

ST. OLAF

Length, overall	441' 6"	Gross tons	7,940	Propulsion	Recip. eng.
Beam	56' 10"	Speed (knots)	11	Patients	591
Draft	24' 0"	Radius (miles)	21,000	Cargo	None

Built in 1942 by Bethlehem Fairfield Shipyard, Inc., Baltimore, Md.

At one time assigned the name JASMINE, but never operated under that name.

Operated by Union Sulphur Co., Inc., prior to acquisition by the War Department.

THE ST. OLAF was one of the six Liberty freighters selected for conversion to hospital ships. Ownership was transferred to the War Department on 23 November 1943, at which time conversion to a Hague Convention hospital ship was begun at the Simpson Yard of the Bethlehem Steel Company at Boston. This work was completed in late July 1944.

In August the ST. OLAF sailed from New York to the Clyde, the Mersey and Liverpool, England. She returned from there to Charleston, where she was based for the ensuing eight months. During this period of operation from Charleston, the ship made three trips to Europe (United Kingdom and Cherbourg). While in shuttle service between Southampton and Cherbourg in early 1945, the vessel suffered minor damage in a collision with another vessel.

Homeward bound from Liverpool in April 1945, the ST. OLAF was diverted to New York. After undergoing repairs and improvements in ventilation systems, the ship left in June and went, via the Panama Canal, to Saipan, arriving in July.

While in the western Pacific, the ST. OLAF also visited Hollandia, Biak, Manila, Shanghai, Tokyo and Leyte before returning to the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation in late November 1945. At Los Angeles, the vessel was promptly decommissioned as a hospital ship, and was converted to a combination troop and dependent transport. A résumé of her service in this capacity is given on page 54.