

Basic Detail Report

Cheynes IV

Vessel number

HV000620

Date

1948

Primary Maker

A/S Frammes MEK Verksted

Description

The 45.44 metres long steam powered whaler CHEYNES IV was built in 1948 by Framnaes Mek Vaerksted A /S Shipyard, Sandefjord, Norway, yard number No 140. It is steel plated, and powered by a 4-cylinder compound steam engine (2 high pressure and 2 low pressure cylinders) generating 1750 horsepower, with steam coming from two Foster Wheeler oil-fired boilers. It was built for the Union Whaling Co. Ltd, Durban South Africa and paid off from there in 1967. It was launched under the name W. FEARNHEAD but was later renamed WILFRID FEARNHEAD. In 1969, it was purchased by Cheynes Beach Whaling Company Pty Ltd. Albany in Western Australia to replace GASCOYNE, a German built ship launched in 1936 and operated by the company since 1966. The ship was sailed to Fremantle from South Africa by a crew of the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company employees. The passage took seventeen days and the ship arrived in Fremantle in March 1970. It was re-named CHEYNES IV and commissioned as a whale chaser for the company from March 14th 1970. It worked off the state's south west coast until the company's closure on November 21st 1978. CHEYNES IV was laid up in the care of former skipper Axel Christensen at the Albany Town Jetty until it was towed to its present location by the Albany Port Authority tug MV AVON on September 2nd, 1981. It remains on display giving visitors the opportunity to explore the whole vessel and experience a whale hunt through an audio re-enactment.