



Ship Fact Sheet



GAIRSOPPA (1919)

Base data at 17 October 1919. Compiled February 2009

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	General cargo liner
P&O Group service	1919-1941
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former name(s)	Laid down as <i>War Roebuck</i>
Registered owners, managers and operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	Palmers Shipbuilding & Iron Co Ltd
Yard	Hebburn
Country	UK
Yard number	894
Registry	
Official number	141924
Signal letters	KCRV
Call sign	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	5,237 grt
Net tonnage	3,227 nrt
Deadweight	8,150 tons
Length	125.57m (412.0ft) loa; 121.70m (399.3 ft) b/p
Breadth	15.94m (52.3ft)
Depth	8.62m (28.3ft)
Draught	
Construction (if not steel)	
Engines	Triple-expansion steam engine
Engine builders	Palmers Shipbuilding & Iron Co Ltd
Works	Newcastle
Country	UK
Power	3,000 ihp
Propulsion	Single screw
Speed	11.7 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity	4
Cargo capacity	
Crew	73
Employment	

Career

- Laid down as *War Roebuck*.
- 12.08.1919: Launched.
- 17.10.1919: Delivered as *Gairsoppa* after her purchase by British India Steam Navigation Company.
- 29.04.1930: Grounded off Fulta Point in the Hooghly but she was refloated under her own power and resumed her voyage undamaged.
- 03.1940: Taken up under the Liner Division.
- 02.1941: Found her convoy SL 64 from Calcutta and Freetown to London with a general cargo which included 2,600 tons of pig iron and £600,000 worth of silver. Heavily laden, she rapidly ran through her coal reserves and was forced to leave the convoy to rebunker.
- 16.02.1941: She was torpedoed in No.2 hold by U101 480km (300 miles) southwest of Galway (49°55'N-14°50'W). The ship sank in twenty minutes and her boats were launched under machine-gun fire from the submarine. Two of the boats were never seen again but the third, after thirteen days at sea, was washed into the breakers near the Lizard. Only one person, the Second Officer (R H Ayres), survived the landfall and he was the sole survivor of the *Gairsoppa*'s complement of 86.

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