



# Ship Fact Sheet



## MANELA (1921)

Base data at 12 May 1921. Last amended April 2009

\* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Passenger/cargo liner
P&O Group service	1921-1946
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners, managers and operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	Barclay, Curle & Company Ltd
Yard	Glasgow
Country	UK
Yard number	580
Registry	Glasgow, UK
Official number	144250
Signal letters	KJBN
Call sign	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	8,303 grt
Net tonnage	5,041 nrt
Deadweight	10,695 tons
Length	141.74m (465.2ft) loa, 137.11m (450.0ft) b/p
Breadth	17.76m (58.3ft)
Depth	10.82m (35.5ft)
Draught	8.531m (28.0ft)
Engines	2 sets of three-stage Brown-Curtis turbines
Engine builders	Barclay, Curle & Company Ltd
Works	Glasgow
Country	UK
Power	3,650 bhp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	13 knots (service); 14.09 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity*	67 or 88 first class, 68 or 38 second class
Cargo capacity	
Crew	
Employment*	London/Calcutta service

**Career**

- 09.10.1920: Launched.
- 12.05.1921: Delivered as *Manela* for British India Steam Navigation Company.
- 09.03.1922: Suffered an outbreak of fire while discharging her jute at Hamburg. There was no damage to the ship but 1,000 bales of jute in No.2 hold suffered from fire and water before the flames were extinguished by shore appliances.
- End 1927: Conveyed the King of Afghanistan and his party from Karachi to Bombay at the start of his world tour.
- 1933: Re-measured. Now 135 one-class passengers.
- 1937: Transferred to the Calcutta/Australia service.
- 04.1939: Chartered by the Royal Navy as a depot ship for float-planes and mostly attached to the RAF's Coastal Command as a depot ship for flying-boats, so she was well into a Service role long before the outbreak of war.
- 05.1940: A bomb was dropped close alongside her as she lay in the Gareloch but it failed to hit her.
- 04.1941/09.1941: Based at Reykjavik. It was one of her squadrons - 204, Coastal Command - that found the German battleship *Bismark* after trace of her had been lost. As a result the battleship was destroyed after an epic resistance.
- 1942/1944: Went to Freetown, Sierre Leone and then to Mombasa.
- 01.1945: Carried ex-POWs from Greece to Egypt and then trooped to the Dodecanese Islands.
- 02.1945: Acted as a mothership to the RAF for Operation Zipper, the invasion of the Malacca Straits. *Manela* sailed from Singapore with over fifty landing and other small craft, but the Japanese surrender made the operation unnecessary.
- 15.08.1945: She returned RAF personnel to Saletar and then sailed for Madras with a full load of released Indian prisoners-of-war.
- 23.07.1946: Sold for £10,500 to Frank Rijdsdijk's Industries for demolition at Hendrik Ido Ambacht.

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