

BLANCHE F. SIGMAN

Length, overall	441' 6"	Gross tons	7,933	Propulsion	Recip. eng.
Beam	56' 10"	Speed (knots)	11	Patients	595
Draft	24' 0"	Radius (miles)	17,000	Cargo	None

Built in 1943 by California Shipbuilding Corp., Los Angeles, Calif.

Former names: STANFORD WHITE (POPPY)

Operated by United States Lines Co. prior to acquisition by the War Department.

AS the Liberty type freight ship STANFORD WHITE, this vessel was operated several months before being selected for use as a hospital ship. Ownership was transferred to the War Department and conversion was accomplished by Todd's Hoboken yard at the Port of New York, between late November 1943 and 30 June 1944.

The name BLANCHE F. SIGMAN was in honor of First Lieutenant Blanche F. Sigman, first Army nurse to be killed in action on the Anzio beachhead.

Following commissioning as a mercy ship, the BLANCHE F. SIGMAN sailed from New York in early July 1944 for the Clyde (England) and returned late in the same month. The vessel next left New York in early August and went to Charleston, which became her home port for the ensuing year.

From Charleston in late August the vessel voyaged to the Mersey and Liverpool; in October she sailed for Gibraltar, Oran and Leghorn; in December she went to the same ports visited on the preceding voyage and to Naples in addition. From this latter trip the SIGMAN returned to Charleston in January 1945, and next made trips as follows through the calendar year 1945: (1) to Marseilles and Naples; (2) to Oran and Marseilles; (3) to Gibraltar and Marseilles; (4) to Milfordhaven and Avonmouth; (5) to Cherbourg and Horta (Azores); (6) to Cherbourg.

From the sixth of the above voyages the BLANCHE F. SIGMAN returned to New York, and from that port made three voyages to Europe as a hospital ship as follows: (1) to Cherbourg and Bremerhaven; (2) to Downs (England) and Bremerhaven; (3) to Bremerhaven and Le Havre. While in Europe on the latter trip, the ship was decommissioned in early April 1946 before returning to New York.