



Ship Fact Sheet



TILAWA (1924)

Base data at 2 May 1924. Last amended April 2009

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Passenger liner
P&O Group service	1924-1942
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Managers	Mackinnon Mackenzie & Company
Operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	R&W Hawthorn, Leslie & Co Ltd
Yard	Hebburn-on-Tyne
Country	UK
Yard number	530
Registry	Glasgow, UK
Official number	147894
Signal letters	KQML
Call sign	GKLP
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	10,006 grt
Net tonnage	6,153 nrt
Deadweight	9,416 tons
Length	137.42m (451.0ft)
Breadth	18.07m (59.3ft)
Depth	11.21m (34.8ft)
Draught	8.252m (27ft 1in)
Engines	Quadruple-expansion steam engines
Engine builders	R&W Hawthorn, Leslie & Co Ltd
Works	Hebburn-on-Tyne
Country	UK
Power	5,000 ihp
Propulsion	Single screw
Speed	12 knots (service); 14.16 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity	62 first class, 74 second class, 3,957 deck passengers
Cargo capacity	
Crew	220
Employment*	Calcutta/Far East service. On Apar service when needed

Career

- 20.02.1924: Launched.
- 02.05.1924: Completed as *Tilawa* for British India Steam Navigation Company. She and her earlier sister *Talma* were the first totally new design of passenger ships built for British India Steam Navigation Company after the First World War, but proved somewhat underpowered. Their normal run was Calcutta/Penang/Singapore/Hong Kong/Amoy/Shanghai/Moji/Yokohama/Kobe. Named after Thilawa, a town on the east bank of the Rangoon river in Burma.
- 10.08.1938: Suffered extensive superficial damage in a collision with Dutch liner *Nieuw Zeeland* off King's Dock, Singapore.
- 09.1939: Requisitioned as a Personnel Ship on Indian coastal voyages.
- 05.1940: Administration transferred to the Liner Division.
- 11.1940: Transferred to Bombay/East Africa service.
- 05.05.1942: Ran aground at Zanzibar and not refloated for 8 days, after much of her cargo had been transferred to lighters.
- 23.11.1942: Torpedoed north-west of the Maldiv Islands by the Japanese submarine I-29 when en route from Bombay to Mombasa and Durban with 6,400 tons of general cargo and 732 passengers, 222 crew and four gunners. Initially the damage appeared to be comparatively slight, but there was considerable panic among the deck passengers and most of the boats were got away. When the ship was preparing to re-embark them she was hit by a second torpedo and sank rapidly in 07°45'N-61°10'E. The cruiser HMS *Birmingham* rescued the survivors but 28 crew and 252 passengers were lost.

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