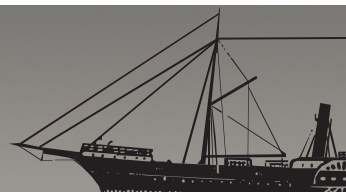




Ship Fact Sheet



OTAKI (1908)

Base data at 7 September 1916. Last amended December 2008

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Refrigerated cargo liner
P&O Group service	1916-1917
P&O Group status	Owned by a subsidiary company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners, managers and operators	New Zealand Shipping Company Ltd
Builders	Wm Denny & Bros
Yard	Dumbarton
Country	UK
Yard number	835
Registry	Plymouth, UK
Official number	124576
Signal letters	HNJO
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	7,420 grt
Net tonnage	4,611 nrt
Deadweight	10,630 tons
Length	141.80m (465.4ft)
Breadth	18.37m (60.3ft)
Depth	9.54m (31.3ft)
Draught	8.717m (28.6ft)
Engines	Triple-expansion steam engines on outer shafts, Parsons low pressure steam turbine on centre shaft
Engine builders	Denny & Co Ltd
Works	Dumbarton
Country	UK
Power	Triple-expansion engines: 4,444 ihp Turbine: 2,414 shp
Propulsion	Triple screw
Speed	15.07 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity	6 first class
Cargo capacity	15,837 cubic metres (559,380 cubic feet) including 8,102 cubic metres (286,180 cubic feet) insulated
Crew	
Employment	Round-the world/New Zealand meat service

Career

- 15.08.1908: Launched.
- 02.11.1908: Ran trials.
- 05.11.1908: Delivered as *Otaki* for G T Haycraft and T R Westray at a cost of £123,900.
- 12.11.1908: First registered at Plymouth to G T Haycraft and T R Westray.
- 27.10.1909: Arrived at London with a fire in No. 3 hold.
- 14.03.1910: Ownership transferred to New Zealand Shipping Company Ltd.
- 11.11.1911: Grounded in the Thames outward bound. Rammed by the steamer *Bitinia* while aground and returned to Tilbury for repairs.
- 20.07.1915: Stood by P&O Branch Line emigrant steamer *Benalla* on fire 1,300km (800 miles) east of Durban.
- 23.09.1915: Suffered a fire in bunkers at Auckland.
- 30.05.1916: Made the first New Zealand Shipping Company transit of the Panama Canal, bound Wellington to London.
- 07.09.1916: New Zealand Shipping Company taken over by The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. This did not alter *Otaki's* ownership, management or operation.
- 10.03.1917: Sighted a vessel at 1430hrs that proved to be the German commerce raider *Moewe*. The *Otaki* was eventually sunk by gunfire and torpedoes from the *Moewe* 690km (420 miles) west by south of Lisbon, bound London to New York and New Zealand in ballast. The Master and 5 of the crew were lost; Captain A B Smith was posthumously gazetted in the Royal Naval Reserve so that he could be awarded the Victoria Cross for his part in the action.

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