

GENERAL HEWETT



*The Marchioness of Ely and General Hewitt, June 16, 1822 (G H flag on right)
Major J Luard
The Royal Museum, Greenwich*

**Ship, 543 tons Old Measure, Built 1811 at Calcutta, owned by W Tindall of London
Master: Captain John Gatenby, Surgeon Superintendent: John Harrison**

London, August 12, 1848 to Port Jackson November 13, 1848 – 94 days at sea

General Hewett, sometimes spelled **General Hewart** or **General Hewitt**, was a three-deck sailing ship launched at Calcutta in 1811. The British East India Company (EIC) purchased her to use her in the China trade. However, unlike most East Indiamen, on her first voyage from England she transported convicts from England to Australia. Thereafter, she performed five voyages for the EIC. The EIC sold her in 1830 and she then became a general merchantman. In 1864 she was sold for a hulk or to be broken up.

General Hewett was admitted to the Registry of Great Britain on 14 November 1813. She first appears in the *Register of Shipping* in 1814 with M'Tagart as both master and owner. By then her owner had sold her to the East India Company (EIC). At the time the EIC purchased **General Hewitt**, the company had only three vessels of its own. It chartered all the rest, including the ones built expressly for the EIC's trade.

Under the command of Captain Percy Earl, **General Hewitt** sailed from England on 26 August 1813, with 300 male convicts, 104 crew, 70 soldiers, 15 women and five children. The soldiers came from the 46th Regiment of Foot and guarded the convicts. She sailed in company with

Wanstead and *Windham*, and under the escort of HMS *Akbar*, at least for the early part of the voyage. The convoy also included *Roxburgh Castle*, which was carrying military equipment to the Cape of Good Hope, and *Chapman*, which was transporting an army detachment to the Cape and Île de France (Mauritius). She arrived at Port Jackson on 7 February 1814, having travelled via Madeira and Rio de Janeiro.^[1]

The voyage took 165 days, during which 34 male convicts died, large number, mostly of contagious dysentery. The losses on *General Hewitt*, *Surry*, and *Three Bees* led in 1814 to Surgeon William Redfern preparing a report for Governor Lachlan Macquarie on the sanitary problems of the ships transporting convicts to New South Wales. This report led to a great improvement in conditions, including the appointment of a medical officer for each voyage.

General Hewitt made five trips to China or India for the EIC between 1816 and 1825. The East India Company sold her to William Tindall on 22 September 1830 for £6250.^[2]

As a merchantman, *General Hewitt* made numerous voyages to Australia carrying immigrants. She received a new deck, wales, and major repairs in 1842. She left London on 20 October 1845, under the command of Captain Hart. On this voyage she carried passengers and cargo and arrived at Port Jackson on 21 January 1846.

Departing Plymouth on 11 August 1848, under the command of John Gatenby, she carried passengers and cargo and arrived at Port Jackson on 13 November 1848. She left afterwards for India.

In 1854 William Tindall sold *General Hewitt* to J. Michael, of London, for £6,250. The ship was sheathed in felt and copper fastened with iron bolts in 1854.

On 3 April 1756 Michael sold her to J. Wilson, of London, for £4,550 and in 1864 *General Hewitt* was sold for a hulk or to be broken up.

Notes

1. The *Register of Shipping* for 1814 gives her origin as Bombay, which is either an error, or reflects a change of registry from Calcutta to Bombay prior to her sale in Britain.

From Wikipedia

References – for a full list of references, see Wikipedia