

Great Ships of the Seas: *The Bremen*

France's Compagnie Sud-Atlantique hoped to make their brand new *Pasteur* the fastest and most luxurious liner on the Europe-South America service. At 30,000 tons, she was set to make her maiden

voyage in early September 1939—she never made it. World War II broke out, and she became a troop ship; the “world’s largest peacetime troop ship,” she was not decommissioned until January 1957.

She was sold to North German-Lloyd that September, completely stripped, new turbines installed (23 knots average speed [equal to 2,000 Volkswagen Beetles operating simultaneously]), improved wiring and plumbing put in, and she could now boast the most comprehensive and handsome passenger compartments on the Atlantic. She was called *Bremen* - long considered Germany's most distinguished sea name - and set course for the open sea in the summer of 1959. She was a superb vessel. In 1971, she was sold to Chandris and became their *Regina Magna*. She changed hands and names a few more times before she finally sank on her way to the scrap yard in 1980, but many still remember her fondly/

