

# IMPERIAL

Length, overall	440' 6"	Gross tons	7,279	Propulsion	Diesel
Beam	58' 0"	Speed (knots)	16	Passengers	1,681
Draft	23' 8"	Radius (miles)	15,950	Cargo (cu. ft.)	60,400

*Built in 1938 by Nakskov Skibs A/S, Nakskov, Denmark.*

*Operated prior to World War II by Compania Sud Americana de Vapores, Valparaiso, Chile.*

THE IMPERIAL was a Chilean vessel that had been in operation in the interest of the United Nations between South America, Cuba and New Orleans prior to purchasing by the War Shipping Administration and bareboat chartering to the Army on 30 August 1943.

The ship went to Baltimore, Md., where conversion was accomplished by the Key Highway Plant of Bethlehem Steel Co. between September 1943 and late April of the following year. After a brief stop at New York, following the vessel's trial run, she passed through the Panama Canal and proceeded directly to Noumea and Milne Bay, arriving there in June 1944.

In late July 1944 the IMPERIAL reached Seattle, her assigned home port, from where she began a series of monthly voyages to Honolulu.

Immediately following V-J Day the vessel left on a trip to Guam, Saipan, Leyte and Taloma. Upon return to San Francisco in December 1945 she was held pending further assignment. Inasmuch as the demand for troopships had been materially reduced, the IMPERIAL was redelivered to the War Shipping Administration at Suisun Bay, California on 31 January 1946 for lay-up in the Reserve Fleet.