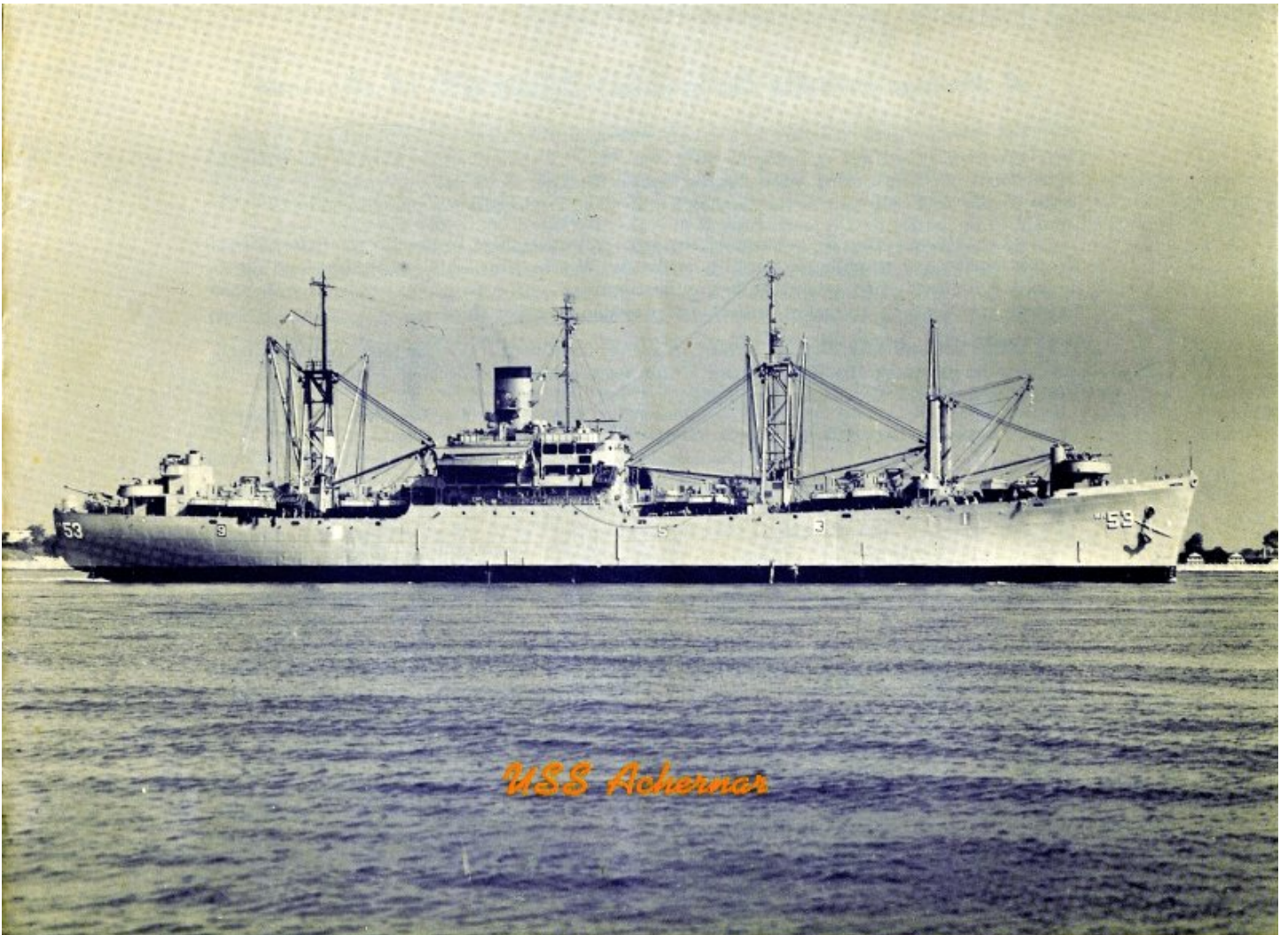


Contributed by Michael Nuzzo Jr.



USS Achernar

A Message from the Commanding Officer of USS Acheron

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you aboard *Acheron* since it affords an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the Navy. We want you to learn as much as possible about our ship during your stay on board. This pamphlet has been prepared with the hope that it will help you to feel at home and make this occasion a memorable one.

The Attack Cargo Ship is one of the most versatile ships in the United States Navy. In participating in amphibious assaults on distant shores, this ship transports and lands assault equipment with attendant troops, ammunition, and supplies by means of embarked landing craft and by transport helicopters provided by other ships.

The Officers and Men of *Acheron* are proud of your Navy and they are particularly proud to be members of a Navy-Marine Corps team which has become a unique force for maintaining peace throughout the world.

I hope that you will enjoy your visit with us.



D. F. Rungley

Commanding Officer

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS

<i>Overall Length:</i>	459 Feet
<i>Beam:</i>	63 Feet
<i>Displacement:</i>	13910 Tons
<i>Speed:</i>	16 Knots
<i>Armament:</i>	One 5 inch 38 calibre dual purpose gun and four twin 40 MM anti-aircraft gun mounts.
<i>Complement:</i>	429 Men.

BRIEF SHIP'S HISTORY

The USS Achernar (AKA 53) was built by the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company at Kearney, New Jersey, and was originally placed in commission on 13 January 1944. Outfitting and alterations were carried out at the Navy Yard. Achernar was originally supplied at Hampton Roads and conducted shakedown in the Chesapeake Bay.

Achernar departed from New York Port of Embarkation, Staten Island, on 19 March 1944 for her first operational mission. This mission was to participate in the Invasion of Normandy as deputy headquarters ship of the U. S. 1st Army and the U. S. 9th Army Air Force. During the actual landings Achernar survived several enemy air attacks and upon departure from the landing area carried casualties that were received on board from other ships of the landing force and the invasion beaches. She proceeded to Plymouth Sound, England, where these casualties were discharged.

13 August 1944 found Achernar at sea in Convoy SF-1 on her second operational mission. This mission was to participate in the landings for the invasion of Southern France. Upon completion of this mission, Achernar proceeded to Hampton Roads, Virginia, where general repairs and routine overhaul were accomplished.

Achernar was then assigned to the Pacific Fleet and proceeded through the Panama Canal to the War in the Pacific. Okinawa was to be her next engagement. While participating in the invasion in the early hours of 2 April 1945 a Japanese suicide plane carrying a five hundred pound bomb struck the ship on the starboard side of number three hatch. Severe damage was suffered in electronic equipment and the hull itself. Forty six casualties, including five killed, were suffered by this hit. This ended the wartime career of the Achernar.

Following World War II, Achernar was assigned to the Military Sea Transportation Service for "Magic Carpet" duty. Runs were made between the West Coast of the United States and the Pacific Islands carrying cargo.

The Korean action found the Achernar back in the role of an active amphibious ship. She participated in the Inchon landings in September 1950 and transported troops from Japan to Wonsan. She later operated with Amphibious Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet until placed out of commission on 18 May 1956.

Achernar again joined the active Fleet as a member of Amphibious Forces, Atlantic Fleet, in November 1961. Her mission once again is to contribute to the overall amphibious assault capability of the United States Navy as a part of our increased readiness position.

VANGUARD IN PEACE ...



... SPEARHEAD IN WAR

Commissioning Ceremony

USS ACHERNAR (AKA 53)

28 NOVEMBER 1961

Band Selections	Naval Air Technical Training Band, Memphis, Tennessee ENSIGN Stanley SURBER, USN, Director
Welcome	CAPTAIN Donald F. QUIGLEY, USN Commanding Officer, USS ACHERNAR (AKA-53)
Invocation	CAPTAIN Samuel B. BENNETT, CHC, USN District Chaplain, EIGHTH Naval District
Introduction	CAPTAIN Donald F. QUIGLEY, USN
Remarks	REAR ADMIRAL Frederick B. WARDER, USN Commandant, EIGHTH Naval District
Address	CAPTAIN Neville LEVY, USNR (RET)
Commissioning	REAR ADMIRAL Frederick B. WARDER, USN
Assumption of Command	CAPTAIN Donald F. QUIGLEY, USN
Set the Watch	Ship's Company, USS ACHERNAR (AKA 53)
Benediction	CAPTAIN Samuel B. BENNETT, CHC, USN

Reception in the Crew's Mess and Wardroom

COMPHIBLANT VADM Alfred G. WARD, USN
 COMPHIBGRUTWO RADM James C. DEMPSEY, USN
 COMPHIBRONSIX CAPT William R. SMITH, Jr., USN

SHIP'S OFFICERS

Commanding Officer CAPT Donald F. QUIGLEY, USN
 Executive Officer CDR Stanley H. BRITTINGHAM, USN
 Operations Officer LCDR Francis P. REARDON, USN
 Communications Officer LTJG Tom EDIE, USNR
 Combat Information Officer ENS Peter M. PHILLIPES, USN
 Electronic Material Officer ENS Richard D. MACKIE, USNR
 Assistant Communications Officer ENS Ronald M. PEREIRA, USN
 Navigator ENS Robert R. RUTHERFORD, USN
 Personnel Officer ENS William H. BAUER, USNR
 First Lieutenant LTJG Donald D. DISPIRITO, USNR
 Gunnery Officer ENS Richard V. WILSON, USN
 Assistant First Lieutenant ENS Dominic A. FITZPATRICK, USNR
 Ships Boatswain CHBOSN George H. SWEENEY, USN
 Boat Group Commander ENS Thomas C. BRUGMAN, USNR
 Assistant Boat Group Commander ENS Frederick A. GOLL, USNR
 Engineering Officer LT Francis J. DUNIGAN, USNR
 Damage Control Officer LTJG William J. FLYNN, USN
 Main Propulsion Officer ENS Edward J. FLYNN, Jr., USN
 Auxiliaries Officer ENS Henry H. BEAM, USN
 Repair Officer ENS William J. RUSSONELLO, USNR
 Electrical Officer ENS Alan G. GEISLER, USNR
 Supply Officer LT Vincent J. PISTOLESSI, USN
 Assistant Supply Officer ENS Clarence C. DUNLAP, USNR

SHIP'S CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

CALDO, William J., QMCA	JORDON, Ellisen M., GMCA
CHESHIRE, Harvey L., Jr., BTC	LENEAVE, William P., BMCA
EUBANK, Walter J., SKCS	MC MEEKIN, Richard L., YNCA
FULLER, Rayford H., SDCA	SCHEUERMAN, Robert J., RMCS
GEISLER, Clarence (n), Jr., SFCA	THOMAS, Lee E., SMCA
JESTER, Hildred E., EMC	TOKACH, Albert A., MMC
JOHNSON, Dan H., ENCA	WHEELER, Emmett D., GSCA