



Ship Fact Sheet



FREE ENTERPRISE VI (1972) later PRIDE OF SANDWICH, then PRIDE OF AILSA

Base data at 19 January 1987. Compiled February 2010

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Roll-on/roll-off passenger ferry
P&O Group service	1987-1996
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Registered owners*	Townsend Car Ferries Ltd
Managers*	European Ferries Group Plc
Operators*	Townsend Car Ferries Ltd
Builders	IHC Werf Gusto
Yard	Schiedam
Country	The Netherlands
Yard number	CO8 81
Lengthened (1985) by	Schichau-Unterweser AG
Yard	Bremerhaven
Country	West Germany
Registry	Dover, UK
Official number	357533
Call sign	GQAL
IMO/LR number	7204291
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	12,503 gt
Net tonnage	3,750 nt
Deadweight	2,136 tonnes
Length	139.40m (457.3ft) loa; 132.00m (433.1ft) b/p
Breadth	22.47m (73.7ft)
Depth	11.32m (37.1ft)
Draught	5.250m (17.2ft)
Engines	3 x 12-cylinder 4 SCSA Man Vee diesel engines
Engine builders	Stork-Werkspoor Diesel NV
Works	Amsterdam
Country	The Netherlands
Power	12,600 bhp/9,262kW
Propulsion	3 controllable-pitch propellers and 2 transverse thrusters forward
Speed	17 knots

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<i>Passenger capacity</i>	610
<i>Cargo capacity</i>	340 cars of 60 freight units
<i>Crew</i>	
<i>Employment</i>	Dover/Boulogne passenger and freight ferry service

Career

- 29.01.1972: Launched.
- 06.1972: Delivered as *Free Enterprise VI* for Townsend Car Ferries Ltd, Dover, for the Dover/Calais/Zeebrugge/Boulogne service.
- 10.1985: Extensively refitted by Schichau-Unterweser AG, Bremerhaven, West Germany. The passenger accommodation deck was 'sliced off' horizontally and a new vehicle deck was installed. The passenger accommodation deck was then refitted, one deck higher than before. A new bow section was fitted, allowing through loading on both vehicle decks.
- 19.01.1987: The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company acquired European Ferries Group Plc which included Townsend Car Ferries Ltd.
- 01.12.1987: Renamed *Pride of Sandwich*.
- 31.12.1987: Owners restyled P&O European Ferries (Dover) Ltd.
- 18.03.1991: Sold by P&O European Ferries (Dover) Ltd to BMBF (No.15) Ltd and then leased back.
- 01.01.1992: Transferred to Cairnryan/Larne service.
- 05.03.1992: Renamed *Pride of Ailsa*.
- 01.12.1992: Management transferred to P&O European Ferries (Felixstowe) Ltd.
- 11.06.1996: Sold to Pacific Prestige SA, Panama, and renamed *Pride of Al Salem 95*.
- 17.10.2005: Involved in a collision with a container ship near Port Tewfiq with a loss of one life. The ferry was at sea awaiting safe passage to enter the port of Suez when she was rammed by the Cypriot registered cargo ship *Jebal Ali*. The ship ran into the side of the ferry, tearing a 5.0m hole in her side in the vicinity of the engineroom. After the collision, both ships locked together so the ferry remained afloat long enough for the passengers to board the *Jebal Ali* and from there be transferred ashore by a flotilla of rescue vessels. Once the two vessels broke apart *Pride of Al Salam 95* sank in around 3½ minutes. Reports suggest that up to eleven people may have died in the incident, killed either by the impact of the collision or in the stampede as passengers attempted to get to safety as quickly as possible. At least a further 98 of the ferry's passengers were being reported as injured.

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