

ALEDA E. LUTZ

<i>Length, overall</i>520' 0"	<i>Gross tons</i>12,348	<i>Propulsion</i> ...Turbines (2)
<i>Beam</i> 66' 4"	<i>Speed (knots)</i> ... 16	<i>Patients</i> 828
<i>Draft</i> 26' 7"	<i>Radius (miles)</i> ... 10,800	<i>Cargo</i> None

Built in 1931 by Ateliers et Chantiers de France, Dunkirk, France.

Former name: COLOMBIE

Operated prior to World War II by Cie. Général Transatlantique.

THIS was the former troopship COLOMBIE, originally a French passenger vessel described on page 288.

To meet the demand in early 1945 for additional hospital ships, the COLOMBIE was selected as one of the vessels for this service. Conversion took place from January to April of 1945 at the yard of Arthur Tickle Engineering Co., New York—the same contractor who converted the vessel to a troopship two years before.

The new name ALEDA E. LUTZ was in honor of Lieut. Aleda E. Lutz, an Army nurse killed in a plane crash in southern France in November 1944 after having participated in 190 missions to evacuate wounded personnel by air.

The vessel left New York in April 1945 for Europe, but upon returning from this voyage in May was assigned to the Charleston Port of Embarkation. After a second voyage to ETO for patients, the ALEDA E. LUTZ had considerable alteration done at the Todd Brooklyn yard in preparation for operation in the Pacific.

The vessel left New York for Manila in December 1945. Upon arrival at Honolulu, the main gearing was found in such poor condition that the voyage was discontinued and the ship ordered returned to the United States at reduced speed without passengers for disposal.

The ALEDA E. LUTZ left Honolulu February 21, 1946 for New York for redelivery to the War Shipping Administration upon arrival there, for subsequent delivery to French owners.

Redelivery was effected on 11 April 1946 at Pier 88, North River. It was understood that the French Line, Inc., would continue to operate the vessel as a hospital ship, between France and Indo-China.