

The Journey Home - Le Havre, France – Early June 1945



Happy U.S. veterans head for harbor of Le Havre, France, the first to be sent home and discharged under the Army's new point system.

There were many ships sailing from Le Havre in late May and early June to handle the large numbers of American RAMPS returning to the United States.

SHIP NAME	DEPARTURE	DESTINATION PORT	ARRIVAL	UNITS ON BOARD
Santa Margarita	May 22, 1945	New York, NY	June 3, 1945	RAMPS and ex-POWs
Monticello	May 23, 1945	New York, NY via Southampton, England	~ June 2, 1945	RAMPS
Mormacmoon	May 28 or 29, 1945	Newport News, VA	June 3 or 4, 1945	RAMPS and ex-POWs
Sea Robin	May 30, 1945	New York, NY	June 11, 1945	RAMPS and ex-POWs
William H. Smith	First Week June 1945	Norfolk, VA	Last Week June 1945 (22 day voyage)	Glider Pilots
Sea Porpoise	June 1, 1945	New York, NY	June 12, 1945	RAMPS and ex-POWs
Admiral Benson	June 5, 1945	Pier 88, New York, NY	June 12, 1945	Ex-POWs
Admiral H. T. Mayo	Early June 1945	Boston	Mid to late June 1945	5819 Ex-POWs from Stalag Luft I

Given his arrival date at Camp Lucky Strike, Lt. Harrison would have been on one of the last four listed vessels. As documented in a diary kept by fellow prisoner, Garland Allison "Monty" Montague, the Stalag Luft I POWs evacuated in mid-May spent two weeks at Camp Lucky Strike before boarding the Admiral H. T. Mayo in early June for a seven day journey home. It is likely 2nd Lt. James W. Harrison, Jr. was on that ship since Montague also recorded that one of Harrison's roommates, A. M. Upshaw, was also on that ship.



USS Admiral H. T. Mayo (AP-125) – Mid-June 1945

Built at Alameda, California to the Maritime Commission's P2-SE2-R1 design, she was commissioned in April 1945. After shakedown she steamed to the Atlantic and, in June, carried 5,819 released prisoners of war from Le Havre, France, to Boston. Her next voyage took her to Marseilles, France, where she embarked 4,888 quartermaster and engineer troops and transported them to Okinawa, arriving in September. *Admiral H. T. Mayo* then began the first of several "Magic Carpet" trips, bringing servicemen home from the Western Pacific. The ship completed the last of these voyages in November 1947 from Jinsen Korea and sailed for New York, where she was decommissioned and transferred, via the Maritime Commission, to the U.S. Army.

Specifications of the USS Admiral H.T. Mayo:

- Displacement:** 9,676 t.(lt) 20,120 t.(fl)
- Length:** 608' 11"
- Beam:** 75' 6"
- Draft:** 26' 11"
- Speed:** 19 kts.
- Complement:** Officers 52, Enlisted 596
- Troop Accommodations:** Officers 270, Enlisted 4,490
- Cargo Capacity:** 106,000 cu. ft.
- Armament:** four single 5"/38 cal. dual purpose gun mounts, four twin 40mm AA gun mounts, fourteen twin 20mm AA gun mounts
- Fuel Capacities:** NSFO 25,600 Bbls, Diesel 350 Bbls
- Propulsion:** two General Electric turbo-electric engines, four Combustion Engineering D-type boilers, 600psi 840°
- Ships Service Generators:** four 500Kw 450V **Two propellers**
- 18,000shp**
- Eight Man Bunk**



Photo # NH 57742 USAT Admiral H. T. Mayo circa 1947

USNS General Nelson M. Walker (T-AP-125)
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USAT General Nelson M. Walker (1946 - 1950)

USS Admiral H. T. Mayo (AP-125) (1945 - 1946)

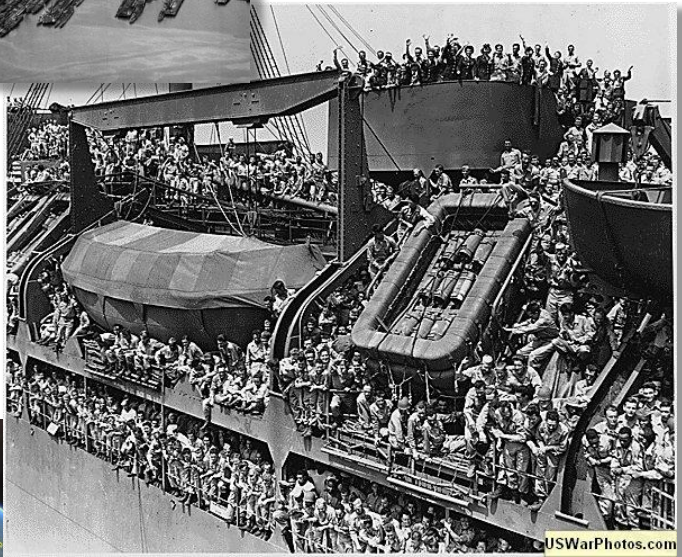
International Radio Call Sign:
November - India - X-ray - November
NIXN

Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons

Precedence of awards is from top to bottom, left to right

Top Row - American Campaign Medal
Second Row - Europe-Africa-Middle East Campaign Medal - Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal - World War II Victory Medal
Third Row - National Defense Service Medal (2) - Korean Service Medal (3) - Vietnam Service Medal (3)
Fourth Row - United Nations Service Medal - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal - Republic of Korea War Service Medal





And then, his 26 month 36,800 mile journey was over. Lt. Harrison was finally home.

