



TASKER H. BLISS*

Length, overall... 535' 0"	Gross tons 12,568	Propulsion Turbines (2)
Beam 72' 0"	Speed (knots) 16½	Passengers 2,435
Draft 30' 7"	Radius (miles).... 12,141	Cargo (cu. ft.)... 124,080

Built in 1921 by Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., Newport News, Va.
 Former names: GOLDEN STATE, PRESIDENT CLEVELAND
 Operated prior to World War II by American President Lines

THE vessel, as the PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, was in active operation when chartered by the Army in July 1941. She was renamed the TASKER H. BLISS in honor of General Tasker Howard Bliss, U. S. Army.

Following acquisition, the BLISS was hastily converted for troop use at San Francisco and went (via Seattle) to Alaska, returning in August. A few days later she left San Francisco on a trip to Honolulu, Guam and Manila from which she returned in late September.

In early October 1941 the ship left for another voyage to Honolulu and Manila, returning in November. After additional repairs and alterations she made a round trip to Hawaii, then left on a voyage to Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

Following return to San Francisco in April 1942 the BLISS made another trip to Honolulu, followed by another to Australia and New Zealand. From the latter she sailed in late June for the Canal Zone. After passing through the Canal, touching at Guantanamo, Key West and Hampton Roads, the vessel arrived at Baltimore in August.

The TASKER H. BLISS was converted for combat duty and left in convoy (with Navy crew) for North Africa where she participated in the successful Allied invasion of that continent. In this affair, however, the BLISS was torpedoed and sunk in the harbor at Fedala, French Morocco, on 12 November 1942.

*See page 116 for description of another vessel having a similar name.