

# DAVID W. BRANCH

Length, overall	395' 0"	Gross tons	5,544	Propulsion	Recip. eng.
Beam	48' 6"	Speed (knots)	12	Passengers	1,050
Draft	24' 9"	Radius (miles)	9,660	Cargo (cu. ft.)	96,594

*Built in 1915 by "DeSchelde" Koninklijke, Maalschappij, Flushing, Holland*

*Former names: ECUADOR, SANTA OLIVIA*

*Operated prior to World War II by Libby, McNeill & Libby*

THE DAVID W. BRANCH was bareboat chartered from the owners in September 1941 and immediately placed in regular service between Seattle and Alaskan ports.

After several trips had been made by the vessel, our entry into World War II made it necessary to increase the troop lift to Alaska. Work of altering the BRANCH was done by Todd Shipyards at Seattle.

Following conversion, the vessel resumed operation between Seattle and Alaska, and in July 1942 was placed on sub-bareboat charter from the War Shipping Administration. In late 1942 and early 1943 the BRANCH saw duty on a four months tactical mission in Alaskan waters, from which she returned to her home port for drydocking and extensive repairs.

The vessel went from Seattle to San Francisco and return before going on another mission of three months duration in Alaskan waters and the Hawaiian Islands. She returned to Seattle in October 1943 for repairs and minor alterations.

The DAVID W. BRANCH remained in Seattle-Alaskan service throughout the war, having made approximately thirty voyages from Seattle. Principal Alaskan ports visited were Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Nome, Seward and Yakutat. During her service with the Army the BRANCH suffered minor damage from grounding and collision on several occasions.

The vessel was redelivered to the War Shipping Administration on 8 March 1946 at Seattle, and on the same date transferred by the WSA to Alaska Packers Association.