propel the craft through the water. Few remain today but 100 years ago “The Worthing Belle” transported tourist’s everyday between the seaside resorts of Littlehampton, Worthing and Brighton.



The Worthing Belle – A saloon Paddle Steamer

### The Worthing Belle Paddle Steamer

The Worthing Belle was built in 1885 for the North British Steam Packet Company and sold in 1899 to Mr J Lee (Brighton, Worthing & South Coast Steamboat Company) who lived in Shoreham. Mr Lee provided a daily paddle steamer service between West Pier Brighton, Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor, and eastwards to Eastbourne and Hastings.



1910 – Paddle Steamer at Worthing Pier

In 1909 The Worthing Belle was acquired by Mr William Reid (whose grandson, Phil Hayden still lives in Worthing). Mr Reid carried on the same schedules and added occasional trips to Bolougne. Throughout her service on the South Coast she was commanded by Captain J Trennace and became the last privately owned steamer to be in competition with the mighty P & A Campbell's steamers. In 1913 the competition from the Campbell's fleet became too much and resulted in Worthing Belle being sold to Turkish owners who renamed her Touzla.

In World War I The Worthing Belle served as a gunboat (where she was reported sunk by Allied shipping) but resumed service as a ferry until she was finally scrapped in 1926.