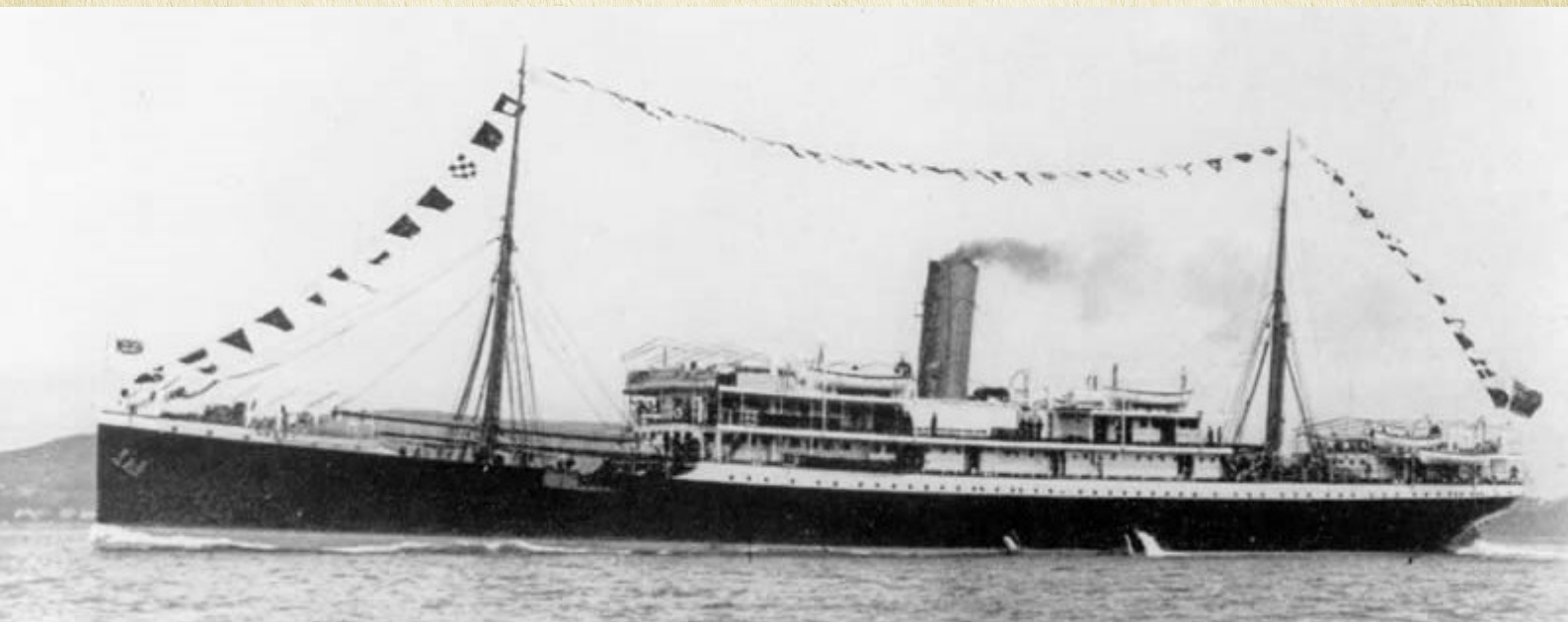


# MUTATING MEMORIES & THE MAKING OF A WARTIME MYTH REMEMBERING THE SS MENDI DISASTER, 1917-2005



**Professor Albert Grundlingh, Stellenbosch University**



**At events at the University of Kent and the University of Brighton Professor Albert Grundlingh explores the ways in which the sinking of the SS Mendi has been remembered.**

The SS Mendi, carrying the last detachment of the South African Native Labour Contingent to work as non-combatants in France during the First World War, sank just off the Isle of Wight on 21 February 1917. The death toll was high: of the 882 men on board 615 died and 267 were saved. The grim details are easily verifiable; the subsequent after-life of the incident is more complex. This lecture addresses the way in which the Mendi disaster has been recalled over decades and contextualised in terms of public memory at different historical junctures, and how a heroic narrative was constructed with certain elements more pertinently being foregrounded recently to serve a useful purpose in the present.

*Professor Albert Grundlingh is Head of the History Department at Stellenbosch University. He is the author of and co-author of several books and numerous articles and chapters in books and leading international journals. He specialises in social and cultural history with a particular interest in war and society. His major works deal with the Boer collaborators during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902 and Black South African troops during the First World War.*

**Wednesday 3rd February 2016, 5pm**

M2 Boardroom, University of Brighton.

Hosted with the Centre for Research in Memory, Narrative and Histories.

<http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/research/mnh/centre-events/occasional-seminars/seminar-mutating-memories-and-the-making-of-a-wartime-myth>

**Thursday 4th February 2016, 6pm**

Grimond Lecture Theatre 1, University of Kent. Hosted with the School of History.

<http://www.gatewaysfww.org.uk/events/albert-grundlingh-lecture>

**Both events are free. Booking required.**

**Enquiries: [gateways@kent.ac.uk](mailto:gateways@kent.ac.uk)**

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