USS Ganymede (AK-104)

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USS *Ganymede* (**AK-104**) was an *Crater*-class cargo ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy for service in World War II. She was responsible for delivering troops, goods and equipment to locations in the war zone.^[2]

Ganymede, formerly merchant ship **SS** James W. Nye, was launched under Maritime Commission contract 8 June 1943, by the Permanente Metals Corp., Richmond, California; sponsored by Mrs. William C. Dalby of Oakland, California; acquired 23 June 1943; commissioned 31 July 1943,

Lieutenant Commander Glenn H. Melichar in command. [2]

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World War II Pacific Theater operations

After shakedown training out of Oakland, California, Ganymede departed San Francisco, California, 28 August 1943 carrying military cargo to Pallikulo Bay, New Hebrides, and to Queensland, Melbourne, and Sydney,

Australia.^[2] The ship was one of five Navy manned Liberties assigned 8 December 1943 to the Southwest Pacific Area for service under operational control of the Commander, Seventh Fleet in meeting Army

requirements.^[3] Assigned to the U.S. 7th Fleet Service



USS *Ganymede* (AK-104) (broadside plan view) in San Francisco Bay, 16 August 1943.

History

Name: James W. Nye

Ganymede

Namesake: James W. Nye

Ganymede (moon)

Ordered: as a type (EC2-S-C1) hull, MCE

hull 1571, SS James W. Nye

Builder: Permanente Metals Corporation,

Richmond, California

Laid down: 16 May 1943

Launched: 8 June 1943

Sponsored by: Mrs. William C. Dalby

Acquired: 23 June 1943

Commissioned: 31 July 1943

Decommissioned: 15 April 1946

Struck: 1 August 1947

Identification: Hull symbol:AK-104

Fate: sold for scrapping, 19 March

1973, to Tung Ho Steel Enterprise

Corp

During the next 12 months she transported military cargo of many types and provided limited passenger service from ports of Australia to bases in New Guinea, including Humboldt Bay, Milne Bay, Cape Sudest and Tanahmerah Bay. Her itinerary was expanded in February 1945 to include Leyte, Manila, Subic Bay and Samar in the Philippines, with occasional calls at Manus, Admiralty Islands.^[2]

Force, she sailed from Queensland on 29 November 1943

Bays, New Guinea and thence returned to Australia.^[2]

with fuel, supplies, and passengers for Milne and Langemak

Ganymede continued her busy Australia–New Guinea–Philippines–Australia supply circuit until 20 November when she departed Brisbane, Australia for the United States arriving San Francisco 18 December. She remained in port until 25 February 1946 when she sailed for Pearl Harbor to take part in special explosive tests prior to her decommissioning there 15 April 1946.^[2]

Post-war decommissioning

Towed back to San Francisco, her name was struck from the Navy List 1 August 1947 and she was returned to WSA on 1 October 1947 and entered the National Defense Reserve Fleet at Suisun Bay, California, where she remained until she was scrapped in 1973.^[2]

Military awards and honors

Ganymede crew members were eligible for the following medals:^[2]

- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal

References

- 1. "USS Ganymede (AK-104)" . Navsource.org. Retrieved May 14, 2015.
- 2. Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships: Ganymede.
- 3. Masterson 1949, pp. 359, 390 (fn 61).

General characteristics [1]	
Class and type:	Crater-class cargo ship
Displacement:	4,023 long tons (4,088 t) (standard) 14,550 long tons (14,780 t) (full load)
Length:	441 ft 6 in (134.57 m)
Beam:	56 ft 11 in (17.35 m)
Draft:	28 ft 4 in (8.64 m)
Installed power:	2,500 shp (1,900 kW)
Propulsion:	2 × Combustion Engineering header-type boilers, 220psi 450° 1 × Joshua Hendy Iron Works triple-expansion reciprocating steam engine 1 × shaft
Speed:	12.5 kn (14.4 mph; 23.2 km/h)
Complement:	219
Armament:	1 × 5 in (130 mm)/38 caliber dual purpose gun 2 × 40 mm (1.6 in) 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun mounts 6 × 20 mm (0.79 in)

Oerlikon cannons anti-

aircraft gun mounts

This article incorporates text from the public domain Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships. The entry can be found here (http://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/ganymede.html)