

HISTORY OF THE U. S. S. ADMIRAL E. W. EBERLE AP-123

The history of the ADMIRAL EBERLE is much like the history of substantially all the Naval Transports of the ADMIRAL and GENERAL class, especially constructed by the U. S. Maritime Commission for use as troop transports. The EBERLE is one of a class of ten ships built by the Bethlehem Alameda Shipyard, Inc., Alameda, California. Her keel was laid on 15 February, 1943 and she was launched on 14 June, 1944 having officially been christened ADMIRAL EBERLE by Mrs. Earl Warren, wife of California's Governor. During the building of the ship, the officers and crew were assembled at the U. S. Coast Guard Training Station (Manning Section) Government Island, Alameda, California for the purpose of training and preparation for their respective duties aboard ship.

The officers and crew attended the various schools conducted both by the Navy and Coast Guard at Treasure Island, Mare Island, Government Island and the Gunnery School at Point Montara. This period covered approximately five months.

The ship was commissioned 24 January, 1945 at 1300 at the Bethlehem Alameda Shipyard, Inc., San Francisco, California by Admiral Edward Darlington Jones, USCG representing the Commandant, Twelfth Naval District. Command was assumed by Captain George Carl Carlstedt, USCG and pre-shakedown routine was immediately commenced.

CHAPTER I SHAKEDOWN PERIOD

The ADMIRAL EBERLE commenced her shakedown in San Francisco Bay on 29 January, 1945 under the direction of the Commander, Fleet Operational Training Command, San Pedro Shakedown Group. Her activities during the shakedown here consisted of compass compensating,

deperming operations, degaussing runs and calibration of radion direction finder and radar equipment. On 4 February, 1945 she departed San Francisco, California to undergo two weeks shakedown training during which various drills and exercises were accomplished. The inspecting officer and party at final inspection officially pronounced her to be well above average in all respects. The following morning 20 February, 1945 she began a post-shakedown availability period for necessary alterations and a coat of camouflage at San Pedro, California. On 1 March, 1945 the EBERLE departed for San Francisco to load troops and commence her maiden voyage.

CHAPTER II VOYAGE NO. 1

Loaded with troops and mail cargo, the USS ADMIRAL EBERLE departed under the Golden Gate on 6 March, 1945 enroute to New Guinea. Crossed the Equator at 1100 on 14 March, 1945 at Longitude 173.58 W and the majority of the crew and officers (pollywogs) were duly initiated into the "Ancient Order of the Deep." International Date line crossed at 0703 on 15 March, 1945. First stop was made at Finschhafen, New Guinea on 20 March, 1945 thence to Humboldt Bay and Hollandia, New Guinea (22-24 March, 1945); Manus Island, Admiralty Group (25-26 March, 1945); Tacloban, Leyte Island, Philippine Islands (1-3 April, 1945); Manila, Luzon Island, Philippine Islands (6-10 April, 1945); Leyte Island, Philippine Islands (12-15 April, 1945); Ulithi Island, Caroline Islands (17-18 April, 1945); Honolulu, Oahu Island, Hawaiian Islands (27 April, 1945) and the voyage ended in San Pedro, California on 2 May, 1945 where approximately 3,000 former internees from Japanese prison camps and other military passengers were debarked. Completed a total of 17,986.3 nautical miles.