

Euxine Shipping Company – London

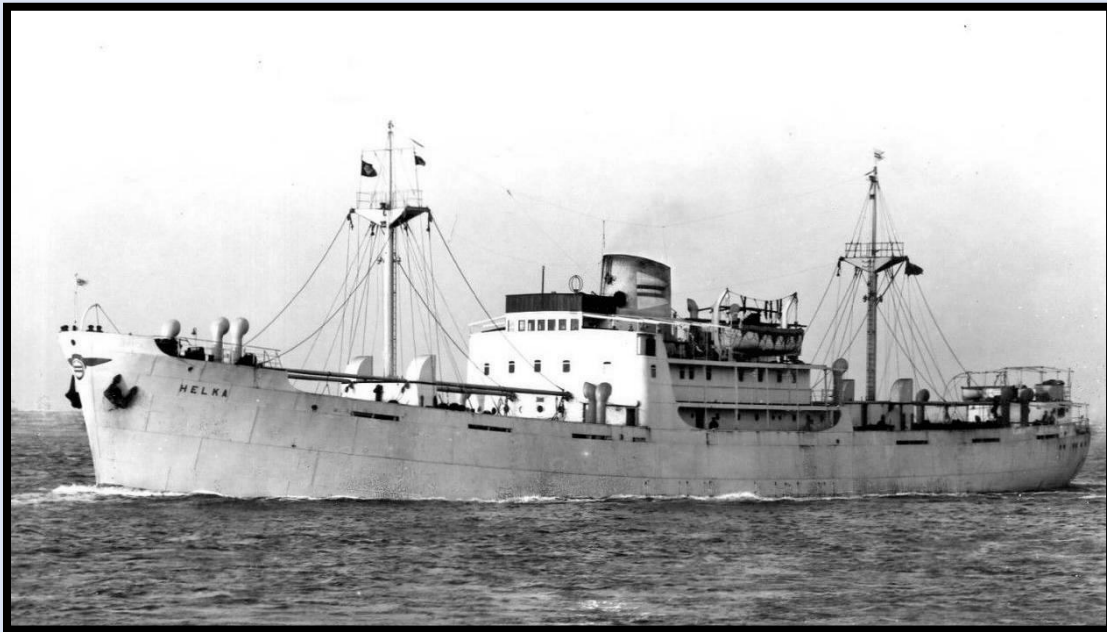
By Geoff Walker



The Euxine Shipping Company of London, although relatively small in fleet size, in comparison to many other shipping concerns, it nevertheless had a long and illustrious lineage. So named Euxine (ancient Greek) after a town of ancient Caria, the southwest region of modern day, Turkey – also the Greek name for the Black Sea. The company's long affiliations with the area and trading links mainly in the region of Turkey, Black Sea and Egypt, nowadays, commonly referred to as the Eastern Mediterranean, obviously had a bearing on the origins of the company name.

The Dutch Van der Zee family had initially become established in Egypt, where they operated the **Euxine Shipping Company**, which managed cruise ships along the River Nile. They also had branches in Athens and Smyrna, as well as being merchants and shipowners, with ships sailing under the Dutch flag., namely, Reederi W.H. van der Zee, of Smyrna, Turkey. In 1932, a decision was made to change their ships to the British flag, and thus originated the **Euxine Shipping Company Ltd.**, with its base office situated in London. One having relocated their offices to London, their core trade remained Western Europe to the Eastern Mediterranean.

A short gallery of some of Euxine Shipping Company's ships follows:



(Unknown)

Euxine Shipping's **MV Helka**, built in 1947 by Burntisland Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. 1962 sold out of the fleet and renamed Zonguldaka, 1966 on sold and renamed Anna Maria – final fate unknown.



(Unknown)

A later image of **MV Helka**



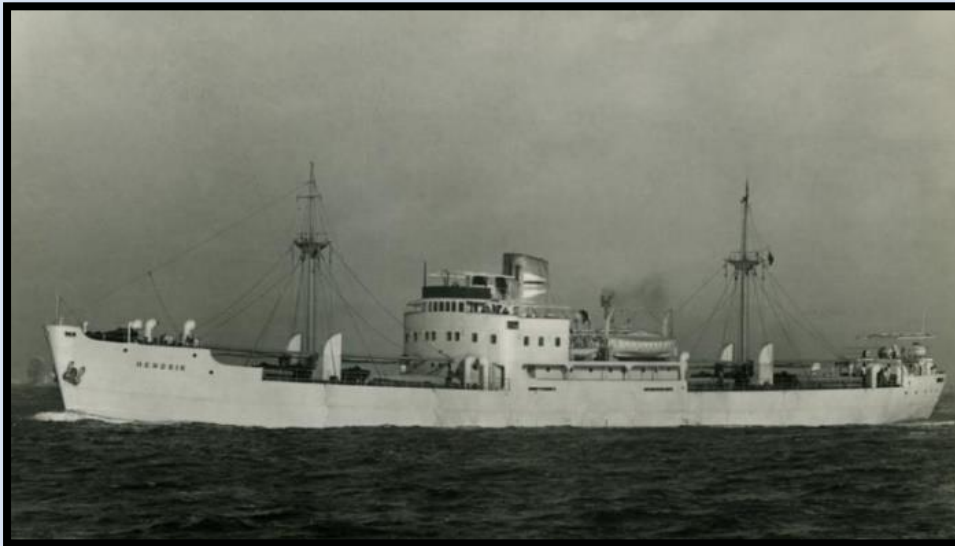
(Unknown)

Euxine Shipping's **MV Hendi**. In the fleet between 1954 to 1962 – 2023 GRT - 98.6 x 13.6 m, sold in 1962. Built 1947 Burntisland Shipbuilders, No.318 as MEMNON (1947-50) - BOREN (1950-54) - 1962 ERIKA, 1964 STEFANOS M, 1969 VELBA, 1973 DIRFIS - 03/08/73 damaged through stranding at Alexandria, 1974 broken up in Greece.



(Unknown)

A nice profile shot of Euxine Shipping's **MV Henzee** laying calmly at anchor. Built in 1948 by Pickersgill & Co., Southwick, No.310, 2372 GRT- 100.7 x 13.7 m. Sold out of the fleet in 1964 renamed OLGA, 1969 on sold and renamed NESTOR – 1977 went for demolition at Eleusis.



(Unknown)

The Euxine Shipping Company's cargo ship **MV Hendrik**. Built 1946 2,270 GRT.

These were popular ships to sail on, with round trips of about two months from the UK to the Eastern Mediterranean. They carried up to 12 passengers and a typical trip would be Esparto grass to Methil, and then General Cargo from London back to Mediterranean ports. Reportedly they engaged Chinese deck crew. These little ships were frequent visitors to UK ports, especially during 1950-60s and were conspicuous by their pale colored hulls and buff painted funnels, sporting the company pennant.

A Random Summary of some of Euxine Shipping's early history and development

Name	Year	Builder and History
Carol Dorian	1907	A. Rodger & Co. Port Glasgow, Yard No 403 Ex Helmsdale, 1931 purchased from Strath Steamship Company renamed Carol by W.H. van der Zee, Smyrna, 1932 transferred to Euxine Shipping Co. renamed Carol Dorian , 1938 sold renamed Lake Hallwill, 1941 to MOWT renamed Signe, 1941 renamed Ingman, 9.6.1944 scuttled as a blockship off Normandy, Gooseberry No3 project, 12.8.1945 arrived at Newport after being salvaged and scrapped.
Christine Marie(1)	1910	Irvine's Shipbuilding & Drydock Co. Ltd., West Hartlepool, Yard No 490 Launched as Lamorna for Turnbull & Co., Leith but completed for Scheepvaart Maatschappij Gylsen (SMG) as Graanhandel, 1916 transferred to Lloyd Royal Belge renamed Colombier, 1922 sold to Abbey Line, Cardiff renamed Tintern Abbey, 1923 sold to Lambert Bros, London, 1923 sold to W. H. van der Zee, Smyrna renamed Christine, 1933 transferred to Euxine Shipping Co., London renamed Christine Marie , 1936 sold to Lovisa Angfartygs A/B, Lovisa, Finland renamed Inga, 17.12.1940 sunk in collision with Danish s/s SILKESBORG in Kiel Canal.
Christine Marie(2)	1919	Flensburger Schiffsbau Gesellschaft, Flensburg Ex Patria built for Hamburg Amerikanische Paketfahrt Gesellschaft (Hapag), 1919 ceded to Britain to R.P. Houston & Co. renamed Hesperia, 1938 sold to Euxine Shipping Co, London, renamed Christine Marie , 1947 sold to Wallem & Co., Panama renamed Costa Rica, 1947 sold to Finland renamed Ledsund, 1959 scrapped.
Helena Margareta	1916	A. Vuijk & Zn, Capelle aan den IJssel, Yard No 432 Ex Larenberg, 1935 purchased from Stoomboot Maatschappij Hillegersberg, Rotterdam (Vinke & Co.) renamed Helena Margareta , 8.4.1941 torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U.107.
Helka(1)	1912	Rotterdamsche Droogdok Mij, Rotterdam, Yard No 33 Ex Mijdrecht, tanker, 1929 purchased from Van Ommeren, Rotterdam and renamed Helka , 1932 transferred to Euxine Shipping Co. , 25.5.1941 bombed and sunk by German aircraft at Sollum with the loss of 2 lives.
Hendi	1947	Burntisland Shipbuilders, No.318 as MEMNON (1947-50) - BOREN (1950-54) Purchased by Euxine shipping Company 1954 and remained in fleet until 1962, sold out of fleet and renamed ERIKA, 1964 STEFANOS M, 1969 VELBA, 1973 DIRFIS - 03/08/73 damaged through stranding at Alexandria, 1974 broken up in Greece.
Henzee	1946	Pickersgill & Co., Southwick, No.310. Sold out of the fleet in 1964 renamed OLGA, 1969 on sold and renamed NESTOR – 1977 went for demolition at Eleusis.
Hendrik	1946	Euxine Shipping history, length of service in fleet and fate unknown

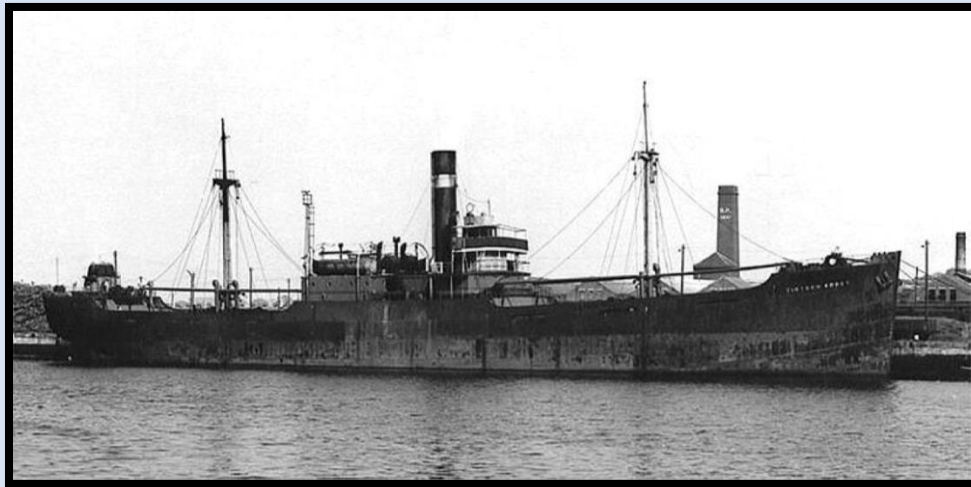
Myriel 1913 Rotterdamse Droogdok Mij, Rotterdam, Yard No 38 Ex Wieldrecht, tanker, 1930 purchased from Van Ommeren, Rotterdam and renamed Myriel, **1932 transferred to Euxine Shipping Co.**, 1947 sold to Italy renamed Miriella, 1954 laid up, 1955 scrapped at Genoa .

W Hendrik 1925 Furness Shipbuilding Co. Ltd., Haverton Hill on Tees, Ex Tynebridge, ex Mary Walton, **1937 purchased renamed W Hendrik**, 3.12.1940 bombed and sunk by German aircraft with the loss of 5 lives



(Unknown)

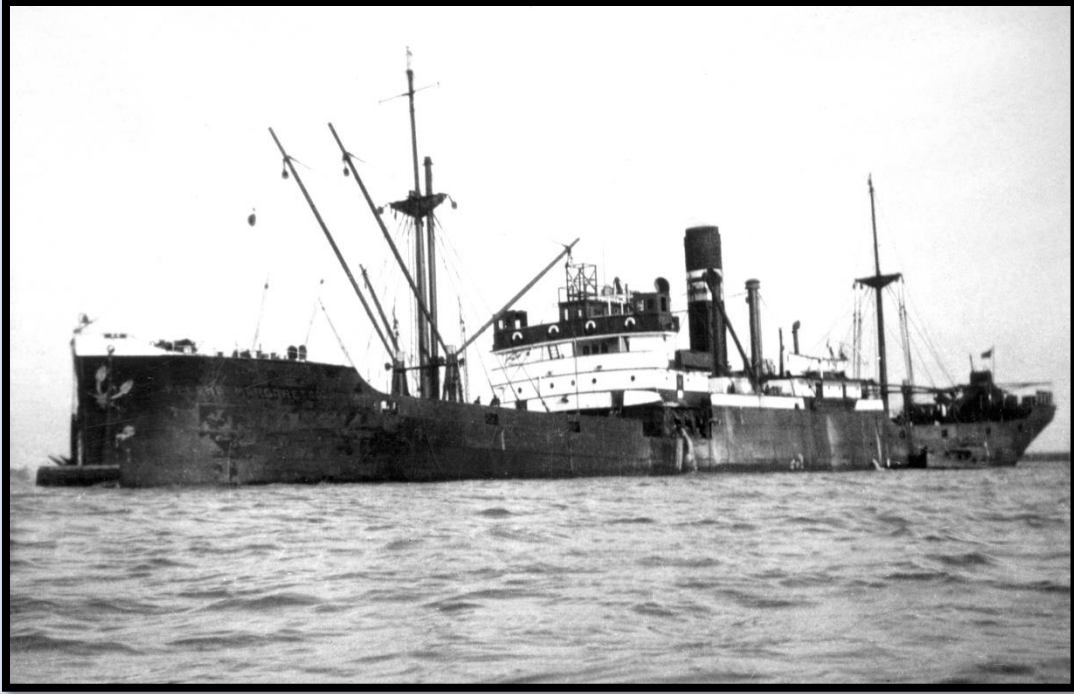
MV Henzee passing through Dover Strait, westbound. Date unknown but likely the early days of containerization going by the few units stowed on deck.



SS Christine Marie pictured as **Tintern Abbey** when under Abbey Line ownership

(Unknown)

SS Christine Marie. Operated by W. H. van der Zee, Smyrna, from 1923 - named Christine, **1933 transferred to Euxine Shipping Co., London renamed Christine Marie**, 1936 sold to Lovisa Angfartygs A/B, Lovisa, Finland renamed Inga, 17.12.1940 sunk in collision with Danish SS SILKESBORG in Kiel Canal.

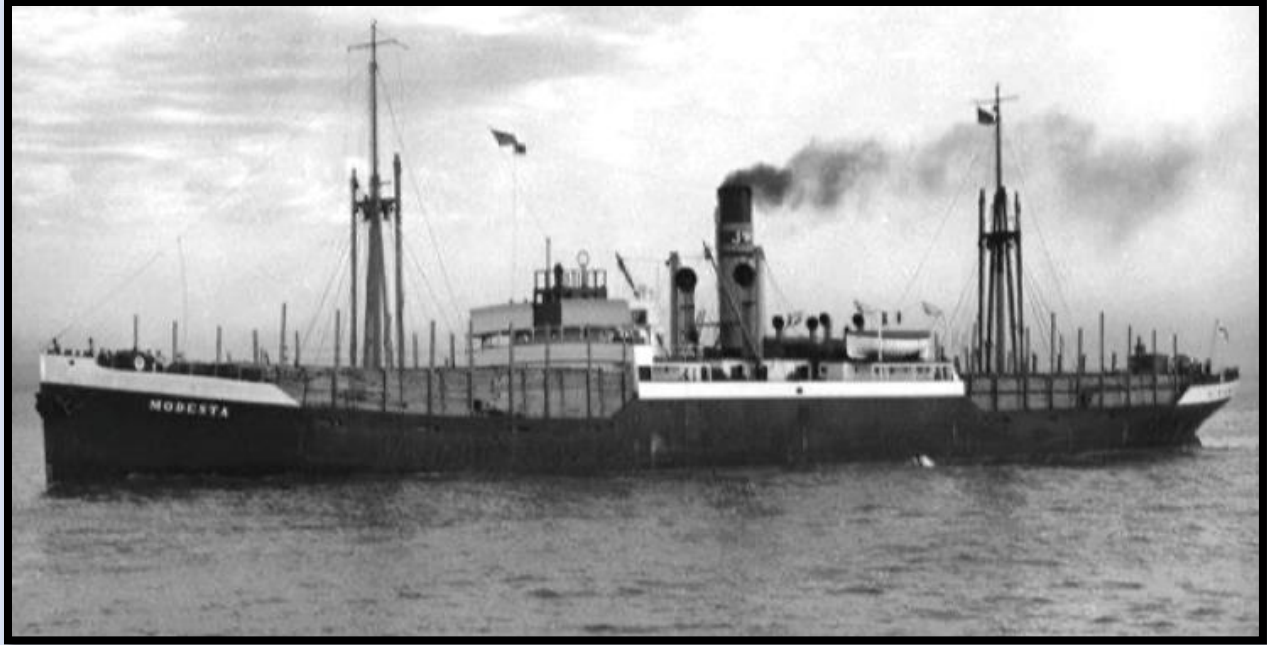


(ST&Y)

An early image of the 1916 Built **Helena Margareta** which was purchased from Stoomboot Maatschappij Hillegersberg, Rotterdam (Vinke & Co). In 1935 she was transferred to the Euxine Shipping Company and was sunk in 1941 by a German U Boat (U.107).



Ex - MV Helka following her sale in 1966, photographed under her new ownership and name change to **Anna Maria**, moored to a buoy awaiting a berth or sailing orders.



(Unknown)

SS Modesta photographed 1941-1942, arriving in port carrying a full deck load of sawn timber



MV Henzee was sold out of the fleet in 1964 and became **Olga** under her new ownership (Unknown)



(Unknown)

Euxine Shipping Company's Tanker **SS Myriel** built in 1913 at Rotterdam as **Wieldrecht** for Van Omeran shipping. Purchased by Euxine Shipping Company in 1930 and renamed Myriel. Sold to Italian interests in 1947, subsequently laid up in 1954 and went for demolition in 1955 at Genoa.



(Unknown)

The tanker "**Mijdrecht**" built in 1912. Purchased by the owners of Euxine Shipping, from Van Omeran ca 1923 and renamed **Helka** (3).

Two additional ships listed, the Marlindo and Terica. The Terica reported as being sold out of the fleet ca 1965/66 to Yugoslav owners. No service records available whilst with Euxine Shipping Company – London. No available reports or historical archives of the company operating beyond the end of the 1960s.

End

References: Euxine Shipping Company archives, various public archives.

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