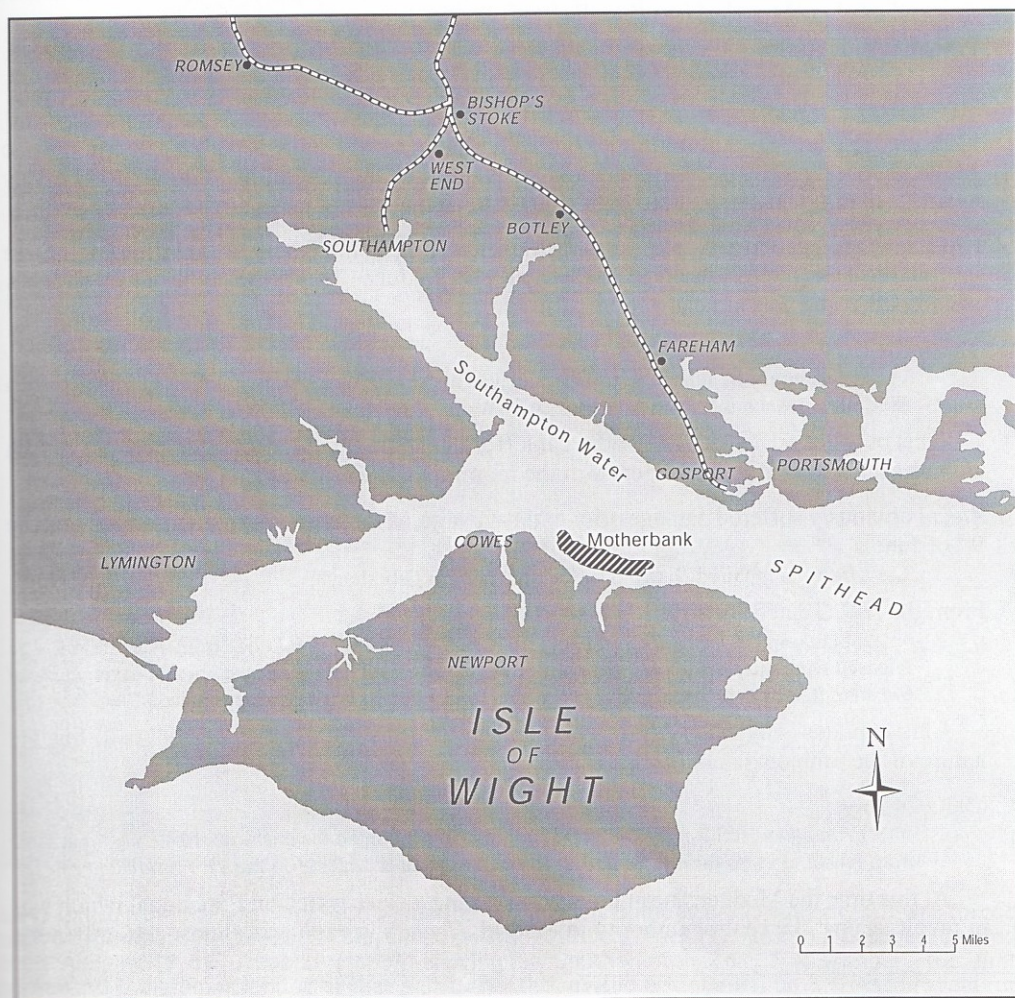


Admiralty Mediterranean Steam Packets
1830 to 1857

Colin Tabcart

HM or P&O Ship	Alex depart	Malta arrive	Malta depart	Gibraltar arrive	P&O Ship	Gibraltar depart	Falmouth arrive	Notes
							Southampton arrive	
<i>Gt Liverpool</i>	26 Oct	30 Oct	31 Oct	7 Nov		7 Nov	12 Nov [17]	10
<i>HMS Acheron</i>			17 Nov	25 Nov	<i>Liverpool</i>	28 Nov	7 Dec	11
<i>Oriental</i>	22 Nov	26 Nov	27 Nov	3 Dec		3 Dec	8 Dec [16]	12
<i>HMS Polyphemus</i>			15 Dec	20 Dec	<i>LMW</i>	21 Dec	30 Dec	
<i>Egyptos</i> (French)	?	18 Dec						13
<i>HMS Alecto</i>	22 Dec	27 Dec			<i>Pacha</i>	6 Jan	14 Jan [23]	14
<i>HMS Geyser</i>			29 Dec	4 Jan				
<i>Gt Liverpool</i>	23 Dec?	27 Dec?						15



The quarantine station at The Motherbank and mail landing points.

21. *HTSC* Southampton Saturday 5 December:

"*Oriental*, Soy, arrived on Wednesday morning from Alexandria with the Indian mails."

Kirk has her arriving on the Tuesday, which may mean she had to call at The Motherbank en route.

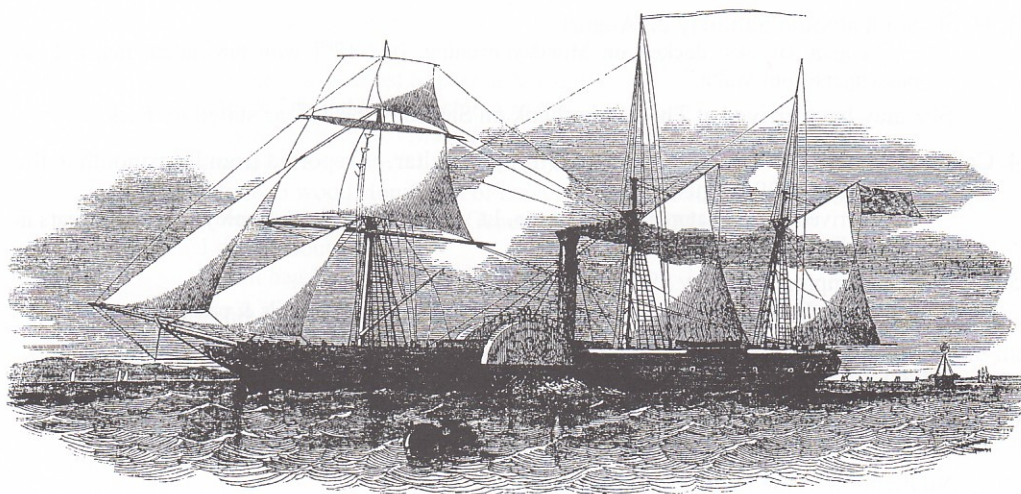
22. Southampton Saturday 12 December:

"*Madrid* due last Monday from the peninsula, is not yet arrived. It is probable she is detained at Lisbon awaiting dispatches for our Government."

Her mails were brought on by *HMS Cyclops* as reported by the *HTSC* from Portsmouth on Saturday the 12th of December:

"*HMS Cyclops*, Captain Lapidge, arrived on Wednesday night [the 9th] with the peninsula mails from Lisbon, whence she sailed on 1st inst."

23. At Algiers 31 December to 1 January.



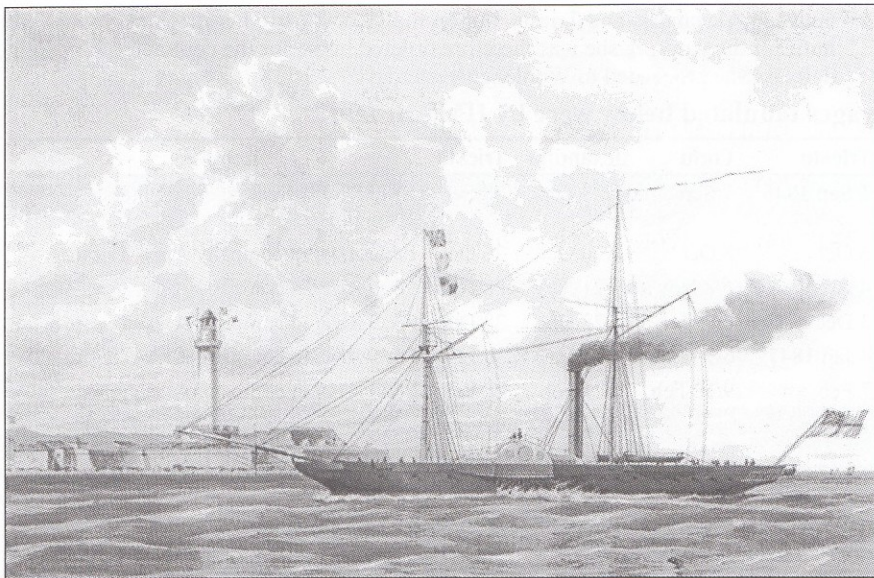
The P&O Company steamer *Iberia*, built in 1836 for the Peninsula line, where she was mostly employed, though later she was put on the Malta–Alexandria leg. 516 gross tons, 180 horsepower. (*ILN* March 15 1851)

1847 Outbound

Most of the P&O dates are taken from various published and unpublished documents by Reg Kirk, or from the *HTSC* as annotated. HM Ships' dates are from their logs.

Dates with an asterisk are from Hammond Giles.

HM or P&O Ship	S'hampton depart	at Gibraltar	Malta arrive	P&O Ship	Malta depart	Alex arrive	Notes
<i>Tagus</i>	4 Jan	14 Jan	19 Jan	<i>Ariel</i>	20 Jan	24 Jan	1
<i>Ripon</i>	20 Jan	30 Jan	5 Feb		6 Feb	10 Feb	
<i>Achilles</i>	3 Feb	9 Feb	14 Feb	<i>Ariel</i>	16 Feb	20 Feb	2
<i>Oriental</i>	20 Feb	27 Feb	3 Mar		5 Mar	9 Mar	
<i>Erin</i>	3 Mar	9 Mar	14 Mar	<i>Ariel</i>	16 Mar	20 Mar	



HMS *Ardent*. Built by Chatham Royal Dockyard in 1841. 801 tons b.m. Broken up in 1865. ©National Maritime Museum, London.

1846–47 Trieste – Corfu – Alexandria

HMS *Trident* & *Ardent*

Between September 1846 and February 1847 HMS *Ardent* ran a monthly service between Trieste, Corfu, and Alexandria, as tabulated below. This was a trial by Lt Waghorn to set up an alternative route from Alexandria to England to that via Marseilles and Malta, as the following newspaper clips show. It is interesting to note that most of the voyages were accompanied by a P&O ship – presumably they were surveying the route prior to deciding whether to set up a service.

“Malta 4 July 1846. *Ardent* arrived here on the 30th ult. She was to be placed at disposal of Lt Waghorn to enable him to give the Trieste route for dispatch of the Indian mail a fair trial, but he has declined this steamer as not being of sufficient power, & has applied for the *Trident*.”

“Portsmouth Saturday 19 September 1846. The *Garland* steam packet is ordered to be at Ostend tomorrow to meet Lt Waghorn, who is expected to arrive there that day with the overland Indian mail via Trieste.” [This probably refers to the first voyage tabulated below by *Ardent*, who was delayed 12 days at Alexandria awaiting the mail, but might refer to an earlier voyage from Alexandria to Trieste – presumably by HMS *Trident*.]

“Portsmouth 26 September 1846. *Ardent*, Lt Spong, arrived at Alexandria from Trieste on the 11th inst.”

“Malta 16 December: *Ardent* is on her way from Alexandria to Trieste.”

“Portsmouth Saturday 17 April *Trident*, Lt CC Rigge, arrived on Wednesday from Gibraltar, Lisbon & Oporto, left Lisbon on the 6th April, Oporto 8th. She was fitted out some months since at Chatham & sent to the Mediterranean to be employed as a mail packet

1851 Alexandria–Malta–Marseilles

HM Ship	Commander	Alex depart	Malta arrive	Malta depart	Mars arrive	Remarks / Notes
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst			9 Jan	13 Jan	
<i>Merlin</i>	Lt Turner	22 Jan	26 Jan			mails arrived Malta 1045, dep 1800
<i>Medina</i>	Lt Reynolds			26 Jan	30 Jan	
<i>Merlin</i>	Lt Turner			10 Feb	13 Feb	
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst	21 Feb	25 Feb			mails arrived Malta 0900, dep 1550.
<i>Medina</i>	Lt Reynolds			25 Feb	1 Mar	Note 1
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst			14 Mar	17 Mar	
<i>Merlin</i>	Lt Turner	21 Mar	25 Mar			mails arrived Malta 1020, dep ?
<i>Antelope</i>	Lt Smythe			25 Mar	29 Mar	
<i>Growler</i>				5 Apr	9 Apr	
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst			10 Apr	13 Apr	
<i>Medina</i>	Lt Reynolds	21 Apr	25 Apr			
<i>Triton</i>				25 Apr	30 Apr	
<i>Merlin</i>	Lt Turner			13 May	16 May	
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst	23 May	27 May			mails arrived Malta 1345, dep 1915
<i>Banshee</i>	Lt Hosken			27 May	29 May	
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst			9 Jun	12 Jun	
<i>Merlin</i>	Lt Turner	18 Jun	22 Jun			mails arrived Malta 1350, dep 1915, arr
<i>Medina</i>	Lt Reynolds			22 Jun	25 Jun	Marseilles 2345, landed mails 26 June
<i>Merlin</i>	Lt Turner			9 Jul	13 Jul	
<i>Banshee</i>	Lt Hosken	20 Jul	23 Jul			mails arrived Malta 1415, dep 1920
<i>Caradoc</i>	Lt Derriman			23 Jul	26 Jul	
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst			11 Aug	14 Aug	
<i>Banshee</i>	Lt Hosken	18 Aug	21 Aug			landed mails at Marseilles 25 August
<i>Medina</i>	Lt Reynolds			21 Aug	24 Aug	
<i>Banshee</i>	Lt Hosken			13 Sep	15 Sep	
<i>Merlin</i>	Lt Turner	22 Sep	26 Sep			mails arrived Malta 1045, dep 1630.
<i>Caradoc</i>	Lt Derriman			26 Sep	29 Sep	Note 2
<i>Banshee</i>	Lt Hosken			12 Oct	14 Oct	
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst	21 Oct	25 Oct			mails arrived Malta 1330, dep 1745
<i>Medina</i>	Lt Reynolds			25 Oct	28 Oct	
<i>Banshee</i>	Lt Hosken			11 Nov	15 Nov	
<i>Medina</i>	Lt Reynolds	22 Nov	27 Nov			mails arrived Malta 0800, dep 1400.
<i>Ardent</i>	Lt Derriman			27 Nov	30 Nov	Note 2
<i>Banshee</i>	Lt Hosken			11 Dec	13 Dec	
<i>Medusa</i>	Lt Bathurst	21 Dec	26 Dec			mails arrived Malta 0715, dep 1400
<i>Ardent</i>	Lt Derriman			26 Dec	30 Dec	

Notes:

1. Malta 24 February:

"This morning early the *Medusa* arrived with the homeward India mail. Sir Charles Napier¹²

¹² General Sir Charles James Napier, a cousin of Admiral Sir Charles Napier. Charles James was returning from India where he had been Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

18 March 1839. From this date a General Post Office Notice⁴ stated that letters to Gibraltar and Malta could be sent by the Falmouth packet without pre-payment of postage.

5 December 1839. 5 December was a watershed for packet as well as inland rates, as established by Treasury Minute dated 22 November 1839. Note the change to a pure weight-based system. One rate up to ½oz, 2 rates to 1oz, then 2 full rates for each additional ounce or part thereof. The major impact on rates involved in this study was the reduction of postage by Falmouth packet to British Colonies to an uniform rate of one shilling, to the great benefit of correspondence for Gibraltar, Malta, and the Ionian Islands. India, however, was excepted from this rule, remaining at 2/6d.

Table E
British Packet rates from 5 December 1839

From Falmouth to	Packet Rate	Remarks
Portugal	1/7d for ½oz	add inland at the old rates to/from Falmouth abated by 1d. e.g. to London total rate still = 2/6d
Spain	2/2d for ½oz	no inland to be added
Gibraltar	1/- for ½oz	no inland to be added
Malta	1/- for ½oz	no inland to be added
Corfu & Ionian Islands	1/- for ½oz	no inland to be added
Greece (e.g. Patras)	2/6d for ½oz	no inland to be added [2/3d to/from Falmouth]
Egypt	2/6d for ½oz	no inland to be added [2/3d to/from Falmouth]
India	2/6d for ½oz	

Table F
British Packet rates from 10 January 1840
(Established by Treasury Warrant dated 27 December 1839)

From Falmouth to	Packet Rate	Remarks
Portugal	1/7d for ½oz	add 2d inland beyond Falmouth
Spain	2/2d for ½oz	no inland to be added
Gibraltar	1/- for ½oz	no inland to be added
Malta	1/- for ½oz	no inland to be added
Corfu & Ionian Islands	1/- for ½oz	no inland to be added
Greece (e.g. Patras)	2/3d for ½oz	add 2d inland beyond Falmouth
Egypt	2/3d for ½oz	add 2d inland beyond Falmouth
India	1/- for ½oz	no inland to be added

These changes brought India within the 1/- packet rate, reduced inland postage on Portuguese letters significantly, and reduced rates to Greece and Egypt by 1d.

1 September 1840. The Act of Parliament 3/4 Victoria c96 of 10 August, effective from 1 September, changed many postage rates, packet rates being no exception, but did not alter any of the rates in this study.

4 POST 107.