

Contributed by Tom Armstrong

The insignia of USS CAMDEN (AOE-2) is derived from the city seal of Camden, New Jersey, the city where the ship was built and for which she is named.

The Coat of Arms in the center is a facsimile of the shield of the city seal of Camden, New Jersey. The right half contains a sailing ship, representing the city as a port of entry and its shipbuilding industries. The left half is a replica from the Coat of Arms of Lord Camden, after whom the city was named.

"Flexibility, Readiness, Endurance." CAMDEN's motto embodies the three characteristics the ship and her crew must possess to meet the logistic support challenge the ship is designed to fulfill.

The crossed sword and anchor in the background represents her crew, both officers and men. The line border circumscribing CAMDEN's emblem emphasizes the unity required for CAMDEN to function as an effective unit of the fleet.



The USS CAMDEN combines the functions of three logistic support ships in one hull—fleet oiler (AO), ammunition ship (AE), and refrigerated stores ship (AF).

As an oiler (AO) she carries over seven-million gallons of marine distillate propulsion fuel and jet fuel. Although CAMDEN carries enough fuel to go around the world about four times without refueling, most of the fuel is destined for other ships. About 60 million gallons are pumped each year from this enormous floating filling station to other ships.

As a refrigeration ship (AFS) CAMDEN carries over 1000 tons of frozen, chilled, and dry foods. During a normal deployment close to 7,000 tons of provisions and 100 tons of fleet freight are processed by CAMDEN's Supply Department.

Mail is as important as food to sailors. Each deployment CAMDEN delivers about 100,000 pounds of mail to our forces at sea.

CAMDEN is designed to operate with strike forces necessitating fast handling of cargo. To better fulfill this important mission, new replenishment methods aboard CAMDEN have been developed for the rapid transfer of all cargo.

A system of elevators and package conveyors permits ready access to ammunition and cargo holds. CAMDEN operates and maintains a cargo handling fleet of fork lift trucks, allowing breakout and positioning of cargo and ammunition with efficiency.

Sophisticated automatic cargo equipment like the Standard Tension Replenishment Alongside Method (STREAM), provide rapid transfer of materials from CAMDEN to her customers.

Two Boeing CH-46 helicopters add another dimension to CAMDEN's ability to transfer freight, mail, personnel, provisions and ammunition. Vertical replenishment (VERTREP) rates of up to 6 thousand pounds per minute to customer ship flight decks reduces alongside replenishment time and also allows transfer of cargo at greater distances. Additionally, CAMDEN can accept all other NAVY helicopters, including RH-53 helicopters stationed aboard aircraft carriers, for VERTREP support. These helicopters expand our capacity to over 10 thousand pounds per lift.

As an ammunition ship (AE), the CAMDEN can replenish the entire ordnance requirements of an aircraft carrier in three to four hours. She also carries

a complete assortment of missiles and ammunition for cruisers and destroyers with a capacity of approximately six-thousand tons when fully loaded.

To support the crew, the ship must be self-sufficient in every respect. Personnel onboard have enough expertise in a variety of technical skills to maintain and operate all shipboard equipment. The ship is in essence a floating city and provides services to support and accommodate her crew. The following statistics demonstrate the scope of her internal operations. There are 150 intership telephones, 75 fire stations, about 10 thousand valves and six boats to serve the crew. The ship's laundry washes 8-thousand pounds of laundry each week and the ship's fresh water distilling plants produce almost 500 thousand gallons of water weekly.

The nearly 600 officers and crew are divided into seven departments with each performing a special type of work coordinated to perform the mission of the ship. Those departments are Deck, Engineering, Operations, Supply, Medical, Air and Administration. These highly trained, capable professionals maintain, repair, and operate all shipboard systems. They are required to perform their assigned duties day or night, under all weather and combat conditions, around the clock, if necessary, to fuel, feed, supply, rearm and deliver the mail to the fleet. No matter what his job, each member of CAMDEN's crew is part of the CAMDEN team and plays an important role in the defense of our country.

USS CAMDEN is the second ship of the United States to bear the name CAMDEN. She is named for the city of Camden, New Jersey, the seat of Camden County, located on the east side of the Delaware River opposite Philadelphia.

The first ship to bear the name CAMDEN was built in 1900 in Germany as the KIEL. She was seized by the United States on entry into World War I. First outfitted as a cargo ship and commissioned in August 1917, she transported coal between Wales and French ports. In May 1918 she returned to the United States for conversion to a submarine tender.

CAMDEN's active career first ended in May 1931 prior to recall to active service as a barracks ship at New York Navy Yard in 1940 for the duration of World War II.

FACTS ABOUT CAMDEN

Navy designation	AOE-2
Type of ship	Fast Combat Support Ship
Propulsion Machinery	4 V2M 600 PSI Propulsion Boilers
Shaft HP	100,000
Speed	29 knots plus
Length	796 feet
Breadth	107 feet
Draft (navigation)	38 feet
Baseline to top mast	131 feet
Displacement	53,000 tons (fully loaded)
Keel laid	17 February 1964
Christened and Launched	29 May 1965
Commissioned	1 April 1967
Berthing	27 officers 587 enlisted men
Anchors (2)	Weight-25,000 pounds each
Propellers (2)	Diameter—23 feet Weight-68,500 pounds each
Capacity of electrical generating turbines (4)	6000 kw (total)
Capacity of air conditioning plant	Over 250 tons
Daily capacity of distilling plant	80,000 gallons
Armament	NATO Seasparrow Missile System Two 20mm Close-In Weapons Systems
Replenishment winches	47
Replenishment at sea stations	7
Fueling at sea stations	6
Fueling hose carried	4,280 feet
Air Detachment	Two CH-46 Sea Knight Helicopters