

The Story of

U. S. NAVAL SHIP GEN. H. B. FREEMAN

THE USNS GEN. H. B. FREEMAN, operated by the Navy's Military Sea Transportation Service, was built in 1945 by Kaiser Co., Inc., at Richmond, California.

In June of 1945 she sailed from Los Angeles as a troopship and reached ports at Australia, India, Ceylon, Hollandia, Leyte, Okinawa, and Hawaii. In October the Freeman made her first run to Yokohama and returned to Seattle.

During the conflict in Korea in 1950 the Freeman took an active part in the evacuation of United Nations troops from the Hungnam beachhead. Although designed for 1,500 troops she took and fed 3,700 men. The Freeman was the next to the last ship to leave the beachhead.

For three years in succession—1950, 1951, and 1952—the Freeman won the MSTs "smart ship" awards and is now the flagship of the MSTs fleet.

A C-4 type ship, the Freeman has an overall length of 523 feet, a width of 72 feet, and a gross weight of 13,000 tons. Her cruising speed is 17 knots.

The Freeman was named after Major General Henry Blanchard Freeman who distinguished himself in the Civil and Spanish-American Wars.

Many modern facilities are found on the Freeman, including a store, a hospital, well equipped galleys, new navigational devices and life saving gear. The Freeman has up-to-date recreational facilities and provides an opportunity for all to follow religious and educational pursuits while at sea.

The crew of the Freeman are civil service employees and members of the military department are U. S. Navy personnel.

