

= USS West Corum (ID @-@ 3982) =

USS West Corum (ID @-@ 3982) was a cargo ship for the United States Navy in 1919 . The ship was built as SS West Corum and reverted to that name at the end of her Navy service . During World War II , the ship was United States Army transport ship USAT West Corum , later renamed to Will H. Point (sometimes listed as William H. Point) .

SS West Corum was a steam @-@ powered ship built for the United States Shipping Board (USSB) as part of the West boats , a series of steel @-@ hulled cargo ships built on the West Coast of the United States for the World War I war effort . She was the 13th ship built by Columbia River Shipbuilding Company in Portland , Oregon . She was commissioned into the Naval Overseas Transportation Service (NOTS) of the United States Navy in January 1919 . After one overseas trips for the Navy , she was decommissioned in May 1919 and returned to the USSB .

Early in her civilian career , she sailed between New York City and Bordeaux , but later shifted to sailing to Antwerp . For most of the 1920s , West Corum sailed to Argentine ports . By 1939 , West Corum had been laid up in New Orleans . In 1940 , she was reconditioned , transferred to the United States Army , and renamed USAT Will H. Point . During World War II , the ship sailed primarily in the Pacific Ocean , calling at ports in Australia , Alaska , and the U.S. West Coast . Will H. Point was laid up in the reserve fleet in Astoria , Oregon , in January 1947 and sold for scrapping in July of that same year .

= = U.S. Navy career = =

Upon completion of West Corum in February 1919 , three months after the end of fighting in World War I , she was handed over to the United States Navy for use in the Naval Overseas Transportation Service (NOTS) on 10 February . She was commissioned as USS West Corum (ID @-@ 3982) the same day with Lieutenant Commander Alfred G. Thompson , USNRF , in command .

West Corum took on a load of wheat flour and sailed on 24 February for the East Coast . After transiting the Panama Canal , she arrived at Norfolk , Virginia , on 19 March . Sailing soon after , she headed for Constantinople , Turkey , where she delivered her cargo on 18 April . On 1 May , West Corum set out from Constantinople for the United States via Gibraltar . She arrived in Norfolk on 6 June and was decommissioned three days later and returned to the USSB .

= = Civilian career = =

Many details of West Corum 's post @-@ Navy career are unknown , but mentions in shipping reports in contemporary newspapers offer hints at her activities . The New York Times reports on West Corum 's impending arrival from Bordeaux in October 1919 , and from Antwerp in May and August 1920 . By November 1920 , West Corum had apparently begun sailing to Argentine ports .

Most newspaper mentions of West Corum do not report what sorts of cargo she carried , but a January 1922 Associated Press story in The Christian Science Monitor reveals her cargo for one voyage from Argentina . In what the news item said was the first full load of cargo leaving Buenos Aires in nearly a year , West Corum carried 107 @,@ 000 animal hides , estimated to be enough for 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 pairs of shoes , along with consignments of wool and linseed . The ship continued calling at Buenos Aires and Santa Fe , Argentina , as late as 1927 , but by 1939 , West Corum had been laid up in a reserve fleet at New Orleans .

= = World War II = =

In June 1940 , the United States Maritime Commission (USMC) opened bidding for the reconditioning of ten laid up cargo ships , which included West Corum . According to the Los Angeles Times , the USMC , a successor to the USSB , was forced to act because of a " critical shortage " of U.S. Navy auxiliary ships . Though there is no specific information available regarding

West Corum , the cost of reconditioning West Honaker , another of the laid up West boats , was \$ 77 @, @ 777 . In November , West Corum was one of different group of ten ships taken up by the United States Army for defense service .

The ship 's movements under Army control are largely unknown , but in January 1941 , The New York Times reported that USAT West Corum had arrived in New York from Puerto Rico . Between February and March 1941 , the ship was renamed USAT Will H. Point (though some sources indicate William H. Point instead) in honor of a former officer in the Quartermaster Corps .

Some other destinations for Will H. Point during her Army service are known . On 15 June 1941 , the ship became the first ship to dock at the newly completed port facilities at Anchorage , Alaska . From September 1943 to January 1944 , Will H. Point sailed between ports in Australia and New Guinea . Sailing mostly in convoys , Will H. Point visited Gladstone , Brisbane , Caloundra , Townsville , and Milne Bay .

After the war 's end , Will H. Point is listed in the Chicago Daily Tribune as returning 11 U.S. Army personnel from Pearl Harbor to San Francisco in July 1946 . The following January , Will H. Point entered the National Defense Reserve Fleet at Astoria , Oregon , and was withdrawn for scrapping in August .