

FLORIDA

<i>Length, overall</i> ... 387' 8"	<i>Gross tons</i>	4,923	<i>Propulsion Turbines</i> (2)		
<i>Beam</i>	56' 6"	<i>Speed (knots)</i>	17	<i>Passengers</i>	958
<i>Draft</i>	20' 1"	<i>Radius (miles)</i> ...	2,900	<i>Cargo (cu. ft.)</i> ...	14,800

*Built in 1931 by Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., Newport News, Va.
Operated prior to World War II by Peninsular & Occidental Steamship Co., Inc.*

THE FLORIDA was first taken on time charter in January 1942. She was given an emergency conversion and proceeded at once to operate from New Orleans to Aruba, Panama, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Trinidad. Permanent conversion was accomplished between voyages on a piecemeal basis.

Placed on bareboat charter in August 1942, the FLORIDA remained in Caribbean service throughout the war. In addition to calling at most of the ports enumerated above, she also visited Guantanamo, Cuba, and Recife and Natal, Brazil.

The vessel underwent major repairs by Todd-Johnson Dry Docks, Inc., at New Orleans in July 1943 and again at the yard of the Gulf Engineering Co. at New Orleans during May and June 1945.

The FLORIDA was returned to the War Shipping Administration on 13 March 1946 at New Orleans and in turn was delivered to the owners on the same date.