

Ocean Joss

Ships in Focus

By Geoff Walker

“Kowloon Star”



(Courtesy of Chris Howell)

The Union Steamship Company of New Zealand had a long association with Asia, selling many of their old ships “East” at the end of their economic service. One such vessel was the **“Tamahine”**, 1989 GRT, built in 1925 for the USSCo of NZ by Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson Ltd., Low Walker, Newcastle-upon -Tyne. Originally built for the Wellington, Lyttleton, and Picton inter-island services. Fitted with two Triple Expansion Steam Engines, rated at 440 NHP, twin screw, gave her a service speed of 15 knots. She carried 637 passengers and was sold by the USSCo in 1963. It was estimated that she had made over 15,000 crossings of the Cook Straits, carrying over 2 million passengers during her service with USSCo of NZ.

Shown above, anchored in Singapore Roads, looking worse for wear, as the **“Kowloon Star”**. Sold to the Hong Kong Shipping Co (Panama) Ltd., who renamed her **“Kowloon Star”**. In 1968, sold to Cia de Nav Sunlite, Panama, and scrapped at Hong Kong in 1969. A grand old lady!

End

References: P&O Heritage, Wikipedia, Chris Howell photography, various other sources in the Public Domain from which additional information may have been obtained.