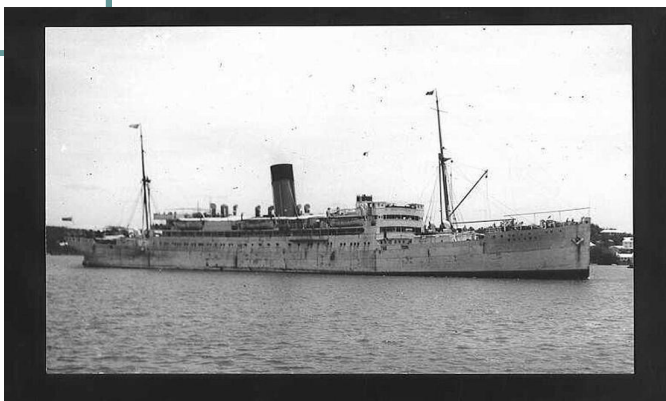


## WHATS IN A NAME?

### Two S.S. Bayano's

#### S.S. Bayano 1917—1956



The first SS Bayano, built in 1913, was a banana boat for the Elders & Fyffes line. At the outbreak of World War I it was drafted into the Royal Navy as an armed merchant auxiliary cruiser. On 11 March 1915, it was torpedoed by SM U-27 and sank within minutes killing around 200 of its crew. Twenty-six survivors were pulled from the water.

The second SS Bayano was a 1917 100 Passenger/Refrigerated Cargo Reefer, also an Elders & Fyffes ship. The S.S. Bayano record is unequalled by any other Fyffe's line ship, in her thirty-eight years the Bayano completed 280 voyages and delivered to Britain some 3,000,000,000 bananas before being sold to the breakers in 1956.

She was also known as "Lucky Bayano" built in 1917 (6,815 g.r.t.) having served in two wars. In 1917 to 1919 Bayano was an Admiralty commissioned escort ship. In 1940-1945 she made over 40 voyages across the North Atlantic, to be in a convoy with her was regarded a good omen for a safe voyage. In August 1940 she transported children to Canada, some of which returned to the UK on the same ship at the end of the war.

'Yes we have no Bananas' is derived from a song of the second world war II. The term has been resurrected on many occasions, including during rationing in Britain during World War II when supplies of many products, including bananas, were very scarce. Shop owners would place signs stating "Yes, we have no bananas" in their shop windows in keeping with the general war spirit.

The below cover is a commercial cover, with Alston & Co printed flap and marked "per s.s. "Bayano" and hand-stamped large red CONSIGNEE as travelling with good/produce. The stamp is a T&T KGV 1½d tied when off-loaded at Bristol March 26 1930 showing the OCEAN MAIL/EX/S.S. BAYANO cachet and PAQUEBOT applied Bristol.

