

RAJPUTANA (1925)

Base data at 30 December 1925. Last amended June 2006.

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

<i>Type</i>	Passenger liner
<i>P&O Group service</i>	1925-1941
<i>P&O Group status</i>	Owned by parent company
<i>Registered owners, managers and operators</i>	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
<i>Builders</i>	Harland & Wolff Ltd
<i>Yard</i>	Greenock
<i>Country</i>	UK
<i>Yard number</i>	661
<i>Registry</i>	Greenock, UK
<i>Official number</i>	149361
<i>Signal letters</i>	KTNL
<i>Call sign</i>	GLWV
<i>Classification society</i>	Lloyd's Register
<i>Gross tonnage</i>	16,568 grt
<i>Net tonnage</i>	9,415 nrt
<i>Deadweight</i>	8,755 tons
<i>Length</i>	173.58m (569.7ft) o/a, 166.72m (547.2ft) b/p
<i>Breadth</i>	27.72m (71.3ft)
<i>Depth</i>	13.22m (43.4ft)
<i>Draught</i>	8.709m (28ft 7 in)
<i>Engines</i>	Quadruple-expansion steam engines
<i>Engine builders</i>	Harland & Wolff Ltd
<i>Works</i>	Belfast
<i>Country</i>	UK
<i>Power</i>	15,000 ihp
<i>Propulsion</i>	2 screws
<i>Speed</i>	17 knots
<i>Passenger capacity</i>	307 first class and 288 second class
<i>Cargo capacity</i>	9,905 cubic metres (352,867 cubic feet)
<i>Crew</i>	370
<i>Employment</i>	London/Bombay mail service
Career	

- 07.08.1925: Launched.
- 30.12.1925: Ran trials and delivered. Her delivery completed the four-strong "R" class for the London/Bombay mail service; when this ceased she switched to the Japan run.
- 01.1929: Aircraftman T E Shaw, RAF – Lawrence of Arabia – travelled from India to England.
- 22.04.1931: Rescued 112 passengers and crew from the Chinese steamer *Hwahyang*, which had been wrecked on Saddle Island between Shanghai and Hong Kong on the previous day and was reportedly under attack by pirates.
- 29.08.1931: Mahatma Gandhi sailed from Bombay to Marseilles (arrived 11 September and continuing overland) en route to London for the Round Table Conference.
- 07.1937: One of six liners involved in the evacuation of Britain nationals from Woosung to Hong Kong during the Sino-Japanese War.
- 04.09.1939: Requisitioned at Yokohama by the Admiralty for service as an armed merchant cruiser and converted at Esquimaux, British Columbia. Her after funnel was removed and eight 6-inch and two 3-inch guns were fitted. Served on convoy escort in the North Atlantic, escorting 700 ships without loss.
- 04.1941: Transferred to Denmark Strait patrol duties.
- 13.04.1941: Torpedoed at about 0600 hrs by the German submarine U.108, 250 kilometres (150 miles) south of Iceland in position 64.50N, 27.25W. The submarine was sighted and *Rajputana* opened fire, but was hit a second time at 0730 and abandoned at 0840hrs. Six officers and 35 ratings were lost; after sighting by a Sunderland flying-boat, most of the 283 survivors were picked up by destroyers and landed at Reykjavik, though 12 officers and 22 ratings stayed adrift for longer before being rescued and landed in Canada.

- ends -