

SATURNIA

<i>Length, overall</i> ... 631' 3"	<i>Gross tons</i> 24,470	<i>Propulsion</i> ... Diesel (2)
<i>Beam</i> 79' 6"	<i>Speed (knots)</i> ... 19	<i>Passengers</i> 1,502
<i>Draft</i> 29' 11"	<i>Radius (miles)</i> ... 11,800	<i>Cargo</i> None

*Built in 1927 by Cantiere Navale Triestino, Monfalcone, Trieste, Italy.
Operated prior to World War II by the Italian Government.*

THE SATURNIA was the former Italian luxury liner which, following the armistice with Italy that had been arranged by Admiral Cunningham and approved by General Eisenhower, was taken over by the United States in late 1943.

Following surrender of the vessel, she was brought to New York (with an Italian crew aboard) and converted to a troopship by the War Shipping Administration. Particulars of operation in this status are given on page 301.

The SATURNIA last returned to New York as an allocated troopship in late December 1944. At this time it was decided to convert the ship to an Army hospital ship. This was accomplished and the vessel, renamed FRANCES Y. SLANGER, operated for one year in this category as outlined on page 338.

After being decommissioned as a hospital ship in December 1945, the vessel was hastily altered at New York by Arthur Tickle Engineering Works between 24 January and 21 February 1946 for transporting military dependents (1,131 women; 371 children). Upon completion of this work, the former name, SATURNIA, was restored and as an Army transport she began operating from New York to Southampton. She returned from the second of these voyages on 27 April 1946 and is expected to be released by the War Department about 30 June 1946.