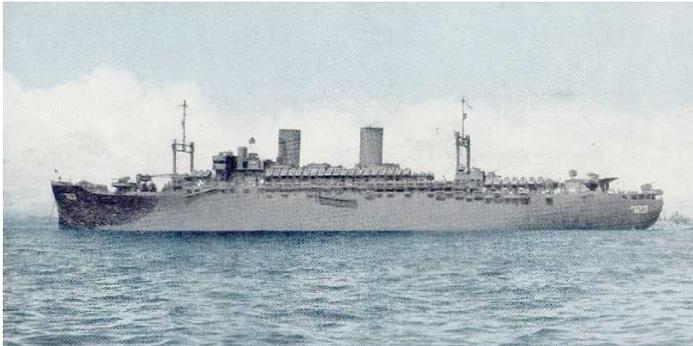


U.S. Coast Guard History Program

USS *Admiral E. W. Eberle*

AP-123



Edward Walter Eberle, born on 17 August 1864 at Denton, Texas, entered the Naval Academy on 28 September 1881 and graduated on 5 June 1885. Following a number of years at sea and ashore, Eberle reported for duty aboard USS *Oregon* on 10 July, five days before the new battleship was first placed in commission; and he was placed in charge of her forward gun turret. *Oregon* was still operating along the Pacific coast in the spring of 1898 when Congress declared war on Spain; and she promptly won great renown by her race south from Puget Sound to Cape Horn and then north to the Caribbean to join American forces blockading Cuba. Eberle distinguished himself during the Battle of Santiago by the outstanding performance of his turret in its duel with Spanish cruiser *Cristobal Colon* and, later, in its bombardment of Spanish troop concentrations at Caimanera. From this time on, Eberle enjoyed the favor of powerful officers in the Navy.

By successfully carrying out progressively more responsible duties during the next few years, he earned a captain's commission which arrived on 1 July 1912. The short course at the Naval War College was the highlight of 1913; and command of *Washington* and, later, of the Naval Gun Factory at Washington, D.C., preceded Eberle's appointment as Superintendent of the Naval Academy on 1 September 1915. After overseeing the Academy during the hectic period of World War I when the need for officers brought the great problems of acceleration, he left Annapolis on 30 January 1919 to command the battleship divisions of the Atlantic Fleet. On 30 June 1921, Eberle took command of the Pacific Fleet. Some two years later, on 17 July 1923, he became Chief of Naval Operations and held the office until relieved by Admiral Charles F. Hughes on 14 November 1927. During the years he held this post, he fought to minimize the adverse effect upon the Navy of arms

limitations negotiations and from Congressional thrift, hurried the completion of aircraft carriers *Lexington* and *Saratoga*, and upheld the Navy's right to maintain its own air arm.

After relinquishing the duties of Chief of Naval Operations, Eberle served on the General Board until he retired on 9 August 1928. He died in Washington, D.C., on 6 July 1929.

Builder: Bethlehem-Alameda Shipyard, Inc., Alameda, California

Class: *Admiral W.S. Benson*

Launched: 4 June 1944

Commissioned: 24 January 1945

Decommissioned: Coast Guard crew was removed on 8 May 1946

Displacement: 9,676 tons (lt); 20,120 tons (fl)

Length: 608' 11"

Beam: 75' 6"

Draft: 26' 6"

Propulsion: Turbo-electric; two propellers; 19,000 SHP

Top Speed: 21.3 knots

Complement: 618

Troop capacity: 5,200

Cargo capacity: 100,000 cubic feet

Armament: 4 x single-5"/38 dual-purpose gun mounts; 4 x twin 40mm; 16 x twin 20mm (1945)

Class History:

Admiral E. W. Eberle was one of eleven *Admiral W.S. Benson*-Class troop transports manned by the United States Coast Guard during World War II. The *Admiral Eberle* made several round trip voyages during its service as a transport, at which it set a trans-Pacific speed record of an 11-day voyage from Nagoya Japan, to Los Angeles Harbor. It was also during the same voyage that the ship

brought in the largest single load of troops ever to come into Los Angeles Harbor on a transport, a total of 4,686 Army personnel, all from Japan.

Coast Guard History:

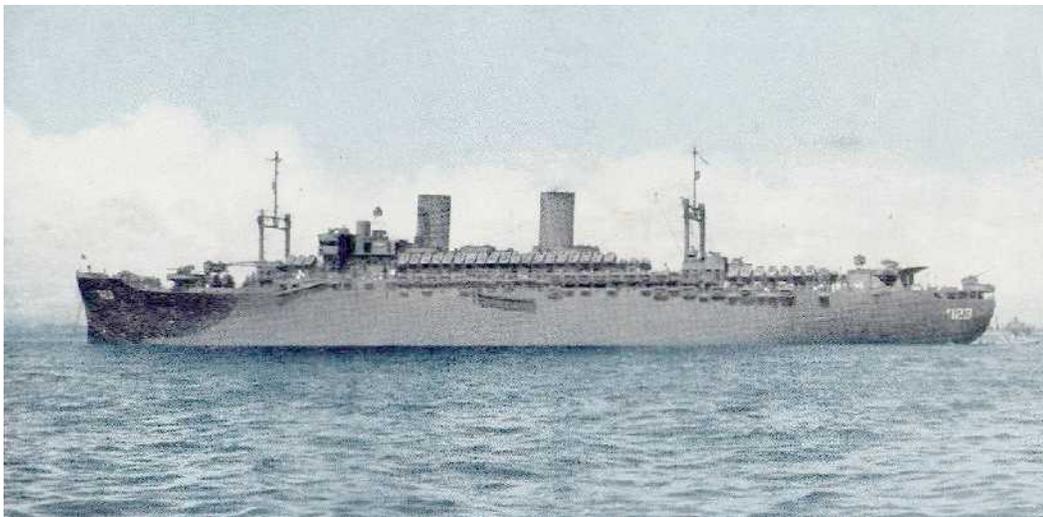
The *Admiral E. W. Eberle*, as manned by the Coast Guard, spent World War II as part of the Navy Transportation Service. She departed San Francisco March 6, 1945 on a long voyage to the Philippines, via New Guinea and Manus, Admiralty Islands, returning May 2. It was ordered to the East Coast for duty with the Atlantic fleet. During May 14 through July 6, The *Admiral Eberle* made two trans-Atlantic crossings returning troops from Europe and between July 14 and August 28 it carried troops from Marseilles, France, to the Philippines.

Peace had been declared August 14, 1945, before she reached Ulithi and her mission then changed to that of "Magic Carpet" service, bringing back high point veterans from the Pacific fronts. It returned to Seattle, WA, September 25. Between October 24, 1945 and March 6 1946 it made three voyages to Japan and Korea.

Admiral Eberle was decommissioned May 8, 1946 and was returned to the Maritime Commission for retransfer to the United States Army.

The U.S. Army re-named *Admiral Eberle* as the *General Simon B. Buckner* and kept that name when once again transferred to the Navy, March 1, 1950. *General Simon B. Buckner* was assigned to the Military Sea Transportation Service and operated in a noncommissioned status with a civil service crew.

Photographs:



USS *Admiral E. W. Eberle*, no date.

Sources:

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships. Washington, DC: USGPO.

Naval Historical Center Website.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft of World War II.* Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1982.

