

SS Great Republic --USS Pictor (AF-54)

From Vessel Status Card obtained from USMARAD, DANFS and NVR web pages

Built for US Maritime Commission as S.S. GREAT REPUBLIC

Contract award (Moore Hull #218) to Moore Dredge and Dry Dock Company, Oakland, CA on 24 Feb 1941. Keel laid 18 Mar 1942. Launched 04 Jun 1942. Delivered 29 Jun 1943. One of 81 C2 vessels built by Moore. Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock, in Kearney, NJ built 32, and Consolidated Steel Corporation in Wilmington, CA built an additional 10 ships of this type.

The US Maritime Commission designed the C2 type in 1937/38. They were all purpose cargo ships with 5 holds. 173 were built between 1940 and 1945. The first C2's were 459 ft long, 63 ft beam, 40 ft depth, 28 ft draft, speed 15.5 knots. Later ships varied in size. Many of the early C2s were named after Clipper Ships.

Maritime Commission Hull Number 187 Official Number 243529

Type Cargo C2-S-B1(R). MARAD records show only 6 ships of this type were built. These are their original names. A picture of Great Republic at the Moore fitting dock shows 5 other C2s, so they likely were in built side by side, but in varying stages of construction. The (R) indicates refrigerated. Additional research shows they were rated only 6000 hp, instead of the normal C2 rating of 8500, also containing additional refrigeration capacity.

Bald Eagle, C2-S-B1(R), Blue Jacket, C2-S-B1(R), Flying Scud, C2-S-B1(R),

Golden Eagle, C2-S-B1(R), Great Republic, C2-S-B1(R), Trade Wind, C2-S-B1(R)

DWT= 9,643 Gross= 6,178 Net= 3,474 Bale Cu= 348,000

(Original) Armament: 5"38 on the Fantail, and 3" 50s

First Operator **UNITED FRUIT CO** from 29 Jun 1943. First voyage to New Zealand, then thru the Panama Canal to service in the Atlantic.

Also leased to Pacific Far East Lines 24 Sept 1946, General SS Corp 12 Oct 1948, to the Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay 20 Oct 48. PFEL again on 21Dec 48, and back to the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet 6 May 50.

Acquired by US Navy 13 Sept 1950. Conversion to Naval Supply Ship, class AF-48). [Alstede was AF-48] *Understand this was a 30 day conversion at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, CA... Other ships of the AF-48 class, were Alstede (AF-48), [info missing from DANFS web site], Zelima (AF-49) [Class R2-S-BU1, built as Golden Rocket by Moore in 1944 as MC 1212], Procyon (AF-61) class C2-S-B1, built as Flying Scud by Moore in 1942 as MC 188. It appears that the AF-48 class designation may have been a catch-all for several generally similar ship types that became stores ships.*