



Ship Fact Sheet



DUMANA (1923)

Base data at 16 March 1923. Last amended April 2009

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	General cargo ship
P&O Group service	1923-1943
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former name(s)	Was to be named <i>Melma</i>
Registered owners, managers and operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	Barclay, Curle & Co Ltd
Yard	Glasgow
Country	UK
Yard number	593
Registry	Glasgow, UK
Official number	146327
Signal letters	KNQW
Call sign	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	8,428 grt
Net tonnage	5,110 nrt
Deadweight	10,400 tons
Length	141.38m (464.0ft) loa; 137.16m (450.0ft) b/p
Breadth	17.76m (58.3ft)
Depth	10.02m (32.9ft)
Draught	8.503m (27.9ft)
Engines	2 x 8-cylinder North British 4 SCSA diesel engines
Engine builders	North British Diesel Engine Works (1922) Ltd
Works	Glasgow
Country	UK
Power	3,750 bhp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	12.5 knots (service); 13.6 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity*	60 or 83 first class, 77 or 47 second class
Cargo capacity*	28 cubic metres (1,000 cubic feet) refrigerated
Crew	
Employment*	London/Karachi/Bombay service

Career

- 21.11.1921: Launched. Was originally laid down as *Melma*.
- 16.03.1923: Delivered as *Dumana* for British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd.
- 1928: Converted to 111 one-class passenger accommodation.
- 1933: Transferred to the London/Calcutta service where she remained until the outbreak of War.
- 1934: Converted to 140 one-class passenger accommodation.
- 25.01.1935: Fire broke out in a cargo of jute while she was at Marseilles. The fire was contained by flooding her No.4 hold.
- 1935: Refrigerated cargo capacity now 190 cubic metres (6,710 cubic feet).
- 24.04.1939: She was chartered by the Royal Navy as a depot ship, transferring to the RAF in November 1940. She was fitted out with workshops, galley, bakehouse, recreation room and a troop deck for 500 men. She served at Port Said, Alexandria, Malta and Gibraltar.
- 1941: Involved in the evacuation of Crete.
- 1942: She was moved to Bathurst, the Gambia, as an operations centre for Coastal Command's convoy protection duties, mostly carried out by Sunderland flying boats.
- 24.12.1943: When en route from Port Etienne to Takoradi dropping off RAF personnel and stores at various ports between, she was torpedoed twice by U515. She was hit forward on the port side and sank (04°27'N-06°58'W). 30 men were lost including three European crew, 20 Indian crew and seven RAF officers. The remainder, 109 in all, were picked up at 0630hrs on the morning of Christmas Day. A memorial to the dead was erected by the inhabitants of Sassandra, close by on the Ivory Coast.

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