



*The Kopara cutting her way up Otago harbour in fine style, 1951. Captain Bates, the master most closely associated with her, is best remembered for his habit of tearing his waistcoat buttons off — or at least plucking at them — whenever his berthing manoeuvres did not go according to plan! — D. Wright, courtesy R. J. McDougall*

Ironically, the *Kopara* suffered more at the hands of the Americans who lacked the expertise to maintain her unfamiliar diesels. Richardsons made several attempts to get them to accept an experienced, company-trained engineer, but met icy refusal each time and had to settle for a £1,200 increase in the charter fee to compensate for the damage being perpetrated below decks. As the war drew to a close, the ship began to deteriorate rapidly.