

Chronology of SS MANHATTAN

1930

May 24 Contract for building SS MANHATTAN signed by the United States Lines, owners, and the New York Shipbuilding Company, builders.

December 6 Keel of hull No. 405 laid in shipyard, with first rivets driven in by Senators Wesley L. Jones, Wallace H. White, Jr., and Dwight W. Morrow.

1931

December 5 Hull No. 405 christened the SS MANHATTAN by Mrs. Edith K. Roosevelt with thousands watching the launching. Blended waters from 48 states were used for the christening, as material for the ship had come from all parts of the United States.

1932

July 23 SS MANHATTAN started on official sea trials, running as far north as Rockland, Maine.

July 26 MANHATTAN hailed American Queen of the Seas, and given tumultuous reception in her home port, New York City.

July 27 MANHATTAN was formally delivered to her owners at North River piers of International Mercantile Marine Company.

August 10 MANHATTAN started her maiden voyage.

1938

September 28 Germany recalled her ships at sea.

September 30 MANHATTAN arrived in New York with 1,014 passengers and sailed next day for Havre, omitting Hamburg stop.

1939

September 30 MANHATTAN arrived in New York with 1,867 passengers, largest number carried on any American ship since war began in Europe.

December 28 Due to Neutrality Act, the MANHATTAN's weekly sailings to Hamburg discontinued, and Naples and Genoa substituted.