



# Ship Fact Sheet



## SOMALI (1930)

Base data at 18 December 1930. Last amended June 2009

\* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	General cargo liner
P&O Group service	1930-1941
P&O Group status	Owned by parent company
Registered owners, managers and operators	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Builders	Harland & Wolff Ltd
Yard	Glasgow
Country	UK
Yard number	898
Registry	Glasgow, UK
Official number	161938
Call sign	GFCD
Signal letters	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	6,809 grt
Net tonnage	3,550 nrt
Deadweight	10,030 tons
Length	139.85m (459.0ft)
Breadth	18.49m (60.7ft)
Depth	9.84m (32.3ft)
Draught	8.493m (27 ft 10½in)
Engines	Quadruple-expansion steam engine with low-pressure Bauer-Wach exhaust turbine
Engine builders	J G Kincaid & Co Ltd
Works	Greenock
Country	UK
Power	6,840 shp
Propulsion	Single screw
Speed	15 knots
Passenger capacity	
Cargo capacity	15,039 cubic metres (531,173 cubic feet) including 1,933 cubic metres (8,274 cubic feet) insulated
Crew	72 (26 officers, 25 seamen, 7 engineers, 24 firemen)
Employment	London/Far East service

**Career**

- 22.11.1929: Ordered for Hain Steamship Company Ltd, London, a P&O subsidiary company.
- 05.02.1930: Keel laid.
- 09.10.1930: Launched. Transferred to P&O whilst fitting out.
- 17.12.1930: Ran trials.
- 18.12.1930: Delivered as *Somali* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £201,118. A sister ship was named *Soudan*. Named after the people of the Horn of Africa.
- 1939: One of first P&O ships fitted with anti-aircraft armament.
- 1940: Five incendiary bombs fell in a hold containing Army vehicles being loaded in London Docks for Singapore, but there was no fire.
- 26.03.1941: Bombed by German aircraft in 'Bomb Alley' off Blyth in Northumberland. Commodore ship of a 7-knot convoy of 20 vessels, mostly colliers bound for Methil, she was hit by three bombs which ignited part of her cargo of straw, hay, paint and oil, and all attempts by her crew and an escorting frigate to check the flames failed. The crew were taken off at 2300hrs by the trawler *Pelican*.
- 27.03.1941: Blew up and sank 1.6km (1 mile) east of Snoop Head, Sunderland.

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