



# Ship Fact Sheet



## VARSOVA (1914)

Base data at 11 August 1914. Compiled December 2008

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

Type	Passenger/cargo liner
P&O Group service	1914-1949
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners, managers and operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd
Yard	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Country	UK
Yard number	932
Registry	
Official number	136312
Signal letters	
Call sign	JGCM
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	4,691 grt
Net tonnage	1,956 nrt
Deadweight	5,160 tons
Length	118.90m (390.1ft)
Breadth	16.24m (53.3ft)
Depth	8.07m (26.5ft)
Draught	6.979m (22.9ft)
Engines	Triple-expansion steam engine
Engine builders	Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd
Works	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Country	UK
Power	4,700 ihp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	16.23 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity	32 first class, 24 second class, 1,160 deck passengers
Cargo capacity*	4,874 cubic metres (172,123 cubic feet)
Crew	
Employment	Bombay/Persian Gulf 'fast' service

**Career**

- 09.06.1914: Launched.
- 11.08.1914: Delivered as *Varsova* for British India Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £119,000. She was the second of the V-class to be delivered along with her sisters *Varela*, *Vita* and *Vasna*.
- 10.1914: Requisitioned immediately upon her arrival in India and took part in the convoy from Bombay to Mauritius.
- 1915: Served as an overflow base hospital at Basra and then as a transport to Gallipoli.
- 04.1916: Was made an Indian Expeditionary Force hospital ship with 475 beds for the Mesopotamian campaign.
- 09.1917/11.1920: Worked as an ambulance transport.
- 07.1929: A valve was opened in her No.2 hold outward bound from Basra. It caused considerable damage to her cargo of wool and valuable Persian carpets. Her Commander and Chief Officer were dismissed from the service in light of their negligence.
- 1939: Fitted with insulated cargo space 53.8 cubic metres (3,100 cubic feet).
- 1939/1945: She served during the war period as a Personnel and Military Store Ship.
- 09.1940: Attacked unsuccessfully by an Italian aircraft while she was in the Red Sea.
- 1946: Made two Bombay/East Africa voyages.
- 1948: Made a pilgrim journey from Mombasa to Jeddah.
- 19.04.1949: Sold for £17,500 to the British Iron & Steel Company.
- 12.07.1949: Broken up by Metal Industries (Salvage) Ltd.
- 1950: Her bell was presented to surviving members of the 85<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, who had served in her in the First World War.

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