

## PRESIDENT BUCHANAN

Length, overall.....522' 0"	Gross tons ..... 11,992	Propulsion..Recip.eng.(2)
Beam ..... 62' 0"	Speed (knots) ... 13	Passengers ..... 1,241
Draft ..... 27' 2"	Radius (miles).... 11,850	Cargo (cu. ft.)... 19,660

*Built in 1920 by New York Shipbuilding Corp., Camden, N. J.*

*Former names: PANHANDLE STATE, PRESIDENT MONROE, PRESIDENT BUCHANAN, (IRIS), EMILY H. M. WEDER*

*Operated prior to World War II by Dollar Steamship Lines*

THE PRESIDENT BUCHANAN was an allocated passenger and cargo ship, with a passenger capacity of approximately 100, and was so operated under the direction of the War Shipping Administration prior to transfer to the War Department.

Inasmuch as the BUCHANAN was not a *bona fide* troopship while under WSA jurisdiction, she is not listed elsewhere as a troopship. However, in the latter part of 1942 she did make a voyage to the Persian Gulf with Army passengers and in 1943 made two trips to the United Kingdom with no change in living accommodations.

Following return from UK in October 1943, the vessel was delivered to the Army at New York and conversion to a hospital ship took place at Atlantic Basin Iron Works between November 1943 and July 1944. For a record of her service in this capacity under the name EMILY H. M. WEDER, see page 335.

While the vessel was at Los Angeles in late November 1945 it was decided to decommission her as a hospital ship and use her as a combination vessel to carry military dependents and troops. Accordingly, reconversion was accomplished by Consolidated Steel Corp., the work being completed in January 1946. The previous name, PRESIDENT BUCHANAN was restored at this time.

The vessel left Los Angeles in late January for Honolulu. En route her boilers were damaged by salt water and the ship was detained in the Hawaiian Islands until May 1946 for repairs.