



Ship Fact Sheet



SUSSEX (1937) later PALANA, then CAMBRIDGE

Base data at 11 February 1937. Last amended September 2009

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Refrigerated cargo liner
P&O Group service	1937-1962
P&O Group status	Owned by parent company
Former name(s)	Ordered as <i>Pareora</i> for a subsidiary company
Registered owners	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Managers* and operators*	Federal Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	John Brown & Co Ltd
Yard	Clydebank
Country	UK
Yard number	546
Registry	London, UK
Official number	165389
Call sign	MMBF
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	11,063 grt
Net tonnage	6,516 nrt
Deadweight	14,853 tons
Length	167.96m (551.3ft) loa; 162.16m (532.2ft) b/p
Breadth	21.45m (70.4ft)
Depth	10.54m (34.6ft)
Draught	9.922m (32ft 6 ³ / ₄ in)
Engines	2 SCSA Doxford diesel engines
Engine builders	John Brown & Co Ltd
Works	Clydebank
Country	UK
Power	13,250 shp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	19.5 knots
Passenger capacity	Nil
Cargo capacity	14,834 cubic metres (518,071 cubic feet)
Crew	
Employment	UK and Europe/Australia and New Zealand service

Career

- 17.11.1936: Ordered as *Pareora* for the New Zealand Shipping Company Ltd. Launched without ceremony for P&O but bareboat chartered to Federal Steam Navigation Company.
- 11.02.1937: Ran trials and delivered as *Sussex* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £356,500. Her sister *Essex* (1936) was also chartered to Federal Steam, who owned her other sister *Suffolk* (1939).
- 24.11.1939: Struck a British magnetic mine southeast of Southend when leaving the Thames in ballast. Repaired and returned to service.
- 30.09.1940: On passage from Townsville for Avonmouth with a cargo of wheat, refrigerated and general cargo, when bombed and shelled by German Focke Wulf aircraft when west of Achill Island in position (54°20'N-15°32'W). Fires were started and she diverted to the Clyde for repairs, colliding with a naval trawler en route.
- 1941: Diverted from a UK/Basra convoy to take Hurricane fighters, 3,000 tons of ammunition and other cargo to Singapore, leaving not long before the city fell. Later served in the Pacific supplying food to the American forces.
- 26.11.1946: Returned to P&O management and operation for their UK/Australia trade and renamed *Palana*. Immediately made the first round-the-world voyage by a P&O ship, eastward via Suez to Australia and New Zealand and home via Panama.
- 09.1948: Towed the 5,012 ton tramp *Fernmoor* 4,000km (2,500 miles) through the Pacific to Auckland.
- 07.12.1948: Suffered a fire in the engineroom while discharging in Victoria Dock, London.
- 03.01.1951: Ran ashore on rocks off Pine Peak Island off the Australian coast, and abandoned by her crew. She was later refloated.
- 24.01.1951: Arrived at Cockatoo Dock, Sydney, for repairs.
- 07.1952: Returned to service.
- 13.08.1954: Re-chartered back to Federal Steam Navigation Company and renamed *Cambridge*. P&O took Federal's *Somerset*, renamed *Aden*, in exchange.
- 22.11.1962: Sold to Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha, Japan to be broken up.
- 05.11.1962: Arrived at Niigata.
- 27.11.1962: Demolition commenced at Sakai.

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