



# Ship Fact Sheet



## STRATHALLAN (1938)

Base data at 11 March 1938. Last amended October 2009

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

Type	Passenger liner
P&O Group service	1938-1942
P&O Group category	Owned by parent company
Registered owners, managers and operators	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Builders	Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd
Yard	Barrow
Country	UK
Yard number	723
Registry	London, UK
Official number	166371
Signal letters	
Call sign	GFFX
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	23,722 grt
Net tonnage	14,134 nrt
Deadweight	
Length	202.47m (664.5ft) loa
Breadth	25.05m (82.2ft)
Depth	10.23m (33.6ft)
Draught	9.192m (30ft 2in)
Engines	Six single-reduction-g geared steam turbines
Engine builders	Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd
Works	Barrow
Country	UK
Power	24,000 shp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	21 knots
Passenger capacity	448 first class, 537 tourist class
Cargo capacity	10,588 cubic metres (374,000 cubic feet)
Crew	519: 30 officers (12 deck, 14 engineers, 4 pursers); 234 European ratings (21 deck, 10 engineer's dept, 203 pursers dept); 255 Asian ratings (62 deck, 51 engineroom, 142 pursers dept)
Employment	UK/Australia mail service, and cruising

**Career**

- 23.09.1937: Launched by the Countess of Cromer, wife of a P&O Director.
- 10.03.1938: Delivered without official trials as *Strathallan* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.
- 18.03.1938: Maiden voyage London/Brisbane.
- 24.06.1938: Arrived in London after her maiden voyage and spent the summer months cruising.
- 04.02.1940: Requisitioned by the Ministry of Shipping (later Ministry of War Transport) for service as a troop transport.
- 01.11.1942: Took part in Operation Torch - the first Algerian landings in the North African campaign.
- 12.12.1942: Sailed from the Clyde on her second trip to Algeria, as commodore vessel of a convoy bound for Oran. She was carrying 4,000 British and US troops and 250 Queen Alexandra's nurses.
- 21.12.1942: Torpedoed by the German submarine U562 at 0225hrs in bright moonlight and fine weather shortly after passing through the Straits of Gibraltar about 75km (45 miles) off Bougie. She was hit in the engineroom on the port side, two engineer officers and two Indian engineroom crew were killed in the explosion, and about a dozen passengers also lost their lives. The nurses and 1,000 troops were picked up by the destroyer HMS *Verity* and another destroyer, HMS *Lafarey*, took *Strathallan* in tow. With the help of the salvage tug *Restive* it was hoped that she might reach Oran, but her list increased and the remainder of the troops were taken off by escorting destroyers. At 1315hrs she caught fire, and once it reached her cargo of rockets and ammunition, the rest of the crew were taken off by *Restive*.
- 22.12.1942: Sank 19km (12 miles) off Oran at 0400hrs.

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