

Auxiliary Vessels Board Reports

1943

62 – 83

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073

RG 80 B-1021 AA/QB

By VH NARA Date 11/28In reply refer to Initials
and No.Op-~~SEA~~ APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 04323

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

January 5, 1943.

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To : The Secretary of the Navy.
 Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 62:

Recommendation to acquire Tanker J. C. DONNELL;
 Ferry Boat S/S TAMALPAIS and Ex-Ferry Boat Hulk
 S/S CAZADERO.

References: (a) Comseronsopac Secret despatch 072300 of
 December, 1942.
 (b) CinCPac Secret despatch 010157 of Janu-
 ary, 1943.
 (c) Com 12 Confidential despatch 262332 of
 December 1942.

1. The Board met at 0930, January 4, 1943, in Room 2716,
 Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Commander H. L. Challenger	Operations.
Lieut. Comdr. W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Commander T. G. Murrell and Lieut. Comdr. H. T. Koonce, Bureau of Ships; and Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Lindley and Lieut. A. W. Kivett, Operations.

3. In reference (a), Commander Service Squadron, South Pacific, recommended the acquisition of the Tanker J. C. DONNELL. In reference (b) the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, concurred in that recommendation.

4. The Board is cognizant of the urgent need for additional tankers in the South Pacific area and is of the opinion that the material condition of the J. C. DONNELL warrants her acquisition under a bare boat charter to help meet this need.

5. The Board, therefore, recommends that the Tanker, J. C. DONNELL, be acquired at once from the War Shipping Administration

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under a bare boat charter; and that the minimum conversion required to provide for Navy crews be accomplished.

6. By reference (c), the Board's attention was called to the availability for acquisition of a ferry boat, the S/S TAMALPAIS, and an ex-ferry boat hulk the S/S CAZADERO, to meet an urgent housing need for Naval personnel in the Twelfth Naval District. The Board considers that the most expeditious and economical method of meeting the need for additional housing facilities in that District is by acquiring these two ferry boats which are now in the immediate vicinity of San Francisco Bay.

7. The Board is of the further opinion that the material condition of the two boats warrants their purchase in preference to their acquisition by bare boat charter; and, therefore, recommends that Ferry Boat S/S TAMALPAIS and ex-Ferry Boat Hulk S/S CAZADERO be purchased by the Navy and that a conversion similar to that of the ex-Fort Sutter (YHB-11) be undertaken to condition the boats as Floating Barracks Ships for Navy personnel.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. Chapline.

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 04423

First Endorsement

JAN 12 1943

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From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 62.

1. Forwarded.

2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

[Signature]
J. D. [unclear]

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 B-1021 AA/QB

VHKO

04-13-750

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Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 04523

Second Endorsement

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 12 1943

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 62:

1. Returned, approved.
2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Forrestal

JAMES FORRESTAL

Copies to: SecNav Acting
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuMed (3)
BuPers (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuSandA (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Dept.
Capt. Lauman, Finance Officer,
T-3 Building, Room 1717
Op-39

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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In reply refer to Initials

Op-23-APC
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Serial 021423 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

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January 19, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To : The Secretary of the Navy.
 Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 63:

Recommendation to acquire S/S E. R. KEMP;
 recommendation against the acquisition and
 manning by Navy of the S/S BRIDGEPORT; and
 reallocation of 220' Algerine Minesweepers.

References: (a) VCNO conf. ltr. Op-39-A-rc, Serial
 05339 of January 13, 1943.
 (b) WSA ltr. of January 6, 1943, re
 S/S BRIDGEPORT.
 (c) Auxiliary Vessels Board Report #39.
 (d) Auxiliary Vessels Board Report #47.
 (e) MAC(Navy) Secret ltr, TAL/28, (SC)A4-3/AM,
 of December 9, 1942.

1. The Board met at 1000, January 15, 1943, in Room
 2716, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Commander Herman Barter	Operations.
Lieut. Comdr. W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Captain
 C. E. Olsen, Staff of Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet;
 Commander T. G. Murrell and Lieut. Comdr. H. T. Koonce, Bureau
 of Ships; Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Lindley and Lieut. A. W. Kivett,
 Operations.

3. In reference (a), the Vice Chief of Naval Opera-
 tions expressed the urgent need for tankers of small draft to
 distribute petroleum products in the Southwest Pacific area.
 The reference also requested that the S/S E. R. KEMP be acquired
 to partially meet this need.

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4. The Board considers that after slight conversion the S/S E. R. KEMP, now engaged in coastal trade as a gasoline tanker in the Caribbean, is in good material condition for the proposed employment, and therefore, recommends that the steam tanker S/S E. R. KEMP be acquired by the Navy under a bare boat charter and that a minimum conversion be undertaken to accommodate a Navy crew and to mount additional close-in antiaircraft guns.

5. In Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 61, the Board recommended that the S/S BRIDGEPORT, which was to be converted to a repair ship by the War Shipping Administration, be acquired by assignment of title and be manned by the Navy.

6. It has been brought to the attention of the Board by reference (b), that the War Shipping Administration will not convert the S/S BRIDGEPORT to a repair ship because of the long period of time required and the excessive cost of the conversion (\$5,209,000). It is, therefore, recommended that the action of the Board in Report No. 61 be cancelled and that the S/S BRIDGEPORT be not acquired by the Navy.

7. In reference (c) the Board recommended that the fifteen (15) Algerine Minesweepers, building in Canada, be acquired by the Navy and converted to small transport vessels. In reference (d), in compliance with a directive of the Commander-in-Chief, the Auxiliary Vessels Board recommended the conversion of the Algerine Minesweepers to cargo vessels be cancelled and that they be completed as minesweepers. In reference (e), the Munitions Assignment Committee (Navy) assigned the Algerine Minesweepers to the British.

8. It is, therefore, recommended that these Algerine Minesweepers be deleted as a charge against the auxiliary tonnage authorization and be set up as a charge against the 1799 Ship Program.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

AG 80 B07-1021 AA/QB

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Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 021523

First Endorsement

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JAN 21 1943

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 63.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.



Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 021623

Second Endorsement

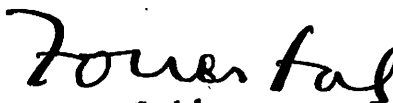
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JAN 21 1943

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

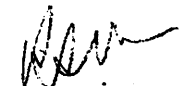
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 63.

1. Returned, approved.
2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Acting

Copies to: SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
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BuSanda (3)

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T-3 Building, Room 1717
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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op 43-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 055823

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON

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February 16, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.
Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 64:

Recommendation on remaining twelve tankers to be acquired in accordance with Report No. 51; recommendation that S/S E. R. KEMP be not acquired; recommendations for the acquisition of Submarine Tenders; recommendation for the acquisition of ferry boat TREASURE ISLAND.

1. The Board met at 0900, February 13, 1943, in Room 2716, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline,	Operations.
Comdr. H. L. Challenger,	Operations.
Lieut. Comdr. W. N. Mansfield,	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Comdr. S. N. Pyne and Lieut. Comdr. R. W. Schurr, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Lindley, and Lieut. A. W. Kivett, Operations.

3. In Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 51, the Board recommended the acquisition of twenty-four (24) listed Maritime Commission hulls to meet the expanding need for tankers outlined in the report. Twelve (12) of these ships have been assigned to the Navy, but the selection of the remaining twelve was deferred pending a contemplated change in design which has now resulted in an increase in horsepower. It has now been brought to the attention of the Board that nine (9) Maritime Commission hulls of an improved design being built by the Marinship Corporation, Sausalito, California, may be acquired by the Navy without an appreciable delay in delivery dates over the original scheduled deliveries. In order to round out the uniform program of delivery and conversion, three (3) Maritime Commission hulls now building by the Sun Shipbuilding Company, Chester, Pennsylvania, are available for acquisition. It is, therefore, recommended that the tankers listed below be acquired to complete the program of two (2) tankers per month for the current year, making a total

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By V4 NARA Date 11/28

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of twenty-four (24); and that the recommendations of the Board in Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 51 be modified accordingly:

MC Hull	Builder	Est. Delivery	Navy Name
307	Sun Shipbuilding Co.	3/15/43	COSSATOT (AO77)
308	" "	3/25/43	COWANESQUE (AO79)
340	" "	3/15/43	CHEPACHET (AO78)
1259	Marinship Corporation	5/29/43	ESCAMBIA (AO80)
1260	" "	6/ 3/43	KENNEBAGO (AO81)
1261	" "	6/ 8/43	LACKAWAPEN (AO82)
1262	" "	6/10/43	MASCOMA (AO83)
1263	" "	7/ 2/43	OCKLAWAHA (AO84)
1264	" "	7/21/43	PAMANSET (AO85)
1265	" "	7/28/43	PONAGANSET (AO86)
1266	" "	8/ 4/43	SEBEC (AO87)
1267	" "	8/12/43	TOMAHAWK (AO88)

4. In Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 63, the Board recommended that the S/S E. R. KEMP be acquired for use as a tanker. Further inspection has disclosed that the ship is unsuitable for carrying more than one type of fuel cargo, because of the age and poor condition of her tanks. It is considered, therefore, that the vessel is unsuitable for duty intended in the South Pacific area, and it is recommended that the above action of this Board be cancelled and the S/S E. R. KEMP be not acquired.

5. In Report No. 42, the Board recommended additional auxiliary vessels for the 1943-1944 building program. These included two Submarine Tenders for 1943 and two Submarine Tenders for 1944. One Submarine Tender of the 1943 program is to be obtained through the conversion of the S/S HAWAIIAN MERCHANT. This ship will start conversion about April 1, 1943. It was planned to build the other Submarine Tender in the 1943 program at the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Company, interposing it between the 1943 and 1944 Auxiliary Aircraft Carrier building programs at that yard. It has now developed that to build this Submarine Tender at the Seattle-Tacoma yard at that time will materially delay this program. Due to the urgency for additional Auxiliary Aircraft Carriers this delay is not acceptable. As an alternative and in order to meet the program for a total of three additional Submarine Tenders required in the 1943 and 1944 programs, the Board recommends that the following Maritime Commission hulls be acquired; that they be converted to Submarine Tenders; and that they be manned by Navy crews:

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<u>MC Hull</u>	<u>Builder</u>	<u>Est. Delivery</u>
429	Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation	9/10/43
430	" "	9/21/43
431	" "	10/16/43

6. Further study discloses that by the end of 1944 there will be 188 submarines in service. On the basis of one tender for each twelve submarines, one additional tender over and above those now in commission and the four referred to in the preceding paragraph, will be required. In view of the extended areas of operation of submarines under present war conditions, the Board considers it essential that this additional submarine tender be provided. It is, therefore, recommended that Maritime Commission Hull No. 856, to be built at Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation (estimated date of delivery November 1, 1943), be acquired by the Navy, converted to a submarine tender and manned by a Navy crew.

7. The Board's attention has been called to the need for additional transportation facilities to care for the ever-growing ferry traffic of Naval personnel between San Francisco and Treasure Island. The Commandant, Twelfth Naval District, has advised that the sidewheel ferry boat TREASURE ISLAND is available and recommends the acquisition of that boat. Investigation discloses that the boat is in reasonably good material condition and will be suitable for the stated purpose. The Board, therefore, recommends that the ferry boat TREASURE ISLAND be acquired by bare boat charter for the Navy.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE.

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 055923
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FIRST ENDORSEMENT

FEB 20 1943

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 64.

1. Forwarded.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.



F. J. Horne

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 056023

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

FEB 20 1943

CONFIDENTIAL
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From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 64.

1. Returned, approved.

2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.


Acting

Copies to:

SecNav
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Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuMed (3)
BuPers (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuSandA (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Dept.
Capt. Lauman, Finance Officer, T-3, Room 1717.
Op-39


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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

In reply refer to Initials

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Serial 076823 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

March 1, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.
Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 65:

Recommendation to acquire MUSA and PLATANO and a Maritime Commission Hull of the BLUE JACKET Class as Provision Storeships; recommendation to acquire 8 EC-2 hulls by bare boat charter; recommendation for the acquisition of the DANIEL PIERCE by bareboat charter for use in the Southwest Pacific area.

References: (a) CominCh Secret ltr., FF1/A4-1, Serial 001267 of October 23, 1942.
(b) Director NTS conf. ltr. Op-39-A-rc, (SC)AF/QS1/L4, Serial 019539 of February 18, 1943.
(c) Com 12 conf. ltr., L4-3/QS1 (SC) (231-14-E-SK) of January 9, 1943.
(d) VCNO conf. ltr. Op-39-A-rc, Serial 05339 of January 13, 1943.

1. The Board met at 0900, February 25, 1943, in Room 2716, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline,	Operations.
Commander H. L. Challenger,	Operations.
Commander Herman Barter,	Operations.
Lieut. Comdr. W. N. Mansfield,	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Comdr. R. W. Schurr, Comdr. S. N. Pyne, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. R. S. Bertschy, Comdr. F. E. Shoup, Bureau of Personnel; and Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Lindley and Lieut. Comdr. L. A. Straits, Operations.

3. In reference (a) the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, directed that three (3) additional Provision Storeships be acquired to meet urgent needs in the South Pacific area

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Op-23-APC
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and the Auxiliary Vessels Board in Report #59 recommended that Maritime Commission Hulls 183 (BLUE JACKET), 184 (GOLDEN EAGLE), and 185 (TRADE WIND) now building by the Maritime Commission be purchased for Navy use. The Maritime Commission was reluctant to assign these vessels to the Navy and the Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet, having advised that the MUSA and the PLATANO would be suitable for service in the Pacific, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations proposed that the MUSA and PLATANO be substituted for two of the above-named Maritime Commission Hulls. This was approved by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, by reference (b).

4. The Board, therefore, recommends that the S/S MUSA and the S/S PLATANO be acquired by bare boat charter to replace two of the BLUE JACKET Class vessels and that one of the Maritime Commission Hulls of the BLUE JACKET Class be acquired likewise. It is further recommended that the three vessels acquired be manned by the Navy, that conversions be undertaken to accommodate Navy crews, and that Auxiliary Vessels Board Report #59 be modified accordingly.

5. The ten (10) EC-2 type ships recommended for acquisition and conversion by the Auxiliary Vessels Board, in Report #57, have been delivered and assigned to the South Pacific area. By reference (c), the Commandant of the Twelfth Naval District urged the acquisition of eight more ships of this type to meet the expanding needs for additional cargo vessels. The Board considers that the acquisition of additional ships of this type is essential, and therefore, recommends that eight (8) additional EC-2 hulls building in the San Francisco area be acquired by bare boat charter for the Navy for assignment to the Naval Transportation Service; that the acquisitions shall be timed to take delivery of the first ship about March 15, 1943, and remaining deliveries approximately every ten days thereafter, to enable the Bureau of Naval Personnel to man the ships; that a conversion similar to the first ten (10) EC-2 hulls be undertaken to accommodate Naval crews; and that the ships be equipped with an additional boom of 30-ton capacity and towing engines when available.

6. In reference (d), the Vice Chief of Naval Operations expressed the urgent need for tankers to distribute petroleum products in the Southwest Pacific area. The Board considers that the tanker

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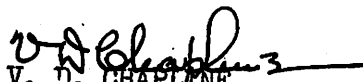
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DANIEL PIERCE is suitable for this use and, therefore, recommends its acquisition by bare boat charter; that the ship be manned by a Navy crew; and that a minimum conversion be accomplished for the accommodation of such crew.


V. D. CHAPLINE.

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 076923

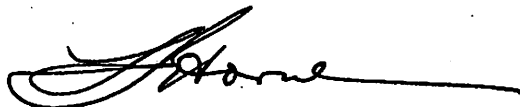
First Endorsement**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 3 - 1943

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 65.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.



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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

104413

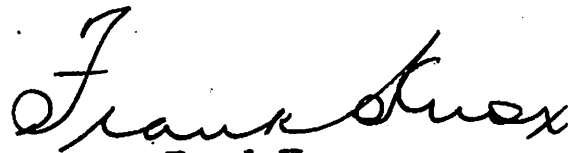
Op-23-APC
(SG)AA/QB
Serial 077023

Second Endorsement**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 3 1943

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 65.

1. Returned, approved.
2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

----- **Frank Knox** -----

Copies to: SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (4)
BuMed (3)
BuPers (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuSandA (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Dept.
Op-39

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

as reply refer to Initials

and No.

Op-23 APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 091123

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**

March 10, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To : The Secretary of the Navy.
 Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 66:

Recommendation to acquire ten (10) EC-2 hulls by bare boat charter; recommendation to acquire TEMARA by bare boat charter; recommendation to acquire ESSO DELIVERY #11, VEEDOL #2, and NEW YORK SOCONY by transfer of title.

References: (a) Consopac Secret despatch 192130 of February.
 (b) Cincpac Secret despatch 060255 of March.

1. The Board met at 1445, March 9, 1943, in Room 2716, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations.
Commander Herman Barter	Operations.
Lieut. Comdr. W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Comdr. R. W. Schurr, Comdr. S. N. Pyne, and Comdr. Alexander Sledge of the Bureau of Ships; Comdr. Wayne M. Gamet and Lieut. Comdr. Robert J. Esslinger of the Bureau of Personnel; Mr. B. B. Jennings and Mr. S. C. Loveland, Jr., of the Maritime Commission; and Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Lindley, and Lieut. A. W. Kivett of Operations.

3. The ten (10) EC-2 type ships recommended for acquisition and conversion by the Auxiliary Vessels Board in Report #57 have been delivered and assigned to the South Pacific area. The Board recommended the acquisition of eight (8) more of these ships in its Report #65. By reference (a) the Commander, South Pacific Fleet, urged that an additional ten (10) ships of this class be acquired to provide for increased transshipping requirements to advance bases. In reference (b) the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, concurred. The Board considers that additional ships of this type

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By VH NARA Date 11/28

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are essential to meet the expanding needs, and, therefore, recommends that ten (10) additional EC-2 hulls be acquired by bare boat charter for assignment to the Naval Transportation Service; that the acquisitions shall be timed to take delivery approximately every ten days, beginning about June 1, 1943, to enable the Bureau of Personnel to man the ships; that a conversion similar to the first ten (10) EC-2 hulls be undertaken to accommodate Navy crews; and that each ship be equipped with a 30-ton boom.

4. Operations in the Mediterranean area require the use of additional shallow draft tankers to distribute bulk petroleum products to ports of limited depth. This Board's attention has been directed to three coastwise tankers possessing characteristics suitable for the above service. It is recommended, therefore, that the three coastwise tankers, the M/V ESSO DELIVERY #11, the M/V NEW YORK SOCONY, and the M/V VEEDOL #2 be purchased for the Navy; that they be manned by Navy crews; and that a limited conversion be undertaken to provide crew quarters and an adequate battery.

5. Shortly after the occupation of North Africa, a tanker found in one of the ports was taken over by the U. S. Navy, manned by a full Navy crew and has since been in regular operation. It later developed that this vessel, the ex-British Flag Tanker TEMARA, had been lost in the fall of France. It has been suggested by the British Merchant Shipping Mission that this vessel be left with the U. S. Navy under reciprocal aid arrangements. Because of the need expressed in the preceding paragraph, it is recommended that the tanker TEMARA be acquired by bare boat charter from the British Ministry of War Transport through the War Shipping Administration for use by the Navy in North African operations.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE.

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 091223

First Endorsement
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 15 1943

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 66.

1. Forwarded.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 091223

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

110070

2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.



F. J. Horne

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 091323

Second Endorsement**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 15 1943

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 66.

1. Returned, approved.

2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.



JAMES FORRESTAL

Copies to:

- SecNav
- CominCh
- Asst. SecNav
- BuShips (3)
- BuMed (3)
- BuPers (3)
- BuOrd (3)
- BuSanda (3)
- Gen. Bd.
- Op-10/11 (2)
- Op-12
- OP&M (2)
- Budget Officer, Navy Dept.
- Op-39

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073

By V4 NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0111623

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

March 24, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.
Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 67:

Recommendations to acquire S/S HOTSPUR, ALCOA PARTNER, and ULUA; to defer planning on eleven (11) Rescue Vessels (APR) and make a conversion study of 180' PCs for this purpose.

References: (a) VCNO Secret Despatch 201639 of February, 1943.
(b) Auxiliary Vessels Board Report #65.

1. The Board met at 1000, March 22, 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations.
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Comdr. R. W. Schurr, Comdr. Alexander Sledge, and Lieut. (jg) N. H. Rogg, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. N. B. Van Bergen and Lieut. Comdr. Robert J. Esslinger, Bureau of Personnel; and Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Lieut. A. W. Kivett, and Lieut. (jg) G. E. Smith, Jr., Operations.

3. The success of South Pacific operations requires the delivery of organized construction units by Navy manned ships direct to combat zones immediately after the attacking forces. Restrictions do not permit merchant crews to go into combat areas and loss of valuable time results from transshipping the units and cargoes at rear bases. In reference (a), the Vice Chief of Naval Operations recognized this need and ascertained that one C-2 hull (S/S HOTSPUR) was available for acquisition on bare boat charter for this duty. A C-1 hull, the ALCOA PARTNER, has been brought to the Board's attention as available for the delivery of construction unit cargo.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0111623

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4. The Board considers that ships of the above type are urgently needed in the South Pacific area for future operations and therefore recommends that the S/S HOTSPUR and the ALCOA PARTNER be acquired by bare boat charter, manned by Navy crews, and converted to accommodate those crews.

5. In reference (b) the Board recommended the acquisition of the MUSA and the PLATANO, plus one Maritime Commission hull of the BLUE JACKET Class as Provision Storeships to meet an urgent need in the South Pacific. It has now come to the attention of the Board that the S/S PLATANO, now under allocation to the Navy, is required in the San Francisco-Copper service for the present. However, the S/S ULUA, now under allocation to the Navy on a voyage basis, is immediately available and is suitable to partially relieve the South Pacific situation pending the acquisition of the PLATANO.

(Hawaii)

6. It is recommended that the S/S ULUA be acquired by bare boat charter for the Navy; that she be manned by a Navy crew; and that a conversion be accomplished to accommodate a minimum Navy crew.

7. Auxiliary Vessels Board Report #31 recommended the construction of eleven (11) rescue vessels (APR) for convoy service. Since the time of the above report the Bureau of Ships has had neither the facilities nor the personnel to build or plan those vessels, without interference with the combatant ship program. The Board considers that 180' PC boats would be suited for rescue work. It is recommended, therefore, that further consideration of the rescue vessels (APR) be deferred and that the Bureau of Ships make a study of and prepare plans for the conversion of eleven (11) 180' PC boats now building for convoy rescue service.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE.

DECLASSIFIED

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

OED

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0111723

First Endorsement

115216

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 27 1943

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 67.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.


P. J. Horne

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0111823

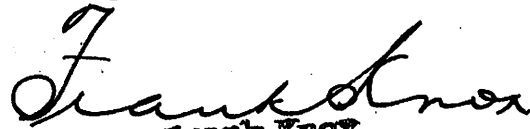
Second Endorsement

MAR 27 1943

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.


Frank Knox

Copies to: SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuMed (3)
BuPers (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuSanda (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Dept.
Op-39

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 303073

By: TB NARA Date: 4-17

RG80 SCS Resp Bx 715 S-AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0127823

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

SECRET

SECRET

April 3, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.
Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: AUXILIARY VESSELS BOARD REPORT No. 68:

Recommendations to acquire by transfer Army
Transports FREDERICK FUNSTON and JAMES O'HARA
for conversion to Attack Transports (APA);
and to acquire S/S MOBILUBE by bare boat charter.

Reference: (a) CominCh Secret ltr. FF1/L9-3, Serial 00619,
of April 2, 1943.
(b) VCNO Secret ltr. Op-11-G4/fbc, (SC)L9-3/APA,
Serial 031411-G of April 2, 1943.
(c) Comserforsopac conf. ltr. L9-3, Serial 0121,
of February 8, 1943.

1. The Board met at 0900, April 3, 1943, in Room 2721,
Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations.
Comdr. W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Comdr. R. W. Schurr, and Comdr. Alexander Sledge, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. Wayne M. Gamet and Lieut. Comdr. Robert J. Esslinger, Bureau of Personnel; Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Lieut. A. W. Kivett, and Lieut. (jg) G. E. Smith, Jr., Operations.

3. In reference (a), the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, stated that the Army will release the USAT FREDERICK FUNSTON and the USAT JAMES O'HARA to the Navy; and that it is necessary to accomplish the conversion of these vessels to Navy-manned combat-loaded transports at the earliest possible date.

DECLASSIFIED

NND 303073

By TB NARA Date 4-12

RG80 SC Comesp Bx 715 S-AA/QB

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0127823

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4. The Board, therefore, recommends that these vessels be acquired by the Navy through transfer from the Army; that they be converted to combat-loaded transports; and that they be manned by Navy crews.

5. The Commander Service Force, Southwest Pacific Force, has advised that repairs are practicable on the S/S MOBILUBE, a damaged tanker, to enable the ship to be used as floating storage for fuel oil in the South Pacific area. It has been brought to the attention of the Board that this vessel is available for acquisition by the Navy.

6. The Board considers that this ship will help meet the urgent fuel demands in the South Pacific area and recommends that, upon completion of repairs by the War Shipping Administration, the S/S MOBILUBE be acquired by the Navy under bare boat charter; and that she be placed in service as a nonself-propelled fuel oil floating storage ship for use in that area.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE.

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0127923

First Endorsement

SECRET
SECRET

APR 7 1943

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 68.

1. Forwarded.

2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

F. J. Horne
F. J. Horne

Finished-LESE-File

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Priority NND 303073

By TB NARA Date 4-12

RG80 SC Comesp Bx 715 S-AA/QB

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0128023

Second Endorsement

179609

SECRET
SECRET

APR 7 - 1943

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 68.

1. Returned, approved.
2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Frank Knox

Frank Knox

Copies to:

- SecNav
- CominCh
- Asst. SecNav
- BuShips (3)
- BuMed (3)
- BuPers (3)
- BuOrd (3)
- BuSandA (3)
- Gen. Bd.
- Op-10/11 (2)
- Op-12
- OP&M (2)
- Budget Officer, Navy Dept.
- Op-39

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GU AA/QB

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0145123

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

April 16, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.
Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 69:

Recommendations to acquire two (2) EC-2 type
hulls, two ferry boats, and the S/S LURLINE
BURNS.

References: (a) CominCh conf. ltr. FF1/Sl8-1, Serial 0953,
of April 1, 1943.
(b) Com NATC USNAS Pensacola ltr., PW-Vi YFB,
Serial 1349, undated, to OP&M via Com 8.
(c) Com 13 conf. ltr. WS1 (O-o), Serial 212130,
of April 12, 1943.

1. The Board met at 0945, April 16, 1943, in Room 2721,
Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline
Captain E. E. Brady
Commander W. N. Mansfield

Operations.
Operations.
Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Comdr. S. N. Pyne and Comdr. Alexander Sledge, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. N. B. Van Bergen and Lieut. Comdr. Robert J. Esslinger, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, and Lieut. A. W. Kivett, Operations.

3. In reference (a) the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, directed that two additional EC-2 cargo ships be obtained from the Maritime Commission to help meet the expanding need for additional tenders for internal combustion engine driven ships.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0145123

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4. The Board recommends, therefore, that two EC-2 type cargo ships be acquired by purchase from the Maritime Commission; that they be converted to internal combustion engine repair ships (ARE); and that they be manned by Navy crews.

5. In reference (b) the Commandant, Naval Air Training Center, U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, after a survey by transportation consulting engineers, urged the acquisition of two ferry boats for the transportation of civilian and Naval personnel of the Naval Air Station and the Auxiliary Air Stations forming the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, Florida. The Office of Defense Transportation concurs in this recommendation.

6. The Board considers that the traffic problems of the Training Center would be solved by the use of two ferry boats; and that two of the ferry boats, RUTHERFORD, GOSHEN, ARLINGTON, TENEFLY, and HACKENSACK, now in the vicinity of New York, would be suitable for the ferry service required.

7. It is recommended that the Navy purchase through the War Shipping Administration two of the ferry boats, listed in the preceding paragraph, which are determined by inspection by representatives of the Bureau of Ships to be in the best material condition; and that they be manned by civilian personnel.

8. In reference (c) the Commandant, Thirteenth Naval District, points out that the existing need for a combination passenger and cargo vessel in the Alaskan area has become more acute. He recommends the S/S LURLINE BURNS for acquisition to assist in meeting this transportation problem.

9. The Board considers that the S/S LURLINE BURNS, after conversion, will be suitable for passenger-cargo transportation in the Alaskan area, and therefore, recommends that the S/S LURLINE BURNS be acquired by purchase and Navy manned for assignment to the Naval Transportation Service; and that a minimum conversion to accommodate a Navy crew and approximately twelve (12) passenger officers and 200 Troop passengers be accomplished.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0145223

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

APR 20 1943

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 69.

1. Forwarded.

2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.



Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0145323

Second Endorsement**CONFIDENTIAL**

APR 20 1943

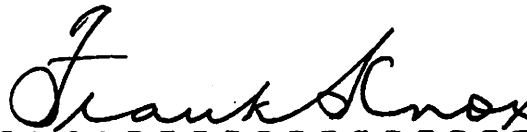
CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 69.

1. Returned, approved.

2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.



Copies to:

SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuMed (3)
BuPers (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuSandA (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Department.
Op-39

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0206523

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

May 24, 1943

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To : The Secretary of the Navy.
 Via : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 70:

Recommendations to acquire two (2) salvage tugs, RESOLUTE and INTENT; salvage vessel W. R. CHAMBERLIN, JR. (210,768); storage ship EDGAR ALLEN POE; twenty-four (24) coastal tankers; and fifty (50) troop transports.

References:

- (a) CominCh Secret ltr. FF1/Pl6-3/MM, Serial 00590, of March 29, 1943.
- (b) ComNavNaw Secret dispatch 161214 May.
- (c) Lieut. Gen. Somervell's Secret memo of April 1, 1943, to Adm. Horne.
- (d) Adm. Horne's Secret memo to Lieut. Gen. Somervell, of April 24, 1943 (Op-11-A/23-EIK).
- (e) Lieut. Gen. Somervell's Secret memo of April 27, 1943, to Adm. Horne.
- (f) Conference in Adm. Horne's office on May 7, 1943.
- (g) Conf. ltr. to Adm. Land dated May 11, 1943, Op-23-APC, (SC)Pl6-1/QS2, Serial 0183123.

1. The Board met at 1000, May 21, 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations.
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations.
Commander Herman Barter	Operations.

In addition to the members there were also present: Comdr. S. N. Pyne, Lieut. Herman F. B. Spector, and Mr. Hewitt Crosby, Bureau of Ships; and Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Comdr. W. C. Lockhart, and Lieut. A. W. Kivett, Operations.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0206523

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3. In reference (a), the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, directed that appropriate action be taken in respect to the salvage tugs RESOLUTE and INTENT, and the salvage vessel W. R. CHAMBERLIN, JR. In reference (b), the Commander United States Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters, advised the suitability of these vessels for service by the Navy in the African area.

4. It is recommended, therefore, that the salvage tugs RESOLUTE and INTENT be acquired by the Navy by transfer from the United States Army; that the salvage vessel W. R. CHAMBERLIN, JR. be purchased through the War Shipping Administration; and that all be manned by Navy crews.

5. As a result of a casualty in the South Pacific area, the main propulsion plant of the EDGAR ALLEN POE was wrecked and the underwater damage was extensive. The Board considers, however, that the ship, after limited hull and auxiliary machinery repairs and installations, will greatly contribute toward meeting the storage problem in the area. It is recommended, therefore, that the EDGAR ALLEN POE be acquired "as is" by bare boat charter for the Navy, for use as a receiving and storage ship at advance bases in the South Pacific; that the vessel be fitted for that purpose; and that the ship be manned by a Navy crew.

6. Because of the urgent need for tankers and with the approval of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Maritime Commission has contracted for the building of twelve (12) T1-M-A1 Maritime Commission Hulls numbered 1520 to 1531, inclusive, at East Coast Shipyards, Incorporated, Bayonne, New Jersey, and twelve (12) Maritime Commission Hulls numbered 1532 to 1543, inclusive, at Gray's Iron Works, Galveston, Texas. It is recommended that these twenty-four (24) tankers be acquired by purchase for service to the Navy to meet the Navy's urgent needs; that they be manned by Navy crews; and that a minimum conversion to accommodate the crews be undertaken.

7. In consideration of the need for three Provision Storeships for Navy use, the Board recommended, in Report #65, the acquisition and conversion of the MUSA, PLATANO, and a Maritime Commission Hull of the BLUE JACKET Class as Provision Storeships. Subsequently, it was ascertained that the PLATANO could not be made available immediately as the ship was being employed in the San Francisco-Copper trade, and the Board recommended, in Report #67, the acquisition of the ULUA which was immediately available. It later developed that the MUSA could not be procured by the Navy and the Board, therefore, recommends that the acquisition of the

(= Hawaii)

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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Serial 0206523
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MUSA as recommended in Report #65 be cancelled. The program for three Provision Storeships is met, therefore, by the acquisition of the ULUA, PLATANO, and a vessel of the BLUE JACKET Class. As action in previous reports has provided for the acquisition of these three ships by bare boat charter, it is now recommended that the vessel of the BLUE JACKET Class be acquired by purchase; and that Report #65 be amended accordingly.

8. By agreement with the Army, as recorded in the references (c) to (g), inclusive, the Navy has agreed to man the following ships building by the Maritime Commission which are to be assigned to the Naval Transportation Service and operated under Army schedules:

- 10 - P2-SE2-R1 (Hulls #678 to 687, inclusive)
- 10 - P2-S2-R2 (Hulls #668 to 677, inclusive)
- 30 - C4-S-A1 (Hulls #653 to 667, inclusive; and #702-716, inclusive).

9. It is recommended that the above-listed ships be acquired by bare boat charter from the Maritime Commission; that those not so completed by the Maritime Commission be converted to Navy standards of stability, messing, berthing, and safety in accordance with plans and specifications agreed to between the Maritime Commission, the shipbuilders, and the Navy Department; and that all fifty of these ships be manned by Navy crews.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0206623

First Endorsement

MAY 27 1943

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 70.

1. Forwarded.

2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

F. J. Horne
F. J. Horne

DECLASSIFIED

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

VELO

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0206723

Second Endorsement**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**MAY 27 1943**

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 70.

1. Returned, approved.
2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Frank Knox
Frank Knox

Copies to: SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuMed (3)
BuPers (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuSandA (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Department.
Op-39

Finished-Loose-File

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RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

In reply refer to Initials
and No.Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0241123

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

June 11, 1943.

From: The Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To : The Secretary of the Navy.
 Via : (1) The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
 (2) The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, and
 Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 71:

Recommendations concerning additional tenders
 and auxiliaries; concrete fuel barges; Navy
 manning of tankers CULPEPPER and SALVATOR;
 and acquisition of PETER H. BURNETT for a
 floating storage ship.

References: (a) VCNO Secret ltr. Op-11A-23/EIK, (SC)A1-3,
 Serial 0214723-A, of May 28, 1943.
 (b) VCNO Conf. ltr. Op-11A-23/EIK, (SC)A1-3,
 Serial 0207023-A, of May 25, 1943.

1. The Board met at 0930, June 4, 1943, in Room 2731,
 Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations.
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members, there were also present: Rear Admiral Charles L. Brand, Captain E. F. Enright, Captain T. P. Wynkoop, Comdr. S. N. Pyne, and Lieut. Comdr. G. L. Catlin, Bureau of Ships; Captain C. E. Olsen, Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet; Captain H. H. Goodwin, and Lieut. Comdr. J. F. Crosier, Bureau of Aeronautics; Captain N. B. Van Bergen and Lieut. Comdr. R. J. Esslinger, Bureau of Personnel; Captain Merrill Comstock, Captain L. B. Austin, Captain E. D. Poole, Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. V. R. Roane, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Lieut. Comdr. C. J. Nicklas, Lieut. A. W. Kivett, and Ens. J. A. Callaghan, Naval Operations.

6 01047

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RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0241123

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3. In reference (a), the Vice Chief of Naval Operations advised that the President had approved the proposed construction program of combatant ships and authorized the Bureaus to proceed with the construction of

1 45,000-ton Aircraft Carrier (CV)
3 27,000-ton Aircraft Carriers (CV)
1 27,000-ton Large Cruiser (CB)
4 Heavy Cruisers (CA)
7 Light Cruisers (CL)
82 Destroyers (DD)
110 Submarines (SS)
205 Destroyer Escort Vessels (DE).

4. At present the tender shortage for the maintenance of the Fleet is being keenly felt and the number available is far below requirements to maintain the proper ratio of ships to tenders. This new construction program and the increasing need for mobile repair units to support the aviation program, and in particular, the needs of the Fleet Air Base Units (FABUS), Carrier Air Service Units (CASUS), and Patrol Wing Service Units (PATWUS) in advanced areas will necessitate the building or acquisition and conversion of Maritime Commission hulls for additional tenders to take care of the increase in ships and planes.

5. The Board has made a thorough study of the facilities available in the next two years and has determined that sixteen (16) large tenders can be built by the Navy during that period. From analysis of the various tender types now in commission, those building and those converting, it is indicated that the sixteen (16) tenders to be built should be distributed among the types as follows, and the Board strongly recommends that the Navy undertake construction of these vessels:

6 01047

4 Destroyer Tenders (AD)	on C-3 Hull design, similar to HAMUL; completion 1st and 2nd quarters of 1945 and 1st and 3rd quarters of 1946.
4 Submarine Tenders (AS)	on C-3 Hull design, similar to GRIFFIN; completion 2nd and 4th quarters of 1945 and 2nd and 4th quarters of 1946.
4 Repair Ships (AR)	on C-3 Hull design, similar to BRIAREUS; completion 1st and 3rd quarters of 1945 and 1st and 3rd quarters of 1946.
3 Seaplane Tenders (AV)	on CURRITUCK design; completion 3rd and 4th quarters of 1945 and 4th quarter of 1946.

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Op-23-APC

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Serial 0241123

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1 Ammunition Ship (AE)

on C-2 Hull design, similar to the MAUNA LOA; completion 2nd quarter of 1946.

6. In addition, Naval construction facilities are available for building a limited number of various smaller types of auxiliary craft. The Board, after careful study of the requirements of the various areas and the numbers of the various smaller types now in commission and building, considers that there are prospective needs for additional numbers in the following types and recommends their construction during the calendar years 1944 and 1945 as a continuing program:

ok. 18 Fleet Tugs (AT)(205')

Diesel-driven, standard design; completion and deliveries at the rate of one (1) per month beginning in the 3rd quarter of 1944.

ok. 12 Salvage Vessels (ARS)

Steel, standard design; completion and deliveries at the rate of two (2) per quarter beginning in the 3rd quarter of 1944.

ok. 12 Gasoline Tankers (AOG)

standard design; completion and deliveries at the rate of two (2) per quarter beginning in the 3rd quarter of 1944.

At present there is no apparent need for additional small seaplane tenders (AVP) nor for submarine rescue vessels (ASR) over and above those on hand and on order, and the Board recommends that construction of these types be not undertaken at this time.

7. The Board survey also shows that there is a shortage of adequate Motor Torpedo Boat Tenders (AGP) which are of sufficient size to maintain these boats in efficient operating condition and to house the crews of boats under repair. Larger tenders than those at present available are considered necessary. The Board, therefore, recommends the acquisition of two (2) C-1 type cargo ships for conversion to Motor Torpedo Boat Tenders (AGP). It is estimated that these ships can be acquired from the Maritime Commission and conversion of one completed in the 1st quarter of 1944 and the second completed in the 4th quarter of 1944.

8. With the great numbers of ships of all types in the various and extended operating areas, the Board considers that additional repair ships are essential at the earliest practicable date and in planning an auxiliary conversion program for 1944 and 1945, the conversion of IST's and EC-2's to repair ships is the most expeditious and economical method of meeting the maintenance needs.

6 01047

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These converted ships can relieve to a great extent the installation of shore-based repair facilities in the forward operating areas. The Board recommends, therefore, that a program of eight (8) IST conversions a year for the years 1944 and 1945 be undertaken in a program of types which would provide three (3) Battle Damage Repair Ships (ARB), three (3) Landing Craft Repair Ships (ARL), and two (2) Motor Torpedo Boat Repair Ships (AGP) per year. Also, it is recommended that a program of twelve (12) EC-2 conversions, six in 1944 and six in 1945, similar to the present conversions of EC-2's to Internal Combustion Engine Repair Ships now under way, be authorized. In order to accommodate the necessary repair force to operate to maximum extent the machine tools placed aboard an EC-2 conversion, the Board further recommends that, for each EC-2 converted to a repair ship, a 2000-ton barge be built and converted to a floating barracks for the repair force personnel assigned to the EC-2. This will permit accommodations for sufficient personnel to fully man the repair facilities on a three-shift basis. These barges are designed and constructed so that they are capable of being moved with or by the EC-2 to which they are assigned and will provide the necessary housing at any location to which the EC-2 may be assigned.

9. The above recommendations of the Board are summarized by types of ships and delivery dates, as follows:

TYPE	1944				:	1945				:	1946			
	Quarters				:	Quarters				:	Quarters			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
4 AD					:	1	1			:	1		1	
4 AS					:		1		1	:		1		1
4 AR					:	1		1		:	1		1	
3 AV					:			1	1	:				1
1 AE					:					:		1		
18 AT			3	3	:	3	3	3	3	:				
12 ARS			2	2	:	2	2	2	2	:				
12 AOG			2	2	:	2	2	2	2	:				
2 AGP (C-1 conversions)	1			1	:					:				
6 ARB (IST conversions)	Three (3) per year in 1944 and 1945													
6 ARL (IST conversions)	Three (3) per year in 1944 and 1945													
4 AGP (IST conversions)	Two (2) per year in 1944 and 1945													
12 ARG (EC-2 conversions)	Six (6) per year in 1944 and 1945													
12 2000-Ton barges	Six (6) per year in 1944 and 1945 (one for EC-2 converted to ARG)													

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Serial 0241223

6 01047

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10. The Board has ascertained that two tankers, the ~~CULPEPPER~~ and the SALVATOR, under allocation from the War Shipping Administration and manned by civilian crews are assigned duties in Iceland. In view of their closely associated duties with the Navy on that station, it is considered desirable that they be manned by Navy crews. The Board, therefore, recommends that they be acquired by the Navy under bare boat charter and that, without any conversion, they be manned by Navy crews.

11. The Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet, has requested that the PETER H. BURNETT, a torpedo-damaged Liberty Ship, now at Sydney, Australia, be acquired for use as a floating storage ship in the South Pacific and the Board recommends that the vessel be acquired on bare boat charter for that purpose and manned by a Navy crew.

12. The Board is cognizant of the urgent need for additional mobile fuel oil storage and to help meet the future requirements for this storage in the Pacific areas, the Board recommends that nine (9) additional concrete fuel-carrying barges (MC Hulls #1228 to #1236, inclusive), building for the Maritime Commission at Concrete Ship Constructors, National City, California, be acquired by purchase for assignment to the Pacific area as mobile fuel storage.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0241223

First Endorsement**CONFIDENTIAL**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JUN 15 1943

1943 JUN 15 15 45

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

From:

The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

To :

✓ The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, and
Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT:

Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 71.

1. Forwarded.

2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

F. J. Horne
F. J. Horne

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1021 AA/QB

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C. 30

FFI/QB(1)

Serial: 02096

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SECOND ENDORSEMENT to
Senior Member, Auxiliary
Vessels Board 1tr. ser.
0241123 of 11 June 1943.

RECEIVED S-C FILE

Room 2055

25 JUN 1943

25 JUN 1943

ROUTE 10- 23

DE FILE NO. (SC) AA/QBSC. No. 85493COPY NO. 1

RN

From: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet
and Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Secretary of the Navy.
Subject: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 71.

1. Forwarded, recommending approval.

2. In addition to the ships listed in basic letter, it is recommended that steps be taken to procure and convert two C-2 hulls, or other suitable type, to ammunition ships (AE) for delivery as early as practicable in 1944.

E. J. King
E. J. KING.

Copy to:
Vice CNO
Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board

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Finished-Chapline-File

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0266323

Third Endorsement on
Senior Member, Auxiliary
Vessels Board ltr. serial
0241123 of 11 June 1943.

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL**28 JUN 1943**

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 71.

1. Forwarded, approved.
2. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Forrestal
JAMES FORRESTAL
Acting

Copies to: SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuPers (3)
BuMed (3)
BuSanda (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Dept.
Op-39

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 803073
By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0297823

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

16 July 1943

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Via : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 72:

Recommends purchase of CONCRETE BARGE #1; purchase of two Provision Storeships (AF); cancellation of acquisition of CULPEPPER and SALVATOR; purchase of a Communications Headquarters Ship (AGC); bare boat charter of PRESIDENT POLK, PRESIDENT MONROE, and DEIBRASIL; conversion of two barges to Barracks Ship Transports (APL); and the acquisition and conversion of a program of Combat Loaded Transports (APA) and Combat Loaded Cargo Vessels (AKA).

- References:
- (a) CominCh conf. ltr. FF1/A4-3, Serial 01941 of 12 June 1943.
 - (b) VCNO Secret despatch 071539 of July 1943.
 - (c) CominCh conf. ltr. FF1/S82-3/AGC, Serial 02192 of 3 July 1943.
 - (d) VCNO conf. ltr. Op-39A-mgc, (SC)QS1/L4, Serial 077039 of 18 June 1943. *← to WSA, in AP103 file*
 - (e) VCNO conf. ltr. Op-23XH-VIS, (SC)S1-1/YB, Serial 0104323 of 16 April 1943.
 - (f) CominCh Secret ltr. FF1/I9-3/APA/AKA, Serial 001379 of 9 July 1943.

1. The Board met at 0930, 13 July 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Capt. L. McKee (temporary, vice Capt Brady)	Operations.
Comdr. W. N. Mansfield	Operations.
Comdr. Herman Barter	Operations.

In addition to the members there were also present: Capt. C. E. Eason, Liaison for Commander Service Force, Atlantic Fleet;

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Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, and Lieut. A. W. Kivett, Operations; Lieut. Comdr. R. W. Schurr and Mr. Hewitt Crosby, Bureau of Ships; and Comdr. Wayne M. Gamet, Bureau of Naval Personnel.

3. The attention of the Board has been called to the availability of Concrete Barge #1 (B7-A2) built for the Maritime Commission at Concrete Ship Constructors, National City, California. The Board recommends that this barge be acquired by purchase, be converted for storage of aviation gas and potable water to meet demands in the South Pacific area, and be Navy manned.

4. In Report #65, amended by Reports #67 and #70, the Board recommended the acquisition of three (3) Provision Storeships, one of which was a vessel of the BLUE JACKET Class. The Maritime Commission was reluctant to assign a vessel of the BLUE JACKET Class but has offered a modified C-2 (C2-S-EL) dry cargo vessel in its place. The Board considers this design more suitable to help meet the need for service facilities in the South Pacific, and, therefore, recommends that Maritime Commission Hull #481, under construction by the Gulf Shipbuilding Corporation at Chickasaw, Alabama, be purchased by the Navy, converted to a Provision Storeship (AF), and manned by a Navy crew.

5. In reference (a) the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, and Chief of Naval Operations directed the acquisition at the earliest practicable date of one (1) Provision Storeship of suitable characteristics for assignment to the Service Force, Atlantic Fleet. The Board considers Maritime Commission design C2-S-EL suitable for the duties contemplated by reference (a), and, therefore, recommends that Maritime Commission Hull #485, under construction by the Gulf Shipbuilding Corporation at Chickasaw, Alabama, be purchased by the Navy, converted to a Provision Storeship (AF), and be manned by a Navy crew. Should the Maritime Commission hulls designated in paragraphs 4 and 5 not be available, it is recommended that similar hulls in the Maritime Commission building program be obtained for this purpose.

6. In Report #71 the Board recommended that the tankers CULPEPPER and SALVATOR be acquired and manned by Navy crews. Later, local civilians (Icelandic and Danish) were found to be available to man these ships. Reference (b) directed they be recruited for this purpose. The Board, therefore, withdraws its recommendation made in paragraph 10 of Report #71 and recommends that the CULPEPPER and the SALVATOR remain on allocation.

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7. In reference (c), the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, requested the conversion of a suitable vessels to a Communications Headquarters Ship (AGC) to be completed in the first quarter of 1944. It is recommended that a Maritime Commission C-2 Hull #291, building at Moore Dry Dock Company, San Francisco, California, be acquired by bare boat charter for this conversion and if Maritime Commission Hull #291 is not available that a similar hull be acquired.

8. The Board, in Report #54, recommended for acquisition the DASHING WAVE, TYPHOON, and the YOUNG AMERICA. Later, and after a conference between representatives of the War Shipping Administration and the Navy Department, these vessels were allocated to the Navy on a voyage basis. Because the need for additional Navy-manned troop transports for operation in combat areas is most urgent, reference (d) recommended the acquisition on bare boat charter of three (3) ships, the PRESIDENT POLK, PRESIDENT MONROE, and DELBRASIL, in lieu of the DASHING WAVE, the TYPHOON, and the YOUNG AMERICA. The Board considers that the necessity for transportation of troops and military cargoes direct to combat areas requires additional Navy-manned tonnage. The three vessels recommended in reference (d) are larger, faster, and available at once. The Board recommends, therefore, that the Navy acquire by bare boat charter the PRESIDENT POLK, PRESIDENT MONROE, and the DELBRASIL in lieu of the DASHING WAVE, TYPHOON and YOUNG AMERICA; that the ships be Navy manned; that minimum conversion to accommodate a Navy crew be accomplished; and that the Board's recommendations as approved in Report #54 to acquire the DASHING WAVE, TYPHOON, and YOUNG AMERICA be cancelled. (as APA/AGC)

9. In District Craft Development Board Report #29, the Secretary of the Navy approved the construction of thirty (30) 2000-ton steel cargo barges of Bureau design and in reference (e) the Vice Chief of Naval Operations directed the construction of ten (10) of these barges, which is the limit of the facilities and material at present available without interference to the building program now underway. Auxiliary Vessels Board Report #69 as approved provides for the conversion of two (2) EC-2s to Internal Combustion Engine Repair Ships (ARG). It is recommended that two (2) of the ten (10) cargo barges mentioned above be converted to Barrack Ship Transports (APL) to house the repair parties assigned to these two Repair Ships. Their conversion is separate and in addition to the barrack barges referred to and provided for in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Auxiliary Vessels Board Report #71.

10. In reference (f) the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, states that the known requirements for Combat Loaded Transports

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(APA) and Combat Loaded Cargo Vessels (AKA) now exceed the total numbers provided for by existing construction and conversion programs, and directs that C-3 and C-2 Maritime Commission hulls be acquired for early conversion as an additional program of eight (8) APAs and six (6) AKAs, and for a continuing program of one (1) APA per month and one (1) AKA every two months immediately following. The Board, after consideration of the ships now building by the Maritime Commission, and the conversion workload conditions at both East and West Coast shipyards, recommends the acquisition by purchase of the Maritime Commission Hulls listed below for this conversion program.

Builder	Hull Type	M.C. Hull	Estimated Date of Delivery	Estimated to Begin Conversion	Estimated Date of Completion
* Bethlehem Spar.	C-3	594	1-1-44	---	1-1-44
Western P. & S.	C-3	281	10-1-43	11-1-43	5-1-44
Gulf	C-2	482	10-30-43	11-15-43	5-15-44
* Bethlehem Spar.	C-3	1675	5-21-44	---	5-21-44
Western P. & S.	C-3	283	11-14-43	12-15-43	6-15-44
* Bethlehem Spar.	C-3	1676	6-21-44	---	6-21-44
Gulf	C-2	484	12-15-43	1-1-44	7-1-44
Ingalls	C-3	862	12-19-43	1-5-44	7-5-44

APA
Continuing program:

Ingalls	C-3	864	1-14-44	2-1-44	7-15-44
Ingalls	C-3	866	1-24-44	2-15-44	8-1-44
Ingalls	C-3	869	2-15-44	3-1-44	9-1-44
* Bethlehem Spar.	C-3	1677	10-21-44	---	10-21-44
* Bethlehem Spar.	C-3	1678	11-21-44	---	11-21-44
Ingalls	C-3	879	6-1-44	6-15-44	12-15-44

* Federal	C-2	208	2-15-44	---	2-15-44
Moore	C-2	294	8-24-43	9-24-43	3-24-44
Moore	C-2	1153	9-7-43	10-7-43	4-10-44
Moore	C-2	1157	10-5-43	10-15-43	4-15-44
* Federal	C-2	209	4-15-44	---	4-15-44
* Federal	C-2	210	4-25-44	---	4-25-44

AKA
Continuing program:

* Federal	C-2	211	6-10-44	---	6-10-44
* Federal	C-2	212	7-18-44	---	7-18-44
* Federal	C-2	213	9-9-44	---	9-9-44
* Federal	C-2	214	9-22-44	---	9-22-44
* Federal	C-2	215	10-20-44	---	10-20-44

* - To have conversion features incorporated during building.

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If any of the above hulls are not available for this purpose at the time estimated for delivery, it is further recommended that other vessels of similar types and characteristics now building be substituted.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE.

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0297923

First Endorsement**CONFIDENTIAL**

81 JUL 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 72.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

F. J. Horne

F. J. Horne

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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

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(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0298023

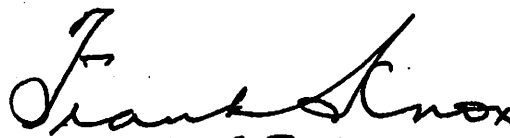
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Second Endorsement on
Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels
Board conf. ltr. (SC)AA/QB,
Serial 0297823 of 16 July 1943.

21 JUL 1943

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 72.

1. Returned, approved.
2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.


Frank Knox

Copies to: SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuMed (3)
BuPers (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuSanda (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Department.
Op-39

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-23-APC

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0329423

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

3 August 1943

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Via : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

SUBJ: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 73:

Recommendations for the acquisition of two
(2) General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS); acqui-
sition of three (3) Net Cargo Ships (AKN);
and acquisition of fifty (50) Kaiser-built
Aircraft Carriers, Escort (CVE).

Refs: (a) CominCh Secret ltr. FF1/A4-3, Serial 001473,
of 24 July 1943.
(b) Op-30 memo. Serial 787230 of 12 July 1943.
(c) Op-30 Restr. memo. Serial 796330 of 17 July
1943.
(d) Op-12 Restr. memo. Serial 62112 of 26 July
1943.
(e) Maritime Commission ltr. re "Aircraft Trans-
port" to Navy Department, undated.

1. The Board met at 0930, 29 July 1943, in Room 2721, Navy De-
partment.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline
Captain E. E. Brady
Commander Herman Barter
Commander W. N. Mansfield

Operations.
Operations.
Operations.
Operations.

In addition to the members there were also present: Capt. C. E.
Eason, Liaison for Commander Service Force, Atlantic Fleet; Capt.
T. M. Waldschmidt, Comdr. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. D. H. Johnston,
Lieut. Comdr. J. S. Poche, and Lieut. A. W. Kivett, Operations;
Comdr. Alexander Sledge, Comdr. B. G. Lowrey, and Comdr. R. T.
Keith, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. R. S. Bertschy and Comdr. W. N.
Gamet, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Comdr. J. F. Quilter, Bureau
of Aeronautics.

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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0329423

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3. In reference (a) the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, and Chief of Naval Operations directed that two (2) suitable ships be acquired and converted to General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS) at the earliest practicable date. The Board, therefore, recommends that two (2) C2-S-AJ1 type hulls building by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Corporation be requisition purchased from the Maritime Commission at a suitable stage of construction for delivery to the Navy in January and March, 1944; that necessary conversion to General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS) be accomplished; and that they be manned by Navy crews.
4. References (b), (c), and (d) expressed the urgent need for Net Cargo Ships (AKN) in Pacific operations, to transport and install net defenses in harbors at Advanced Bases before they are occupied by important fleet units. The Board considers that EC-2 vessels are best adapted for Net Cargo Ships; that three (3) such ships are required; and that when not engaged in the above work these ships could be employed carrying other types of cargo. It is recommended, therefore, that the Navy acquire by bare boat charter from the Maritime Commission three (3) EC-2 hulls building by the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard, Incorporated, one each in November 1943, December 1943, and January 1944; and that minimum conversion be undertaken to fit them out as Net Cargo Ships (AKN) and to accommodate the necessary Navy crews.
5. Early in 1942 the President directed the Chairman of the Maritime Commission to consider the possibility of building a simple type of aircraft transport for the Navy. In reference (e) the Chairman of the Maritime Commission informed the Navy Department of the tentative characteristics that could be embodied in such ships and proceeded to contract with the Kaiser Company, Incorporated, for the building of fifty (50) aircraft transports of a new design. A series of conferences were held between representatives of the Maritime Commission, the Navy Department, and the Kaiser Company. An agreement was reached on certain changes desired by the Navy. This program is now well under way; the first ship has been delivered to the Navy and it is expected that an average of four (4) ships per month will be built until the program is completed. These vessels were originally designated by the Navy as Auxiliary Aircraft Carriers (ACV). Effective 15 July 1943, the Secretary of the Navy approved a change in designation to Aircraft Carriers, Escort (CVE), a combatant type. As all fifty ships will be retained by the United States Navy, it is recommended that they be acquired by purchase from the Maritime Commission as they are completed. Because all authorized combatant tonnage has already been obligated, it is necessary in order to acquire these ships that they be charged against auxiliary tonnage, the classification intended at their inception, and the Board so recommends.

V. D. Chayline
V. D. CHAYLINE

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0329523

First Endorsement on
Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels
Board ltr., Serial 0329423 of
3 August 1943.

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27 AUG 1943

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
SUBJ: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 73.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

[Signature]
F. J. Byrne

Op-23-APC
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0329623

Second Endorsement

27 AUG 1943

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

[Signature]
JAMES FORRESTAL

Copies to: SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuPers (3)
BuSanda (3)
BuMed (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-10/11 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Department.
Op-39

Acting

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

Interpretation of this

and No.

Op-22-1011

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0399723

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

September 7, 1943.

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To: Secretary of the Navy.
 Via: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
 Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 74:

Recommendation to acquire ATLANTIDA; substitution of EG-2 hulls for C-2 hulls for conversion to General Stores-Issue Ships; recommendations to acquire MATHEW LYON, M.H. de YOUNG, PRESIDENT WARFIELD, YALE and two (2) small coastal tankers; and acquisition of one (1) additional APA for program covered in Report No. 72.

Refs:

- (a) WSA ltr of 3 September 1943 re S/S ATLANTIDA.
- (b) ComServRonSoPac Secret Despatch August 202047.
- (c) ComServRonSoPac Secret Despatch Sept 050537.
- (d) VCNO Secret Despatch Sept 031539.
- (e) ComNavEu Secret Despatch July 121122.
- (f) ComAlSec Secret ltr EG3/19-3, Serial #5- of 25 July 1943.

1. The Board met at 1030, 4 September 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations.
Commander Herman Barter	Operations.
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members there were also present: Capt. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Comdr. E. C. Cleave, and Lieut. (jg) Morse, Jr., Operations; Comdr. Alexander Sledge, Comdr. R. T. Keith, and Lieut. Comdr. R.W. Schurr, Bureau of Ships; Lieut. Comdr. R. J. Esslinger, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Lieut. Comdr. J.F. Castree, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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3. According to reference (a) certain difficulties have been encountered in manning the SS ATLANTIDA with a civilian crew. This vessel under Honduran registry and flag is allocated to the Navy for use as an anti-submarine training ship. Because of these difficulties and for security reasons, the Board recommends that the SS ATLANTIDA be acquired under bareboat basis by the Navy for use as a training ship; that it be manned by a Navy crew; and that it be designated as an Unclassified Auxiliary (IX).
4. In Report No. 73, the Board recommended that title to two (2) C2-S-AJ1 type hulls be acquired from the Maritime Commission with delivery to the Navy in January and March, 1944 for conversion to General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS). It has been brought to the Board's attention that there is an urgent need at this time for fast troop transports and that the C2-S-AJ1 hulls requested can be so used. The Board considers that EC-2 hulls can be satisfactorily converted to General Stores-Issue Ships and it is therefore recommended that title to two (2) EC-2 hulls be acquired from the Maritime Commission in lieu of the two (2) C2 hulls recommended in Report No. 73; that necessary conversion to General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS) be accomplished; and that they be manned by Navy crews.
5. The Commander Service Squadron, South Pacific Force has recommended that temporary repairs be made at Espiritu Santo to the MATHEW LYON and the M.H. de YOUNG, torpedo-damaged Liberty Ships, to permit their use as dry cargo storage ships in the South Pacific. The Board recommends that these vessels be acquired on bareboat basis for this purpose and be manned by Navy crews.
6. The Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe requested in reference (a) that the SS PRESIDENT WARFIELD, now at Appledore, Devonshire, England, be acquired for use as a barracks ship. This vessel was originally assigned to the British Ministry of War Transport under Lend-Lease. The Board recommends that the SS PRESIDENT WARFIELD be acquired under bareboat basis for use as a barracks for Naval Personnel and be designated as an APL (Auxiliary, Barracks Ship).
7. In Report No. 60, the Board recommended the acquisition of six (6) small coastal tankers (T1-M-A1) building by the Maritime Commission. Two similar tankers under construction by Todd-Galveston Dry Dock, Inc. (Successor to Gray Iron Works) at Galveston, Texas are understood to be available for Navy acquisition with estimated deliveries in January, 1944. In view of the increasing need for such vessels, the Board recommends that title to these two tankers be acquired from the Maritime Commission by the Navy and that they be converted to provide for Navy crews and to permit the

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transportation of both gasoline and diesel oil.

8. By reference (f) the Commander, Alaskan Sector expressed an urgent need for additional transportation facilities in his sector and recommended that the SS YALE, which has been used as a floating barracks and mess hall for contractors' personnel and later as a receiving ship at Kodiak, Alaska, be placed in an operating status. Inasmuch as it has been determined that the vessel is in good material and mechanical condition and suitable for the purpose requested, the Board recommends that the SS YALE be placed in commission as the IX-106. (This vessel was acquired 30 April 1943, date that the Bureau of Yards and Docks closed out contract NOy 3570, and was assigned the name U.S.S. GREYHOUND).

9. In Report No. 72, the Board recommended the acquisition of certain C3 and C2 Maritime Commission hulls for an immediate conversion program of eight (8) Attack Transports (APA) and six (6) Attack Cargo Ships (AKA) and for a continuing program of one (1) APA per month and one (1) AKA every two months immediately following. In that report a total of twenty-five vessels was listed as available for acquisition. It is now ascertained that twenty-six C3 and C2 hulls can be acquired from the Maritime Commission program for that purpose. It therefore, is recommended that one additional C3 hull building at Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation be acquired by transfer of title to complete a conversion program of 15 APA's and 11 AKA's in 1944.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. CHAPLINE.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0399823

CONFIDENTIAL
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

First Endorsement
on Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels
Board ltr. Serial 0399723 of
7 September 1943.

8 - SEP 1943

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Secretary of the Navy.
Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 74.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

[Signature]
F. J. Horne

Op-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0399923

Second Endorsement

-8 SEP 1943

CONFIDENTIAL
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

[Signature]
Frank Knox

Copies to: SecNav
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BuShips (3)
BuOrd (3)
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BuMed (3)
Gen. Bd.
Op-01/02 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer, Navy Department
Op-39

Finished-9/9-File

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0427823

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

20 September 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To: Secretary of the Navy.
Via: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 75:

Recommendation to acquire ten (10) EC-2 hulls on bareboat basis.

Ref: (a) ComTwelve conf ltr A4-3/AK (SC) (3331-14A-Gs) of
7 September 1943.

1. The Board met at 1000, 20 September 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations.
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations.
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations.

In addition to the members there were also present: Capt. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, and Lieut. (jg) E. H. Morse, Jr., Operations; Comdr. B. G. Lowrey and Comdr. R. T. Keith, Bureau of Ships; Lieut. Comdr. John C. DeWitt, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts; and Ensign P.W.F. Jones, Bureau of Naval Personnel.

3. In report No. 57, the Board recommended the acquisition of ten (10) EC-2 hulls for conversion to Cargo Ships (AK) with accommodations for Navy crews. Subsequently, the acquisition of eighteen (18) more such ships was recommended in Report Numbers 65 and 66. In reference (a), the Commandant of the Twelfth Naval District pointed out that additional specially equipped cargo carriers were necessary to support activities in the Pacific area and recommended that ten (10) more EC-2 type ships be acquired and converted for this purpose. The Board considers that the acquisition of additional ships for this type is essential to meet the demands for additional cargo vessels and for towing facilities in the Pacific area. It is therefore recommended that ten (10) new EC-2 hulls be acquired on bareboat basis from the Maritime Commission for assignment to the Naval Transportation Service; that they be acquired at the rate of two (2) per month beginning in October, 1943; that an original conversion

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Authority NND 803073

By V4 NARA Date 11/28

-2-

OP-23-ejb

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similar to that for MC hull number MCE 1555 (U.S.S. LYRA, AK-101) be undertaken to accommodate Navy crews; and that they be equipped with extra heavy lift equipment and towing engines.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. Chapline.

OP-23-ejb

(SC) AA/QB

Serial 0427923

First Endorsement

on Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels
Board ltr. Serial 0427823 of
20 September 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

24 SEP 1943

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 75.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

R. J. Horne
R. J. Horne

OP-23-ejb

(SC) AA/QB

Serial 0428023

Second EndorsementCONFIDENTIAL

24 SEP 1943

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.

2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Forrestal
JAMES FORRESTAL

Copies to: SecNav

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BuShips (3)

BuOrd(3)

BuPers(3)

BuSanda (3)

BuMed (3)

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Gen. Bd.

OP-01 (2)

OP-02 (2)

OP-12

OP&M (2)

Budget Officer,
Navy Department
OP-39

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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In reply, refer to Initials
and No.OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Ser. 0451523NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON**CONFIDENTIAL**
CONFIDENTIAL

30 September 1943.

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To: Secretary of the Navy.
 Via: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 76:

Acquisition of Five (5) EC-2 freighters for Conversion to
 AK-109-113, inclusive.
 Acquisition of M/S YOMACHICHI (IX-110) for Conversion to
 Barracks Ship.

Ref: (a) CinCPac Secret Dispatch Sept. 161131.

1. The Board met at 1430, 28 September 1943, in Room 2721,
 Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain R.M. Hinckley (for Captain V. D. Chapline)	Operations
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations
Commander Herman Barter	Operations
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations

In addition to the members there were also present: Mr. Ralph Keating, War Shipping Administration; Capt. C. S. Alden, Capt. A. McGlasson, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Comdr. E. C. Cleave, Lieut. Comdr. L. A. Straits and Lieut. (jg) E. H. Morse, Jr., Operations; Comdr. R. T. Keith, Comdr. B. G. Lowrey, Comdr. Alexander Sledge and Mr. S. B. Crosby, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. Wayne M. Gamet, Comdr. R.S. Bertschy, Comdr. R. J. Esslinger and Lieut. C. B. Talbert, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Lieut. R. P. Page, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

3. (a) The Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, has requested that fifteen (15) EC-2 freighters be converted, five (5) to transport about one thousand (1000) men each and ten (10) to be fitted out with additional heavy boom aft, cargo delivery boats, and accommodations for fifty-six (56) Construction Battalion personnel, all ships to be ready at

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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OP-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0451523

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-2-

San Francisco by 1 November 1943. Preference was expressed that these vessels be Navy manned.

(b) Commenting on this request, ComTwelve submitted a list of five (5) EC-2 freighters which had been converted by WSA to carry about twelve hundred (1200) officer and troop passengers. In view of the limited time available for further converting these vessels to the standard Navy AP, the Board recommends that these vessels be taken under allocation and be continued with their present crews.

(c) Similarly, ComTwelve recommended the names of ten (10) EC-2 freighters for conversion to AK's referred to in subparagraph (a). The Board recommends that five (5) vessels immediately available be acquired under bareboat basis from WSA, be converted to Cargo Ships (AK), and be manned by Navy crews including boatmen and stevedore gangs. The Board further recommends that the remaining five (5) AK's be taken under allocation with merchant crews selected from EC-2 freighters which have been converted to carry twelve (12) officers and two hundred (200) troop passengers. The WSA representative present at the meeting advised that five (5) such vessels would be allocated to the Navy, provided with heavy lift aft, fresh water storage, and stowage for two LCM(3)'s and four (4) LCV's.

4. In reference (a), the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, requested, among other items, the services of a barracks ship to accommodate about eight hundred (800) men for use at an Advanced Base. WSA has stated that the M/S YOMACHICHI, now at Baltimore under repairs, would be suitable for the above purpose and this has been confirmed upon inspection by Navy representatives. This vessel is understood to be the earliest available ship that can be taken without affecting cargo lift. The Board recommends that the M/S YOMACHICHI be acquired under bareboat basis, manned by a Navy crew and that limited conversion to a barracks ship be undertaken concurrently with repairs.

R. M. Hinckley
R.M. HINCKLEY,

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0451623

First Endorsement
on Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels
Board ltr. Serial 0451523 of
30 September 1943.

2 - OCT 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations
To: Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 76.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

[Signature]
J. J. Horne

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0451723

Second Endorsement

2 - OCT 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

[Signature]
Fourestal

Acting

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BuOrd (3)
BuPers (3)
OP-39

BuSanda (3)
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Gen.Bd.
Op-01 (2)
Op-02 (2)
Op-12
OP&M (2)

Budget Officer,
Navy Department

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Authority NND 803073
By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0457623

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

4 October 1943.

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Via : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 77:

Acquisition of Five (5) EC-2 Freighters for Conversion to
AK-124-128, inclusive.
Construction of Forty (40) 2000-Ton Steel Barges.

Ref : (a) CinCPac Secret Despatch Sept. 220149.
(b) Secret Memo of Lieut. Gen. Somervell dated
12 September 1943.

1. The Board met at 1500, 2 October 1943, in Room 2721, Navy
Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations

In addition to the members there were also present: Capt. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Lieut. Comdr. J. S. Poche' and Lieut. (jg) E. H. Morse, Jr., Operations; Comdr. S. N. Pyne, Comdr. Alexander Sledge, Lieut. C. M. Cox, and Lieut. (jg) R. H. Lovell, Bureau of Ships; Ensign P.W.F. Jones, Bureau of Naval Personnel; Lieut. Comdr. John C. DeWitt, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

3. In order to meet the request of the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, for ten (10) Cargo vessels, the Board in Report No. 76 recommended the acquisition on bareboat basis from WSA of five (5) EC-2 freighters to be converted to Cargo Ships (AK) and be manned by Navy crews and further recommended that five (5) XAK's be taken under allocation with merchant crews. The Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, has subsequently recommended that all ten (10) vessels be manned with Navy crews. Accordingly,

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0457623

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the Board desires to modify paragraph 3(c) of Report No. 76 with reference to taking five (5) XAK's under allocation and to recommend that these five (5) EC-2 freighters, namely, MARY PATTEN, WILLIAM M. GWIN, GENERAL VALLEJO, JOHN A. LOGAN AND KEY PITTMAN, be acquired from WSA on bareboat basis, be converted to Cargo Ships (AK), and be manned by Navy crews including boatmen and stevedore gangs after accomplishment of the conversion features set forth in Vice Chief of Naval Operations confidential letter, Serial 0449723 of 29 September 1943.

4. In reference (a), the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, recommended the construction of forty (40) 2000-ton steel barges of the type similar to YF-604-633, inclusive, to meet requirements in the Central Pacific Area. A review of the 2000-ton barge program indicates that forty-two (42) of these barges are at present under construction or authorized, with prospective assignments as follows:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Prospective Assignment</u>
28	South and Southwest Pacific
14	Floating Barracks for ARG 2 to 15, inclusive

Inasmuch as the requirements indicated in reference (a) are in addition to the above and in view of the strong representations of the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, to acquire the additional forty (40) barges, the Board recommends the construction of this program at a priority sufficiently high to ensure their completion in 1944. The Board takes cognizance of the fact that in reference (b) the Commanding General, Army Service Forces, has offered available services to expedite completion of the barges.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. Chapline.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0457723

First Endorsement
on Senior Member Auxiliary Vessels
Board ltr. Serial 0457623 of
4 October 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Secretary of the Navy.

6 - OCT 1943

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 77.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.


F. J. Horne

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0457823

Second Endorsement

CONFIDENTIAL

6 - OCT 1943

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To: Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.


JAMES FORRESTAL

Action

Copies to:

SecNav
CominCh
Asst. SecNav
BuShips (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuPers (3)
OP-39
BuSanda (3)
BuMed (3)

Gen. Bd.
OP-01 (2)
OP-02 (2)
OP-12
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer,
Navy Department

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial No. 0475323

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

12 October 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Via : Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 78:

Acquisition of fifteen (15) old WSA Tankers and twenty (20) new Liberty Tankers.

Refs: (a) VCNO Secret Dispatch Sept. 061439.
(b) CinCPac Secret Dispatch Sept. 080626.
(c) VCNO Secret Dispatch Sept. 291540.
(d) CinCPac Secret Dispatch Oct. 010501.

1. The Board met at 1030, 9 October 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations
Commander Herman Barter	Operations

In addition to the members there were also present: Comdr. C. E. Lindley, Comdr. J. S. Poche and Lieut (jg) E. H. Morse, Jr., Operations; Comdr. S. N. Pyne and Comdr. Russell Keith, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. Wayne M. Gamet and Ensign P.W.F. Jones, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Lieut. Comdr. J. F. Castree, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

3. It has come to the attention of the Board that there are available to the Navy certain old WSA tankers as well as a number of new Liberty tankers which can be used to help meet the urgent requirements which exist in the Pacific area for floating storage at advanced bases.

4. The Board considers that these tankers are suitable for such storage purposes and in view of the urgent need for such

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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

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Op-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial No. 0475323

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facilities, the following recommendations are made:

(a) That the Navy acquire from WSA on bareboat basis the fifteen (15) below-named tankers after they are delivered by WSA with civilian crews to stations designated by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet:

S/S ACME	S/S ORMONDALE (Pan)
S/S ALCIBIADES (Pan)	S/S OSMAND (Pan)
S/S BIRKENHEAD	S/S POLONAISE (Pan)
S/S FAIRENO (Pan)	S/S STANDARD ARROW
S/S GARGOYLE	S/S SWEEP
S/S GOLD HEELS (Pan)	S/S SWIVEL (Pan)
M/S KERRY PATCH	S/S TYPHOON (Pan)
S/S ORISSA (Pan)	

(b) That as the service required of these ships is primarily storage in the ports to which assigned and very little cruising will be required, only minimum repairs for service be made and no conversion features be undertaken.

(c) That upon arrival on station and after acquisition, they be Navy manned.

(d) That when acquired by the Navy, they be designated as Auxiliaries, Unclassified (IX).

5. The Board also recommends that to meet further the specific needs and requests of the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet for liquid storage, twenty (20) new Liberty tankers (M.C. design Z-ETL-S-C3) be acquired from the War Shipping Administration on bareboat basis with no conversion of any kind to be undertaken, such vessels to be manned with Navy crews and designated as Auxiliaries, Unclassified (IX). It is understood that the following MC hulls are available and are recommended for this acquisition:

<u>MC HULL</u>	<u>BUILDER</u>	<u>ESTIMATED DELIVERY</u>
MCE 1900-1909, incl.	California Shipbuilding Corp.	Nov.-Dec., 1943
MCE 1923, 1926-1934, incl.	Delta Shipbuilding Co, Inc.	Dec. 1943-Jan., 1944.

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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

Serial No. 0475323

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The Board estimates that an adequate crew for these vessels for their intended purpose will not exceed five (5) officers and sixty-five (65) men.

W. D. Chapline
W. D. Chapline

Op-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial No. 0475423

First Endorsement
on Senior Member Auxiliary Vessels
Board ltr. Serial 0475323 of
12 October 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

13 OCT 1943

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 78.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

W. S. Farber
W. S. Farber

Sub Chief of Naval Operations

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial No. 0475523

Second Endorsement

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

13 OCT 1943

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Frank Knox
Frank Knox

Copies to:

SecNav	BuSanda	(3)	Budget Officer, Navy Department
CominCh	BuMed	(3)	
Asst. SecNav	Gn. Bd.		Finished <i>BB</i> - File
BuShips	Op-01	(2)	
BuOrd	Op-02	(2)	
BuPers	Op-12		
Op-39	OP&M	(2)	

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0500823

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

22 October 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Via : Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 79:

Acquisition of Four (4) Troop Transports (AP 162-165, inclusive)
and Three (3) General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS).

Refs: (a) ComTwelve Conf. Dispatch Oct. 161830.
(b) First End. on ComAirPac Conf. Ltr. A3-1/18-1/FF12-5/50-Jr
Serial 01554 dated 22 September 1943. (CinCPac)
(c) VCNO Conf. ltr. Serial 0389823 dated 4 September 1943.

1. The Board met at 1030, 19 October 1943, in Room 2721, Navy
Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Operations
Captain E. E. Brady	Operations
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Operations

In addition to the members there were also present: Capt. R.M. Hinckley, Capt. E. R. Morrissey, Comdr. G. E. Lindley and Lieut. (jg) E. H. Morse, Jr., Operations; Comdr. Alexander Sledge, Comdr. S.N. Pyne and Comdr. Russel Keith, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. Wayne M. Gamet, Comdr. R. S. Bertschy and Ensign O.E. Emmons, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Lieut. Comdr. J. F. Castree, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

3. In order to meet the request of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for five (5) troop transports, the Board in Report No. 76 recommended that five (5) EC-2 freighters which had been converted by WSA to carry about twelve hundred (1200) officers and troop passengers be taken under allocation and be continued with civilian operating crews. In reference (a), the Commandant, TWELFTH Naval District recommended that in view of the ultimate employment of these vessels for training purposes, they be completely manned with

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By V/H NARA Date 11/28

OP-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0500823

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

Navy personnel, suggesting that twelve (12) officers and six (6) additional CPO's and thirty (30) enlisted men would be sufficient. It was further stated that no conversion incident to such manning would be necessary. The Board concurs in these recommendations and accordingly desires to modify paragraph 3 (b) of Report No. 76 with reference to taking five (5) XAP's under allocation and to recommend that four (4) transports, namely, JAMES H. McCLINTOCK, JOSIAH D. WHITNEY, NATHANIEL J. WYETH, and RICHARD MARCH HOE, be acquired from WSA on bareboat basis and be manned with Navy crews with no conversion of any kind to be undertaken. (The fifth transport, JANE ADDAMS, is not available for change in status at this time).

4. In reference (b), the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet requested that five (5) additional General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS) be provided for the Central and South Pacific areas. The Board considers that part of this requirement will be met by the conversion to Aircraft Engine Overhaul and Structural Repair Ships (ARV), as indicated in reference (c), of two (2) of the twelve (12) EC-2 hulls authorized in Report No. 71 for conversion to Internal Combustion Engine Repair Ships (ARG). The Board further recommends, therefore, that title to three (3) EC-2 hulls be acquired from the Maritime Commission with delivery to the Navy of two (2) hulls about 15 November 1943 and one (1) hull about 15 December 1943; that these vessels be converted to General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS); and that they be manned with Navy crews.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. Chapline.

OP-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0500923

First Endorsement

On Senior Member Aux. Vessels

Board ltr. Serial 0500823

dated 22 Oct. 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

25 OCT 1943

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 79.

1. Forwarded.

2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

F. J. HORNE
F. J. HORNE
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

-3-

OP-23-cjh
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0501023

Second Endorsement
on Senior Member Aux. Vessels
Board ltr. Serial 0500823
dated 22 October 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

26 OCT 1943

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 79.

1. Returned, approved.

2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Frank Knox
Frank Knox

Copies to:

SecNav
CominCh
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BuOrd (3)
BuPers (3)
OP-39
BuSanda (3)
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GenBd
OP-01 (2)
OP-02 (2)
OP-12
OP&M (2)
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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

OP-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0518723

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

30 October 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Via : Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 80:

Acquisition of six (6) additional EC-2 hulls.
Acquisition of M/S ELWOOD CITY and M/S WARD.

- Refs: (a) CinCPac First Emcl. on ComAirPac Conf. Ltr. A3-1/18-1/FF12-5/50-Jr Serial 01554 dated 22 September 1943.
(b) CNO Secret Dispatch Oct. 221539.
(c) CinCPac Secret Dispatch Oct. 242145.
(d) CNO Secret Dispatch Oct. 251740.
(e) CinCPac Secret Dispatch Oct. 270339.
(f) VCNO Conf. Ltr. Serial 0424323-05 dated 22 September 1943.

1. The Board met at 1430, 29 October 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. The members present were:

Captain V. D. Chapline
Captain E.E. Brady
Commander Herman Barter
Commander W.N. Mansfield

Operations
Operations
Operations
Operations

In addition to the members there were also present: Capt. R.M. Hinckley, Comdr. J. S. Peche, Lieut. Comdr. L. A. Straits, and Lieut. (jg) E. H. Morse, Jr., Operations; Comdr. Russell Keith and Lieut. Comdr. R.W. Schurr, Bureau of Ships; Ensign P.W.F. Jones, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Lieut. Comdr. J.F. Castree, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

3. In Report No. 75, the Board recommended the acquisition of ten (10) EC-2's to meet the demands for additional cargo vessels and for towing facilities in the Pacific area. These vessels were to be taken on a bareboat basis at the rate of about two (2) per month beginning in October as a continuation of EC-2 conversions. Subsequently, the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet requested that eleven (11) EC-2's be acquired as early as practicable for use by Commander, Third Fleet as Navy manned AK's with facilities

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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0518723

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

for transporting about 1000 troops on short hauls in order to relieve regular Transports now being retained in the area for that purpose. In view of the priority of this requirement and the large number of conversions involved, it is now recommended that in addition to the ten (10) EC-2 hulls covered by Board Report No. 75, only six (6) more be acquired on a bareboat basis from WSA. Of the sixteen (16) vessels, which will be taken at the rate of about four (4) per month beginning 10 November, 1943 it is further recommended that the first eleven (11) be converted to AK's without towing engines and include facilities for transporting about 1000 troops on short hauls and that the remaining five (5) ships be converted to standard Navy Cargo Ships (AK) with towing engines.

4. In Report No. 79, the Board recommended the acquisition of three (3) EC-2 hulls for conversion to General Stores-Issue Ships (AKS) in order to partially meet a request of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet for such vessels. In reference (a), it was indicated that two (2) old cargo vessels would be acceptable for meeting part of this requirement. The Board understands that the old motorships CITY OF ELWOOD and WARD are available for acquisition although it is recognized that they are in very poor material condition with unreliable engines and are little more than hulks. The Board recommends that these vessels be acquired from WSA on bareboat basis after delivery by WSA at a port in the Pacific area designated by the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet; that they be manned with Navy crews after acquisition; and that they be designated as Unclassified Auxiliaries (IX). It is also recommended that the Navy request WSA to provide such minimum conversion as can be accomplished in ten (10) days to include installation of shelving, cribbing and binning plus a makeshift depreservation room and crating facilities but that no repairs or alterations for accommodation of naval crews be undertaken.

5. A representative of the Bureau of Ships stated to the Board as follows:

"There still remains a working balance of 95,758 tons unobligated in authorized auxiliary tonnage. The Bureau, however, has received directives for 318,204 tons of auxiliary tonnage over and above legislative authority, but these ships in this tonnage are being built by the Maritime Commission and have not been delivered. Delivery can not be accepted until additional auxiliary tonnage authority has been obtained."

The Board is cognizant of the fact that additional legislative authority has been requested in the amount of 1,500,000 auxiliary

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Authority NND 803073

By VH NARA Date 11/28

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OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0518723

-3-

CONFIDENTIAL

tennage as set forth in reference (f).

V. D. Chapline
V. D. Chapline.

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0518823

First Endorsement
on Senior Member Aux. Vessels
Board ltr. Serial 0518723
dated 30 Oct. 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

2. NOV 1943

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Beard Report No. 80.

1. Forwarded.
2. The recommendations of the Auxiliary Vessels Board are concurred in and are recommended for approval.

F. J. HORNE
F. J. HORNE

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0518923

Second Endorsement Chief of Naval Operations

CONFIDENTIAL

2 NOV 1943

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.

2. I find that the vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take the necessary action to carry out the approved recommendations of this report.

Frank Knox
FRANK KNOX

Copies to:

SecNav

CominCh

AsstSecNav

BuShips (3)

BuOrd (3)

BuPers (3)

OP-39

BuSanda (3)

BuMed (3)

GenBd

OP-01 (2)

OP-02 (2)

OP-12

OP&M (2)

Budget Officer, Navy Department

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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(S) AA/QB
Serial 0570623Exempt from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

OP-23-ejb

(S) AA/QB

Serial 0570623

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

23 November 1943.

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To : Secretary of the Navy.
 Via : Chief of Naval Operations.
 Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 81:

Acquisition of S/S WILLIAM WILLIAMS.
 Six (6) B7-D1 type concretedry cargo barges.
 Five (5) C type cargo ships for Troop Transports.
 Five (5) C type cargo ships for Troop Transports.
 Five (5) EC2 type cargo ships for AKs.
 Fifteen (15) EC2 type cargo ships for AKs.
 Auxiliary tonnage status.

Refs: (a) ComSeventhFlt ConfDes 110151 (Oct).
 (b) WSA ltr of 20 Oct. '43 to CNO.
 (c) CNO ConfDes 221439 (Oct).
 (d) CinCPac ConfDes 040321.
 (e) CinCPac sec speed letter Ser 001471 of 9 Nov.
 (f) CinCPac sec dis 150225.
 (g) ComGen ASF sec ltr of 15 Nov to CNO.
 (h) CNO ConfLtr ser 0424323-05 of 22 Sept. '43.

1. The Board met at 1000, 22 November 1943, in Room 2721, Navy Department.

2. Members present:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Senior Member	(Op-23)
Captain E. F. Enright		(Op-12)
Commander Herman Barter		(Op-23)
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Recorder	(Op-39)

In addition to the members there were also present:
 Captain. R. M. Hinckley, Capt. C. S. Alden, and Capt. E. R. Morrissey,
 Operations; Comdr. S. N. Pyne, Comdr. Alex. Sledge, and Comdr. Russell Keith,
 Bureau of Ships; Comdr. R. S. Bertschy, Bureau of Naval Personnel; and
 Comdr. J. C. Dewitt, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

3. By ref (a) Com7thFleet requested authority to acquire the damaged
 Liberty ship S/S WILLIAM WILLIAMS and effect repairs in Australian area.
 Subsequent investigation has disclosed that only structural damage had been
 suffered with no basic machinery derangement. By ref (b) War Shipping

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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1501 AA/QB

Serial 0570623

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Administration approved the assignment of this vessel to the Navy under bareboat basis "as is where is" and by ref (c) Com7thFleet was authorized to accept the S/S WILLIAM WILLIAMS. The Board therefore recommends that the foregoing action be approved, to wit, delivery of the S/S WILLIAM WILLIAMS "as is where is" by WSA under bareboat basis, transfer to Australia for repairs and conversion to an Auxiliary Cargo Ship (AK-135) to be Navy manned and assigned to Com7thFleet for duty in Service Force, 7th Fleet.

4. By ref (d) it was requested that six (6) concrete cargo barges (B7-D1 type) under construction by Barrett and Hilp, Belair Shipyards, San Francisco be acquired with conversion by the builder to provide facilities for carrying and issuing general stores at advance bases. The Board understands that the U.S. Maritime Commission will approve this request. It is recommended therefore that title to six (6) of the earliest available B7-D1 type concrete barges be transferred to the Navy upon their completion including conversion features as recommended by ComServPac, that they be manned by naval personnel and be classified Unclassified (IX).

5. In Report No. 80, the Board recommended that in addition to the ten (10) EC2 hulls covered by Report No. 75 that six (6) more be acquired on a bareboat basis from WSA for conversion to AKs 114-123, incl., 129-134, incl. The first eleven of these sixteen hulls are to be converted to include facilities for transporting about 1000 troops on short hauls and will be temporarily assigned to Com3rdFleet. The remaining five EC2's (AK 130-134, incl.) will receive the usual AK conversion features (including towing engines) with assignment to NTS. As approved by JMTTC and agreed to by the WSA member, five (5) C-type cargo vessels will be made available to the Navy for Troop Transports to be manned with naval crews which will replace five EC2 type vessels originally authorized by Report No. 75. The Board was advised that WSA had already nominated the S/S COMET and S/S JOHN LAND (C2 types) for assignment to the Navy. It is recommended, therefore, that these two vessels and three equivalent C type vessels be acquired from WSA on a bareboat basis after their conversion by WSA to carry troops, that they be manned by naval crews as early as practicable and that as their operations permit they be made available for improvements and alterations to bring them up to Navy standard AP's. These five vessels will be classified as Troop Transports (AP).

6. By ref (f), CinCPac reaffirmed previous requests for ten (10) cargo ships to be navy manned with 5 converted to AP's and 5 to AK's with the proviso that their acquisition should not interfere with current conversions of AK 114-123, incl., 129. The Board was advised that JMTTC interposed no objection to conversion of five cargo vessels to Troop Transports with resulting loss in cargo lift and that the WSA member indicated that C type vessels could be made available in lieu of EC2's. The Board recommends that five (5) C3, C2 or C1 type vessels (in order of preference) be acquired from WSA under bareboat basis as soon as facilities are available for their conversion by the WSA to Troop Transports (AP). Similarly, it is recommended that five (5) EC2's be acquired from WSA under bareboat basis for conversion

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By VH NARA Date 11/28

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OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0570623

- 3 -

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to Cargo Ships (AKs). It is further recommended that suggestions contained in ref (e) pertaining to modification in conversions of cargo vessels be observed where practicable in order to expedite this work.

7. By ref (g) the Board was advised of War Department's request for Navy to provide crews for fifteen EC2 cargo ships for use in the Southwest Pacific in combat and forward areas. Reference further recommended that conversion be kept at a minimum and that landing craft would not be required. These vessels are in addition AK 93, 99, 102, and 104 (temporarily assigned) and AK 135 (ex WILLIAM WILLIAMS) which will be permanently assigned to Com7th Fleet upon completion of repairs. It is further understood that these fifteen vessels will release, on a ship for ship basis, WSA vessels allocated to the Army now retained in that area. The Board indicated that retention of these vessels under merchant crews would have to be continued for some time due to the work now underway and in immediate prospect at conversion yards. The Board recommends that fifteen additional EC2's be acquired from WSA under bareboat basis as conversion facilities become available, that they be provided a minimum conversion to accommodate naval crews and be assigned to Com7thFlt for duty in Service Force, Southwest Pacific.

8. A Bureau of Ships' representative advised the Board regarding auxiliary tonnage as follows:

"There still remains a working balance of 78,391 tons unobligated in authorized auxiliary tonnage. The Bureau, however, has received directives for 319,153 tons of auxiliary tonnage over and above legislative authority, but these ships in this tonnage are being built by the Maritime Commission and have not been delivered. Delivery cannot be accepted until additional auxiliary tonnage authority has been obtained."

The Board noted that legislative authority had been requested by ref (h) for 2,500,000 additional auxiliary tonnage.

V. D. Chapline
V. D. Chapline

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

OP-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0570723

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

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CONFIDENTIAL

26 NOV 1943

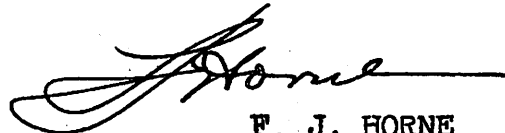
First Endorsement on
Sen. Member Aux.Ves.Bd.
ltr Serial 0570623 dated
23 November 1943.

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 81.

1. Forwarded, recommending approval.

Finished-BB-File



F. J. HORNE

Vice Chief of Naval Operations

OP-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0570823

Second Endorsement

26 NOV 1943

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. The vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the War. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take necessary action.

Finished-BB-File



Frank Knox

Copies to:

SecNav
AsstSecNav
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer
Navy Dept.
GenBd

Cominch
BuShips (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuPers (3)
BuSanda (3)
BuMed (3)

OP-01 (2)
02 (2)
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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

AERO.

BUSHIPS.

OP-23-ejb
Y & D(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0594323
S & A.

M & S.

J.A.C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4 December 1943.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

M.G.C.

BUDGET From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Via : Chief of Naval Operations.

COMINCH Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 82.

Op.10. Acquisition of eight (8) C2 type cargo ships for conversion to AGC 7-14, incl.

Op.11.

Refs: (a) JCS 569/1 dated 10 November 1943.

Op.12. (b) Cominch Sec Memo Serial 002585 of 23 November 1943 to CNO.

Op.13. (c) CNO Conf Ltr Ser 0150739 of 27 November 1943 to Maritime Commission.

Op.15. (d) CNO Conf Ltr Ser 0424323-05 of 22 September 1943.

Op.16. 1. The Board met at 1000, 3 December 1943 in room 2721, Navy Department.

Op.17.

Op.19. 2. Members present:

Op.20. Captain V. D. Chapline Senior Member (Op-23)

Captain E. F. Enright (Op-12)

Op.21. Commander W. H. Mansfield Recorder (Op-39)

Op.23. In addition to the members there were also present:

Op.28. Captain R. M. Hinchley, Operations; Comdr. S. N. Pyne,

Comdr. Alex. Sledge, and Comdr. Russell Keith, Bureau

Op.29. of Ships; Comdr. R. S. Bertschy, Ensign P.W.F. Jones,

Bureau of Naval Personnel; and Lt. Comdr. J. F. Gastree,

Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

Op.30. 3. In connection with reference (a) covering the construction

Op.39. of 130 APA's and 30 AKA's, it was indicated that a number of

Op.40. C2 type hulls would be required for conversion by the Navy to

Combined Operations and Communication Headquarters Ships (AGC) for

completion as early as practicable in 1944. By reference (b)

Vice Chief of Naval Operations was directed to take steps to

INSP. GEN acquire eight (8) C2 hulls as early as possible and convert them

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

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AERO.

BUSHIPS.

Y & D. OP-23-ejb
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S & A. Serial 0594323
M & S. CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

J.A.G.

M.G.C.

BUDGET

for this purpose; the first three (3) similar to AGC 5 (CATOCTIN) as Task Force Headquarters Ships; and the remaining five (5) with modifications to make them suitable as Task Group Headquarters Ships.

COMINCH

Op.10.

Op.11.

Op.12.

Op.13.

Op.15.

Op.16.

Op.17.

Op.19.

Op.20.

Op.21.

Op.23.

Op.28.

Op.29.

Op.30.

Op.39.

Op.40.

4. By reference (c) the Maritime Commission was requested to transfer title to the Navy of the eight (8) earliest available hulls (C2-S-AJ1 design) building by North Carolina Shipbuilding Corp. at Wilmington, N.C. with delivery at the builder's yard less certain items of construction to be specified by the Bureau of Ships. The Board recommends that the first three (3) vessels namely, S/S CYCLONE (1347), S/S ECLIPSE (1348) and S/S FLEETWING (1349) be converted similar to U.S.S. CATOCTIN (AGC 5). The Board further recommends that the remaining five (5) vessels be similarly converted but that instruments and equipment not required by a Task Group Commander be omitted. Any saving in space resulting from this reduction will be allocated to useful troop and cargo lift. It is recommended that these vessels be assigned a precedence equal to the present Landing Craft program.

5. A Bureau of Ships representative advised the Board regarding auxiliary tonnage as follows:

"Following Board Report No. 81 a working balance of 8,986 tons remained unobligated in authorized auxiliary tonnage. The Bureau however, has received directives for 439,273 tons of auxiliary tonnage over and above legislative authority but these ships in this tonnage are being built by the Maritime Commission and have not been delivered. Delivery cannot be accepted until additional auxiliary tonnage authority has been obtained."

The Board noted that legislative authority had been requested by reference (d) for 2,500,000 additional auxiliary tonnage.

INSP. GEN.

V. D. CHAPLINE.

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

AERO. OP-23-cjb
 (SC)AA/QB
 BUSHIPS Serial 0594423

First Endorsement on
 Sen. Member Aux. Vess. Board
 letter Serial 0594323 dated
4 December 1943

Y & D.

S & A.

M & S. CONFIDENTIAL

7 - DEC 1943

J.A.G. From: Chief of Naval Operations.
 To : Secretary of the Navy.

M.G.C.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 82.

BUDGET

1. Forwarded, recommending approval.

COMINCH

Op. 10.

Op. 11.

Op. 12.

Op. 13.

Op. 15.

OP-23-cjb
 (SC)AA/QB
 Serial 0594523

Second Endorsement

Op. 16.

Op. 17.

CONFIDENTIAL

7 - DEC 1943 090815

Op. 19.

From: Secretary of the Navy.
 To : Chief of Naval Operations

Op. 20.

Op. 21.

1. Returned, approved.

Op. 23.

2. The vessels herein provided for are necessary for the
 conduct of the war. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief
 of the Bureau of Ships will take necessary action.

Op. 28.

Op. 29.

Op. 30.

Op. 39.

Op. 40.

Copies to:

SecNav

Asst SecNav

OP-23

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JAMES FORRESTAL

Acting

INSP.

1014

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JAMES - DIVISION

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Authority NND 803073By VH NARA Date 11/28

RG 80 Box 1022 AA/QB

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

OP-23-ejb

(SC)AA/QB

Serial 0738023

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

28 December 1943.

From: Senior Member, Auxiliary Vessels Board.
 To : Secretary of the Navy.
 Via : Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 83.

2000-Ton Steel Barges for YF's and APL's
 M/S CITY OF DALHART and M/S TAMPA for Barracks Ships (IX).

Refs: (a) BuShips conf ltr C-APL/L9-3(517) of 14 Dec 1943.
 (b) Asst CNO for Material sec ltr (SC)YB/FF12,
 Serial 0179705-G of 19 Dec 1943.

1. The Board met at 1000, 23 December 1943 in room 2721,
 Navy Department.

2. Members present:

Captain V. D. Chapline	Senior Member (OP-23)
Captain E. E. Brady	(OP-12)
Commander Herman Barter	(OP-23)
Commander W. N. Mansfield	Recorder (OP-39)

In addition to the members there were also present:
 Captain R. M. Hinckley, Capt. E. R. Morrissey, Capt.
 T. L. Schumacher, Comdr. G. E. Lindley, Operations;
 Comdr. S. N. Pyne, Comdr. Alex. Sledge, and Comdr.
 Russell Keith, Bureau of Ships; Comdr. R. S. Bertschy,
 and Ensign F. S. Addy, Bureau of Naval Personnel;
 Lt. Comdr. J. F. Castree, Bureau of Supplies and
 Accounts.

3. The Board reviewed the 2000-ton steel barge construction
 program as authorized in previous Board Reports, at present total-
 ing 68- YF's and 14-APL's.

4. Due to the present shortage of Auxiliary Tenders in the
 Fleet, the Board considers that some of those now in service should
 have their capacities augmented as soon as practicable by providing
 additional Floating Barracks Barges to permit certain repair ships
 and tenders to perform work on a shift basis. It is therefore
 recommended that 6 of the 68 YF's now authorized be constructed or
 converted as APL's and that 9 additional barges be constructed as

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APL's. This will provide a total of 29 APL's, 23 of which the Board recommends be completed in 1944 (8 to be used with ARG 2-9 incl. and 15 with the large tenders as recommended by reference (a)).

5. A summary of the 2000-ton steel barges authorized to date and recommended by this report is as follows:

	<u>YF</u>	<u>APL</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Authorized to date	68	14	82
Recommended			
Convert YF's to APL's (minus)6		(plus)6	0
Build additional APL's		(plus)9	9
Totals	62	29	91

6. As of 15 November 1943 Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet requested that two additional vessels be acquired for use as barracks ships at Advanced Bases. Request for two vessels similar to the M/S YOMACHICHI (covered by Report No. 76) has been approved by War Shipping Administration. The Board recommends that the motorships CITY OF DAIHART and TAMPA be acquired under bareboat basis be converted to Barracks Ships (IX) and manned by naval crews.

7. A Bureau of Ships representative advised the Board regarding auxiliary tonnage as follows:

"Tonnage authority for Auxiliary Vessels Construction or Acquisition in the amount of 2,500,000 tons has been made available by the Act of 17 December 1943 (Public Law 204, 78th Congress). When implemented by contract authority in the Deficiency Appropriations Bill, which has not yet become law, and pending clearance by the President for the portion of the 2,500,000 tons to be used at this time, this tonnage authority can be obligated for vessels programs. The Bureau has received directives for 478,459 tons of Auxiliary vessels to be placed against this new Act, after allowing a balance of 3,986 in the last 1,000,000 tons authority".

V. D. Chapline
V. D. Chapline.

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First Endorsement
on Sen.Member Aux.Ves.Board
letr Serial 0738023 dated
28 December 1943

Finished-BB-File

31 DEC 1943

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From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Secretary of the Navy.
Subj: Auxiliary Vessels Board Report No. 83.
1. Forwarded, recommending approval.



F. J. HORNE
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

OP-23-ejb
(SC)AA/QB
Serial 0738223

Second Endorsement

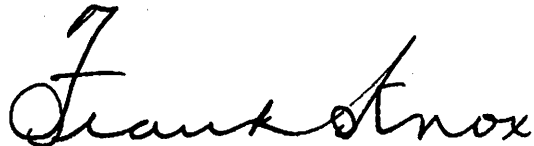
31 DEC 1943

31 DEC 1943

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From: Secretary of the Navy.
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Returned, approved.
2. The vessels herein provided for are necessary for the conduct of the war. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of the Bureau of Ships will take necessary action.



Copies to:

SecNav
AsstSecNav
OP&M (2)
Budget Officer
Navy Dept.
Gen.Bd.

CominCh
BuShips (3)
BuOrd (3)
BuPers (3)
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BuMed (3)

Frank Knox

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