

CRISTOBAL

Length, overall.....	493' 6"	Gross tons	10,021	Propulsion.....	Turbines (2)
Beam	64' 0"	Speed (knots)	17	Passengers	1,768
Draft	26' 3"	Radius (miles).....	8,975	Cargo (cu. ft.).....	42,900

Built in 1939 by Bethlehem Steel Co., Quincy, Mass.

Operated prior to World War II by Panama Railroad Co.

SHORTLY after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Secretary of War directed the Panama Railroad Co. (a War Department "subsidiary") to turn over the CRISTOBAL to The Quartermaster General "for use in the national emergency because of its suitability for Army service."

In January 1942 minor alterations were made at the yards of Atlantic Basin Iron Works and Bethlehem Steel Co. in New York. The vessel was at once put into service, making a trip to Australia via the Panama Canal. She returned to New York in April 1942, where more extensive alterations were effected at Atlantic Basin Iron Works. This was followed by a voyage to Ireland and operation for a short time under jurisdiction of the British.

In late 1942 still more improvements were made (by Bethlehem Steel Co.) at New York, such as installing a larger evaporator and additional ventilation.

The CRISTOBAL made numerous trips from New York to the United Kingdom before being transferred to the Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation in June 1944. She was later operated between the Boston Port of Embarkation and the European Theatre of Operations.

In January 1946 the CRISTOBAL was altered at Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co. for carrying 119 war brides and 101 dependent children from Europe to the United States. She remained in this service until redelivery to the Panama Railroad Company on 14 June 1946 at New York.