

Gary C Worrell

From: Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 23 June, 2008 02:24
To: gcw@igx.net
Subject: Postcard (this time with the pictures)
Attachments: QueenMary01.jpg; QueenMaryWheelhouse01.jpg; QueenMarySunDeck.jpg;
QueenMaryArtDecoObservationBar.jpg; RMS_Queen_Mary_20Jun1945_NewYork.jpg

OOPS, I accidentally hit the send button instead of the "attach" button (it's late)...

G.

<http://igx.net/Postcards/>

Hello.

On 1 December 1930 at the John Brown & Co. Shipyard in Clydebank, Scotland, the keel was laid for the first of two ships that the United Kingdom built to compete in the European shipbuilding race. RMS Queen Mary began its maiden voyage to New York on 27 May 1936, and continued on to make 516 voyages until 9 December 1967, when she arrived in Long Beach, California.

At the onset of World War II, the ship was converted into a troop transport, successfully ferrying over 765,000 troops to and from Europe. One of the passengers was my father. During this period, she was nicknamed the Grey Ghost, owing to its stealthy grey coat of paint to keep it nearly invisible in the middle of the vast oceans.

Today, the Queen Mary is a hotel, restaurant, and museum sitting on blocks in the water at Long Beach. It is quite a stroll back in time to walk the promenade decks, and I felt a sense of pride knowing that I walked some of the same paths my father must have taken while crossing the Atlantic as a US Army Ranger.

Unfortunately, time and a variety of proprietors have taken its toll on the structure. The teak decks and steel hull are showing their age, but it is still a marvel of 1930's shipbuilding that sits along side a modern cruise terminal. The interior is classic "Art Deco" and worth the effort to see. Hopefully the Queen will be able to hold up for many future generations to see.

Cheers,
G.









