

## *U.S. Coast Guard History Program*

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# USS *Admiral C. F. Hughes*

AP-124



Charles Frederick Hughes, born on 14 October 1866, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1888. He saw service in the fleet, including seeing action in the Spanish-American War with the Asiatic Squadron and the intervention in Mexico. Promoted to captain on 10 July 1914, he returned to shore duty later that year to serve with the General Board. Captain Hughes took command of USS *New York* (Battleship No. 34) in October of 1916. His ship served in the American battleship squadron that operated with the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet at Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands through World War I. Hughes, however, left *New York* just before the Armistice. On 10 October 1918, he was promoted to rear admiral. His first assignment as a flag officer was as commandant at the Philadelphia Navy Yard from late 1918 to 1920. Between 1920 and 1921, Rear Admiral Hughes was Commander, 2d Battleship Squadron, Atlantic Fleet. From the latter part of 1921 to 25 June 1923, he commanded Divisions 7 and 4 of the Battle Fleet. Coming ashore again in 1923, he became president of the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island, on 1 July. A year later, Rear Admiral Hughes moved to the job of Director of Fleet Training. That assignment lasted until 10 October 1925. Soon thereafter, Hughes was appointed Commander in Chief, Battle Fleet. On 14 November 1927, Admiral Hughes became the fourth man to occupy the office of Chief of Naval Operations. He completed his tour of duty in that post on 11 September 1930 and,

on 14 October 1930, retired to his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where he died on 28 May 1934. Admiral Hughes was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

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

Class: *Admiral W.S. Benson*

Commissioned: 31 January 1945

Decommissioned: Coast Guard crew was removed on 3 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

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### **Class History:**

USS *Admiral C.F. Hughes* was one of eleven *Admiral W.S. Benson*-Class troop transports manned by the United States Coast Guard during World War II. The *Admiral Hughes* was one of the more active Coast Guard manned transports. It made several trips to the South Pacific and Europe during its service during combat and non-combat activities of the war.

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### **History:**

*Admiral C. F. Hughes* (AP-124) was laid down under a Maritime Commission contract (MC hull 682) on 29 November 1943 at Alameda, Calif., by the Bethlehem-Alameda Shipyard, Inc.; launched on 27 August 1944; sponsored by Mrs. Louise Nimitz, the wife of Capt. Otto Nimitz and the sister-in-law of future Fleet Admiral

Chester W. Nimitz; delivered to the Navy on 31 January 1945; and commissioned that same day, Capt. John Trebes, USCG, in command.

Following shakedown training along the west coast, *Admiral C. F. Hughes* embarked naval officers and marines at San Diego for transportation to Hawaii. She departed San Diego on 13 March and arrived in Pearl Harbor on the 18th. There, she took on another group of passengers bound for the United States and then got underway on the 23d. The transport arrived in San Francisco on 28 March, disembarked her passengers, and then set sail for San Diego on 9 April. *Admiral C. F. Hughes* reached her destination the following day and began taking on more travelers. On the 14th, the transport left San Diego and set a westward course. The ship entered Pearl Harbor on the 19th, and some passengers left her while others came on board. Three days later, she put to sea on her way to the Mariana Islands. *Admiral C. F. Hughes* put in at Guam on 30 April, and all her passengers disembarked. After taking another group on board, including 221 Japanese prisoners of war, she stood out of Apra Harbor on 3 May. The transport made a two-day stop at Pearl Harbor from 10 to 12 May to disembark the prisoners and then continued her voyage back to the west coast. She moored at San Francisco on 17 May.

On 26 May 1945 the transport sailed for Europe by way of the embarked troops from the European theater for redeployment to the Pacific. The transport retraced her route through the Panama Canal and reached Manila on 20 July. *Admiral C. F. Hughes* embarked troops at Leyte, Biak in the Schouten Islands, and Hollandia, New Guinea, before leaving the latter port on 4 August to return to the United States. She delivered the returning servicemen at San Francisco on 17 August.

The ship put to sea on 31 August with replacements for western Pacific garrisons. Steaming via Ulithi, she arrived at Tacloban, Leyte, on 17 September. *Admiral C. F. Hughes* visited Manila again before heading back to North America on the 24th. She paused at Victoria, Canada, on 9 October to repatriate former prisoners of war from various Commonwealth nations, and arrived at Seattle, Wash., later that day. The transport made one more round-trip voyage to Yokohama before she was decommissioned on 3 May 1946. She was returned to the War Shipping Administration which, in turn, transferred her to the Army. Her name was struck from the Navy list in June 1946.

The Army renamed the ship *General Edwin D. Patrick (q.v.)*, and she served the Army Transport Service until 1 March 1950 when the Navy reacquired her. Retaining her Army name, she was assigned to the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS) and was manned by a civil service crew. Operating out of San Francisco, USNS *General Edwin D. Patrick* (T-AP-124) spent almost two decades transporting troops and cargo to American bases throughout the western Pacific, and supported American arms in the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. Early in 1967, the transport was placed in a ready reserve status. On 30 September 1968, the

ship was to be laid up at the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet facility at Suisun Bay, Calif. On 31 August 1969, title to the ship was transferred to the Maritime Administration. As of 1 July 1988, the transport was still berthed at Suisun Bay.

Under the name *General Edwin D. Patrick*, Admiral C. F. Hughes earned three battle stars during the Korean conflict.

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**Photographs:**



**"U.S.S. ADMIRAL C. F. HUGHES, A.P. 124"**

**Photo courtesy of Genette Spear.**

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**Sources:**

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

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Naval Historical Center Website.

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