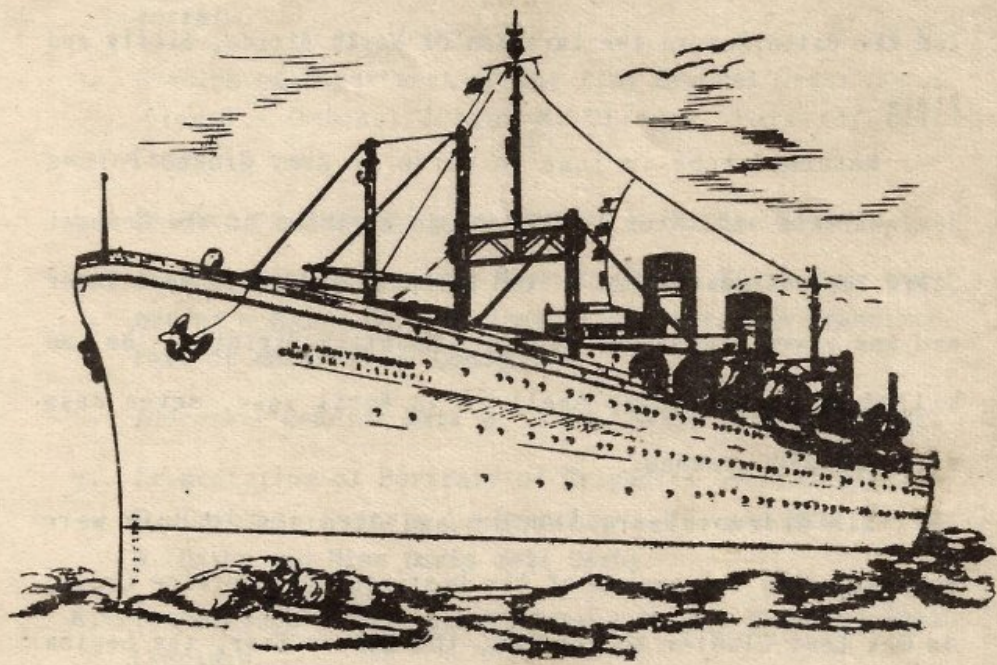


CHRISTENING CEREMONY

U. S. A. T.

"GENERAL WILLIAM O. DARBY"



SAN FRANCISCO PORT
OF EMBARKATION
TRANSPORTATION CORPS, U.S. ARMY

FRIDAY 8 JULY 1949

THE USAT GENERAL WILLIAM O. DARBY

The United States Army Transport General William O. Darby is one of the largest and finest Army Transportation Corps passenger ships assigned to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

Originally named the USS Admiral William S. Sims, she was built at the Bethlehem-Alameda Shipyards, Inc. plant at Alameda, California and was placed in service in late 1945. Her first assignment took her to the Southwest Pacific to bring troops home. She made several additional troop return voyages under Navy operations before she was turned over to the Army in the spring of 1946 to form part of the permanent peacetime fleet of the Transportation Corps.

She was given immediate conversion to peacetime needs at San Pedro, California, that year and in 1948 she was sent to Newport News, Va., for final conversion. On completion she made several Atlantic runs before joining the SFPE fleet. General Order No. 1, dated 9 January 1948, changed her name to the General Darby, honoring one of World War II's outstanding combat leaders.

The General Darby is a P-2 class ship 608 feet long. She is listed at 17,000 gross tons with a cruising radius of 15,000 miles. In her final conversion she was fitted to accommodate 443 cabin class and 1116 troop class passengers. She is manned by a crew of 294 Transportation Corps maritime civilians and a military complement of 24 officers and enlisted men.

GENERAL WILLIAM O. DARBY

The Department of the Army honors one of its outstanding combat leaders of World War II in naming this ship for Brigadier General William O. Darby.

A native of Fort Smith, Ark., and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in 1933, General Darby was placed in command of the now famed First Ranger Battalion in January 1942. He led the Battalion in the invasion of North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Returned home in 1944 to serve at Army Ground Forces Headquarters and later in Operations Division of the General Staff, he was sent again to the European Theater a year later and was given command of the 10th Mountain Division. He was killed by an exploding shell on 30 April 1945, seven days after he took command.

His extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were recognized in the awards of the Distinguished Service Cross, an Oak Leaf Cluster to the DSC, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the French Croix de Guerre, the Russian Order of Kutuzov, and the British Distinguished Service Order. He also was awarded the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters for wounds received in action.

General Darby's remains were brought home in 1948 and were interred in the National Cemetery at Fort Smith, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Percy W. Darby, and his sister, Miss Doris Nell Darby, reside.

PROGRAM

Re-Christening Ceremony, USAT General William O. Darby

8 July 1949

1. Opening Remarks - Colonel Cyrus J. Wilder, Deputy Port Commander, San Francisco Port of Embarkation.
2. "Transportation Corps March" - Port of Embarkation 22d Army Band, conducted by Chief Warrant Officer Louis Ferraro.
3. Reading of Department of the Army General Order No. 1 (1948) - Colonel Joseph M. Glasgow, Port Adjutant General.
4. Raising of Commissioning Pennant - Ship's Officers.
5. Introduction of General Mark W. Clark, Sixth Army Commander - Major General James A. Lester, San Francisco Port of Embarkation Commander.
6. Address - General Mark W. Clark, Sixth Army Commander.
7. Presentation of Portrait of Brigadier General William O. Darby to Captain L. Brunchon - Mr. and Mrs. Percy W. Darby and Miss Doris Nell Darby.
8. Benediction - Chaplain (Colonel) W. Roy Bradley, Port Chaplain.
9. National Anthem - Port of Embarkation 22d Army Band.

