



Ship Fact Sheet



KILWA (1921)

Base data at 24 September 1946. Compiled October 2009

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Passenger/cargo liner
P&O Group service	1946-1956
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former name(s)	Kiungchow
Registered owners, managers and operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	Scotts Shipbuilding & Engineering Co Ltd
Yard	Greenock
Country	UK
Yard number	507
Registry	
Official number	146136
Signal letters	GJBL
Call sign	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	2,653 grt
Net tonnage	1,545 nrt
Deadweight	3,170 tons
Length	97.99m (321.5ft) loa; 94.57m (310.3ft) b/p
Breadth	13.47m (44.2ft)
Depth	6.37m (20.9ft)
Draught	5.486m (18.0ft)
Engines	One set of two-stage Brown-Curtis turbines
Engine builders	Scotts Shipbuilding & Engineering Co Ltd
Works	Greenock
Country	UK
Power	1,600 bhp
Propulsion	Single screw
Speed	11.5 knots
Passenger capacity	11 first class, 18 third class, 324 deck passenger
Cargo capacity	
Crew	44
Employment	East Africa service

Career

- 22.07.1921: Launched.
- 04.10.1921: Delivered as *Kiungchow* for the China Navigation Company.
- 06.1940: Requisitioned by the Liner Division but remained for a time in her ordinary coastal service.
- 12.1941: When she was nearing Shanghai, she was recalled to Hong Kong and was subsequently despatched to sea on the outbreak of war with Japan. She eventually reached Calcutta after an adventurous tour via the Philippines, Tarakan and Sourabaya.
- 07.1942: Became a Cased Petrol Ship and served in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea.
- 11.1942: Transferred to the Mediterranean.
- 28.11.1942: She left Alexandria with a cargo of aviation spirit and was in Tobruk when a fire broke out in No.3 hatch and rapidly spread to No.4. The extinguish the blaze, the *Kiungchow* had to be scuttled but three weeks later she had been refloated and was again ready for sea, although her after part was gutted.
- 08.02.1943: Arrived at Haifa where the remainder of her cargo was discharged and temporary repairs were effected.
- 27.01.1944: Dry docked at Massawa for permanent repairs.
- 1944/1946: Following her repairs, the vessel returned to the Mediterranean for service on the Italian coast and in the Adriatic before finishing her wartime service in the Persian Gulf.
- 24.09.1946: Purchased by the British India Steam Navigation Company for £30,000 and was renamed *Kilwa* when she arrived in East Africa. She was given a thorough refit in Mazagon Dock at Bombay.
- 27.04.1956: Sold for £49,500 and scrapped at Hong Kong by Hong Kong Chiap Hua Manufacturing Co (1947) Ltd.

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