

# Picture archive no.13

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Staff who go to lunch in Greenly House, London, may have noticed cutlery formerly belonging to the *Balaena*. She was a factory ship of the Hector Whaling Company, the centre of the Hector whaler's world.

She resembled somewhat a tanker in ballast; her deck was interrupted by a structure carrying winches and derricks, nicknamed Marble Arch. She was unusual in having three funnels, two side by side, and

a third forward of the others on the port side painted white to blend to the king posts. The mainmast was also in an unorthodox position, being off-centre on the port side of Marble Arch.

Underneath her unusual appearance the *Balaena* was a tanker, with most of her hull subdivided into nine rows of four tanks, each able to carry some 500 tons of fuel or (after cleaning) whale oil, sperm oil or meatmeal.

The tank trap formed the tank deck, for most of the length of which ran the Central London Railway—a conveyor for moving bags of meal, meat extract, frozen whale meat and so on.

Above the tank deck was the factory deck where most of the processing of the whale was done. The *Balaena* was sold to Japanese owners to become *Kyokyo Mana III* in 1960.

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