



Ship Fact Sheet



NANKIN (1912)

Base data at 2 July 1912. Last amended November 2008

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

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| Type | Passenger/cargo liner |
| P&O Group service | 1912-1931 |
| P&O Group status | Owned by parent company |
| Registered owners, managers and operators | The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company |
| Builders | Caird & Co Ltd |
| Yard | Greenock |
| Country | UK |
| Yard number | 320 |
| Registry | Greenock, UK |
| Official number | 131857 |
| Signal letters | HWGC |
| Call sign | GBKM |
| Classification society | Lloyd's Register |
| Gross tonnage | 6,846 grt |
| Net tonnage | 4,246 nrt |
| Deadweight | 9,013 tons |
| Length | 137.02m (449.7ft) |
| Breadth | 15.84m (52.0ft) |
| Depth | 9.32m (30.6ft) |
| Draught | 8.271m (27ft 1 ³ / ₄ in) |
| Engines | Quadruple-expansion steam engines |
| Engine builders | Caird & Co Ltd |
| Works | Greenock |
| Country | UK |
| Power | 4,500 ihp |
| Propulsion | Twin screw |
| Speed | 14 knots |
| Passenger capacity | 54 first class, 52 second class |
| Cargo capacity | 10,851 cubic metres (383,270 cubic feet) |
| Crew | 148 (43 European, 105 Asian). Deck 15 European, 29 Asian; engine room 9 European, 52 Asian; purser's department 22 European, 24 Asian |
| Employment | London/Calcutta and London/Far East 'Intermediate' services |

Career

- 04.1911: Ordered.
- 18.05.1912: Launched.
- 02.07.1912: Registered and delivered as *Nankin* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. The first of the second batch of 'N' class intermediate steamers for the China Line: *Nile*, *Namur*, *Nyanza* (all 1906) and *Nore* (1907) made up the first group; *Nankin*, *Novara* (1912), *Nagoya* and *Nellore* (both 1913) completed the set.
- 12.07.1912: Sailed from Greenock.
- 1917: Missed by a torpedo in the Channel.
- 1919: Caught fire while in Devonport with a cargo of ammunition.
- 14.09.1931: Sold for £27,000 to Eastern and Australian Steam Ship Co. Ltd., London for their Australia/Japan service. (E&A was not at that time a P&O subsidiary although it became one in 1946).
- 10.05.1942: Captured by the German raider *Thor* in the Indian Ocean, West of Australia in position 26°43'S-89°56'E, after being shelled by *Thor* and machine-gunned by its seaplane. *Nankin* was carrying 180 crew and 162 passengers and was bound from Fremantle to Colombo, but the prisoners were taken aboard *Thor* and replaced by a prize crew, and all sailed to Yokohama. There she was renamed *Leuthen* and conversion to a naval supply ship was commenced.
- 20.11.1942: Destroyed by fire and explosion when the tanker *Uckermark* exploded during bunkering, possibly due to sabotage by Norwegian prisoners-of-war.

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