

USS *Wakefield* WAR CRUISE HISTORY

Her schedule was New York to Hamburg via Cobh, Plymouth, Havre, and return via Havre, Southampton, and Cobh. She arrived in Hamburg, August 20th, and made a return crossing in five days, fourteen hours, and twenty-eight minutes, a record for a cabin vessel. She continued on the New York-Hamburg schedule for three years.

In spite of the harsh shouts of approaching war the ship listened for the gentle voice of peace, and continued sailing to Hamburg until Germany recalled her ships at sea by wireless, September 28, 1938.

The vessel then hurried to ports in England and France to bring back anxious passengers. Even the ship's postoffice was converted into temporary sleeping quarters to provide space for stranded tourists.

During the first five months of 1940 the MANHATTAN made satisfactory trips to Naples and Genoa. On July 2nd a quick crossing was made to Portugal to bring more Americans home. Upon completion of the voyage, the ship was placed on inter-coastal service from New York to Los Angeles and San Francisco, returned via the Panama Canal. On her third trip in this service she ran aground off West Palm Beach, Florida. It was only after the vessel was lightened, and assisted by heavy tugs, that she was freed from the sand bars, February 3, 1941. She sailed back to New York, and at Robins Drydock, Brooklyn, underwent repairs to the extent of \$1,200,000.

The United States Government chartered the MANHATTAN for a period of two years on June 6, 1941, and in accordance with its policy named it after an American shrine—WAKEFIELD—the birthplace of George Washington.

