



# Ship Fact Sheet



## VIRAWA (1890)

Base data at 24 June 1914. Compiled November 2008

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

Type	Passenger/cargo liner
P&O Group service	1914-1921
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former names(s)	
Registered owners, managers and operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	Wm Denny & Bros
Yard	Dumbarton
Country	UK
Yard number	441
Registry	
Official number	98587
Signal letters	
Call sign	LWKR
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	3,334 grt
Net tonnage	2,158 nrt
Deadweight	4,933 tons
Length	103.63m (340.0ft)
Breadth	13.14m (43.1ft)
Depth	7.92m (26.0ft)
Draught	7.041m (23ft 1in)
Engines	Quadruple expansion steam engine
Engine builders	Denny & Co Ltd
Works	Dumbarton
Country	UK
Power	Single screw
Propulsion	1,628 ihp
Speed	11 knots
Passenger capacity	18 first class
Cargo capacity	54 (14 officers, 40 ratings)
Crew	
Employment	Australian/South Pacific service

**Career**

- 15.09.1890: Launched.
- 05.11.1890: Registered as *Virawa* for British India Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £59,600.
- 09.1891: Grounded on Dungale Rock near Thursday Island. At first it was feared that salvage might be difficult but eventually she was refloated with the aid of the *Jelunga* and brought down to Sydney for repairs.
- n.d.: She was at times employed in the Fiji trade, carrying indentured workers for the sugar trade to and from Calcutta.
- 1896: Served as a transport in the second Suakin expedition.
- 04.10.1898: Collided with and sank the 64-ton schooner *Bessie Maud* when she came across her bows in Newcastle harbour, NSW. She was there loading coal intended for Colombo. The *Virawa* was undamaged and the subsequent enquiry held the schooner's master solely to blame for the incident.
- 07.1901: Had a machinery breakdown in the Bay of Bengal and was towed into port by the *City of Athens*.
- 08.1905: Ran aground on Tobin Cay in the Great Northeast Channel but was refloated with little damage.
- 24.06.1914: Takeover of British India Steam Navigation Company by The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company agreed.
- 12.05.1921: Sold for Rs 82,000 for demolition at Bombay.

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