



Ship Fact Sheet



ROHNA (1926)

Base data at 5 November 1926. Compiled May 2009

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Passenger/cargo liner
P&O Group service	1926-1943
P&O Group status	Owned by subsidiary company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners, managers and operators	British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd
Builders	Hawthorn Leslie & Co Ltd
Yard	Hebburn-on-Tyne
Country	UK
Yard number	542
Registry	London, UK
Official number	149745
Signal letters	KVLS
Call sign	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	8,602 grt
Net tonnage	4,759 nrt
Deadweight	9,400 tons
Length	145.38m (477.0ft) loa; 140.63m (461.4ft) b/p
Breadth	18.83m (61.8ft)
Depth	9.11m (29.9ft)
Draught	8.046m (26.4ft)
Engines	Two sets of quadruple-expansion reciprocating engines
Engine builders	Hawthorn Leslie & Co Ltd
Works	Hebburn-on-Tyne
Country	UK
Power	5,000 ihp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	13 knots (service); 14.3 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity*	28 first class, 33 second class, 92 'preferred' class cabin and up to 5,064 unberthed deck passengers
Cargo capacity	
Crew	195
Employment	Madras/Singapore service

Career

- 24.08.1926: Launched.
- 04.11.1926: Ran trials.
- 05.11.1926: Delivered as *Rohna* for the British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd.
- 09.1939: Requisitioned as a Personnel Ship. Her early service was mainly in Eastern waters.
- 1942: Transferred to Mediterranean service.
- 1943: Participated in the Sicilian landings.
- 25.11.1943: Left Oran in convoy KMF 26 carrying 2,000 American troops bound for India.
- 26.11.1943: A formation of some 30 German bombers attacked the convoy for a number of hours before one aircraft released a radio-controlled glider bomber which hit *Rohna* above the waterline near the aft end of the engineroom while in position 36°56'N-05°20'E. The stern of the ship burst into flames and only the starboard boats could be lowered, many which were swamped by being overloaded and 120 crew (out of 195) and 1,050 (out of 2,000) were drowned. *Rohna* remained afloat for an hour but then her stern had settled so far that her engines and boilers broke loose and fell through the hull. She was the first merchant ship sunk by a guided missile, the Italian battleship *Roma* having been lost in this way while en route from Spezia to Malta to surrender on 8th September 1943.

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