



Ship Fact Sheet



EMPIRE WINDRUSH (1931)

Base data at 8 November 1945. Last amended March 2010

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

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| Type | Troopship |
| P&O Group service | 1946-1954 |
| P&O Group status | Managed and operated by subsidiary company |
| Former name(s) | Monte Rosa |
| Registered owners | Ministry of Transport |
| Managers and operators | New Zealand Shipping Company Ltd |
| Builders | Blohm und Voss |
| Yard | Hamburg |
| Country | Germany |
| Yard number | 492 |
| Registry | London, UK |
| Official number | 181561 |
| Call sign | GYSF |
| Classification society | Lloyd's Register |
| Gross tonnage* | 13,882 grt |
| Net tonnage* | 7,788 nrt |
| Deadweight | 8,666 tonnes (8,530 tons) |
| Length | 159.35m (523.0ft) loa, 152.43m (500.3ft) b/p |
| Breadth | 20.02m (65.7ft) |
| Depth | 11.52m (37.8ft) |
| Draught | 8.036m (26ft 4½in) |
| Engines | 4 diesel engines |
| Engine builders | Blohm und Voss |
| Works | Hamburg |
| Country | Germany |
| Power | 6,800 bhp |
| Propulsion | Twin screw |
| Speed | 14 knots |
| Passenger capacity | 450 cabin passengers, 834 troops |
| Cargo capacity | |
| Crew | |
| Employment | Trooping |

Career

- 04.12.1930: Launched.
- 03.1931: Completed as *Monte Rosa* for Hamburg Sud-Amerika Company, the last of five ships built between 1924 and 1930 for her owners' Hamburg/Buenos Aires service. Original specifications include 1,372 tourist class passengers and up to 1,036 steerage, a crew of 272 and considerable space for cargo.
- 21.03.1931: Left Hamburg on maiden voyage to Buenos Aires. Also operated weekly cruises from Hamburg to Greenwich in the summer months, as a break from trans-Atlantic voyages.
- 11.01.1940: Requisitioned by the German Government and used as a barracks ship at Stettin.
- 1942/1943: Trooping between Denmark and Norway.
- 10.1943: Served as an accommodation and workshop ship at Altenfjord.
- 03.1944: Returned to trooping service.
- 08.1944: Mined in the Baltic, bound Norway to Swinemunde.
- 15.01.1945: Following repairs entered service as a hospital ship.
- 16.02.1945: Struck a mine off Hela, East Prussia, towed to Gydnia, then after temporary repairs to Copenhagen with refugees.
- 24.06.1945: Arrived at Kiel in tow from Copenhagen and laid up.
- 31.08.1945: Surrendered to the British Government and allocated to the Ministry of War Transport.
- 08.11.1945: New Zealand Shipping Company appointed managers.
- 01.04.1946: Owners became the Ministry of Transport.
- 22.06.1946/18.03.1947: Refitted as a troopship by Alexander Stephen & Sons Ltd, Glasgow.
- 12.1946: Fire while undergoing refit.
- 21.01.1947: Renamed *Empire Windrush*.
- 05.1949: Boiler room fire in the Mediterranean. Put into Gibraltar for repairs.
- 1950: Accommodation upgraded and engines converted from blast to solid injection at Southampton.
- 28.03.1954: Suffered an engineroom fire 50km (32 miles) north-west of Cape Caxine 37°05'N-02°25'E bound Kure to Southampton. Taken in tow by the destroyer HMS *Saintes* but sank at 0030hrs on the 30th in position 37°00'N-02°11'E. Four members of the crew were lost.

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