

USAT THOMAS H. BARRY

This famed ship was originally the "SS Oriente." Her sister ship was the ill-fated "SS Morro Castle," which was destroyed by fire off New Jersey, in 1934, with a heavy loss of life. They were operated by the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company. The Oriente was purchased by the U.S. War Department in June 1941, and in October was renamed in honor of an army major general. In the winter of 1941/42 she was converted to an Army transport in New York.

The greater part of her war service was in the Atlantic. She made more than 25 trans-Atlantic round trip voyages. Following World War II, she was placed in service as a "war bride transport." In the late 1940's she was laid up. And in 1957 - an old lady of 27 - she was sold to a firm of shipbreakers for scrap.

Built at Newport News, Virginia, this ship was 508 feet in length, 71 feet in beam and had a gross tonnage of 11,250. She had a drive that connected steam turbines to huge electric motors. Her twin screws drove her at 18 knots (20.7 m.p.h.). Her wartime troop capacity numbered 3,600 officers and men.