



Sun Ship Historical Society's Ships History Page

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Name: SS *Ridgefield*
Hull No: 442

Hope you enjoy this 'Ship's History Page'. As always, if you have any additional information, suggestions or corrections, please let me know.

While due diligence has been applied in the research of information herein, responsibility for any errors is the ultimate responsibility of the end-user.

Thank You,
Dave Kavanagh
SSHS
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1. Ship's Information:

Sun Ship Data ^[1]

Hull No: 442
Name Orig: *Ridgefield*
Sailing Port: Philadelphia, PA
Contract: 1943.04.20
Shipway: NY-17
Keel Laying: 1944.03.23
Launching: 1944.07.07
Date Delivery: 1944.07.22
Time on Way: 107 Days
Time in Wetdock: 15 Days
Time total Building: 122 Days
L-B-D: 503', 68', 39'3"
DWT: 16,288
Gross Tons: 10,297 ^[5]
Net Tons: 6107 ^[5]
Type: Tanker, T2-SE-A1
Propulsion: Turbo-Electric (West)
Propeller(s): 1 at 19'6" diameter ^[7]
SHP: 7500
Boilers(s): 2-Babcock & Wilcox
Speed-Knots: 15-1/2
Complement: Typical: 42-45 Mariners/17 Navy ^[11]
Capacity: 141,158 bbls ^[3]
Sponsor: Mrs. L. Hartz

Shipway Designations:

SY: South Yard 9 thru 12
CY: Central Yard 1 thru 8
NY: North Yard 13 thru 20
4Y: No.4 Yard 21 thru 28

Maritime Commission Data ^[3]

Contract Design: T2-SE-A1
Classification Auth: A.B.S.
Hull No: 1746
Official Number: 246,182^[5]
Contract Date: 1943.04.20
Contract Price: \$2,950,000
Owner: Maritime Commission
First Ship Operator: Marine Transport Lines Inc.

Note: Source ^[7] was from Marine Engineering and Shipping Review's Nov. 1947's 'T2-SE-A1 Class Tanker James Island' article, Sun Ship's Hull 408.

2. Ship's Ownership Transition: ^[5]

-1944: Name- *Ridgefield*
Owner- U.S. War Shipping Administration
Operator-Marine Transport Lines Inc.
Port- Philadelphia, PA ^[5]
1946a: Name- *Ridgefield*
Transferred to Reserve Fleet, for Lay-up,
Lee Hall, VA^[5]
1946b: Name- *Ridgefield*
Keystone Shipping Co., Philadelphia, PA^[5]
-1947: Name: *Esso Purefleet*
Owner: Anglo-American Oil Co. Ltd.
Port- GBR London
-1951: Name: *Esso Purefleet*
Owner- Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd.
Port- London, Great Britain
-1963: Broke- Up :Willebroek, Belgium^[5]

3. Ship's Naming History^[10]

"The first *SS Ridgefield* honors the town, and the Revolutionary War battle named the 'Battle of Ridgefield' that took place between the Colonists and the British on April 27, 1777, in Connecticut"

4. Artifacts:^[1]

4.1-Launching Pin

SSHS: 011_442

Ships 'Victory Launching Pin'

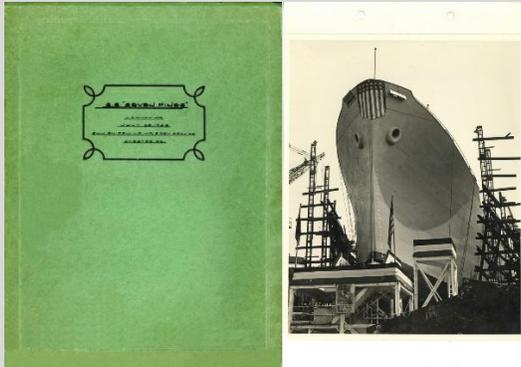
SSHS: 011_442: Courtesy of Lou Hunter (33-413) for the donation of his father, Louis J. "Whitey" Hunter's extensive 'Launching Pin Collection'. "Whitey" was a Leader of the South Yard Electrical (331) Department and was in charge of the wiring of the after quarters on ships launched and delivered in the South Yard. (From: Our Yard Magazine April, 1945 edition)

Note: SSHS Archives currently has 'Launching Pins' for 204 vessels, covering hulls from 203 to 560.



4.2: S.S. Ridgefield's Launching Book:

Series of photos taken during the launching of the ship on 1944.07.07. Courtesy of Lynne Krauss and David Morris, grandchildren of the Ship's Sponsor, Mrs. Lucy Hartz and her husband Mr. William Hartz 84-31.



SSHS: 500_442_01-01 SSHS: 500_442_01-02

500_422_01_01: Cover of launching photo booklet given to Sponsor, Mrs. Lucy Hartz

500_422_01_02: Ship and launch platform on North Yard Shipway #17 prior to launching.



SSHS: 500_442_01-03 SSHS: 500_442_01-04

500_422_01_03: L/R: William and Lucy Hartz on launch platform. The champagne bottle is dressed up with ribbons and a silk protective netting. The netting is used to protect the sponsor against broken glass.

500_422_01_04: L/R: William and Lucy Hartz with John G. Pew Jr. (VP) on launch platform.



SSHS: 500_442_01-05 SSHS: 500_442_01-06

500_422_01_05: L/R: John G. Pew Jr. on launch platform after the christening of the S.S. *Ridgefield*. (Note: Zoom in on Sponsor's arm, looks like the netting worked?)

500_422_01_06: The S.S. Ridgefield has commenced her 'slide' into the Delaware River. References have been made that over 3,000 pounds of grease are required to be placed on the two sliding ways to insure 'ships' transition to the river and a top speed of 15MPH has been reached by ships during a launch (Our Yard c.1943).



SSHS: 500_442_01-06 SSHS: 500_442_01-07

500_422_01_07: S.S. *Ridgefield* entering river.

500_422_01_08: Sponsor, Mrs. Lucy Hartz.



SSHS: 500 442 01-09 SSHS: 500 442 01-10
 500_422_01_09: Launching Party Group Photo
 500_422_01_10 *S.S. Ridgefield* being brought to Yard's outfitting pier to finish remaining 15 days of work.



SSHS: 705_5402_006a
 William Hartz, 84-31 husband of Sponsor Lucy Hartz, from the Feb. 1954 edition of Our Yard Magazine, receiving his 35 Year Service Pin from Superintendent Charles Zein.

4.3: S.S. Ridgefield's construction record from Robert Haig (Sun Ship VP) Archives acquired by SSHS during the 2004-05 site demo. These 5 booklets cover Sun Ship Hulls #101 through #600

Cont. #	Ship	Yard	Owner	Builder	Contract Price
442	S/S	Ridgefield	W.S.M.C.	Sun Ship	2,950,000.00
(a) Total Sales Price					
Contract Price 2,950,000.00					
Bonus Overline - Direct and Indirect 53,434.62					
Soc. Sec. & Unempl. Ins. Tax 1,189.99					
Wage Increase 46,885.11					
Material Increase 103.33					
Special Items - Excess 79,288.69					
National Defense Features 94,961.16					
Degumming System 17,683.27					
Ins. Credits - 3rd Party Liab. 1,000.00					
Ins. Assumed by U.S.M.C. 52,986.30					
Other Extras 289,539.78					
U.S.M.C. Savings 289,539.78					
Profit in Excess of Limitation 289,539.78					
Builder's Risk Ins. Cost 156.71					
Total 2,651,461.12					
Contract Price					
Purchase of Surplus Mat'l 529.33					
Refund s/o Cost Credits 2,651.45					
Total Sales Price 2,651.45					
(b) Misc. Credits					
Overhead Adjustment 178,863.66					
Ship Cr. & Left Over Mat'l 16,380.96					
Inventory Adjustment 197.70					
Purchase of Surplus Mat'l 529.33					
Refund s/o Cost Credits 2,651.45					
Total 178,863.66					
(c) Total Sales Price					
Contract Price 2,651.45					
Extras & Changes 168.00					
Total Sales Price 2,819.45					

SSHS: 68 05 442 01 SSHS: 68 05 442 02
 68_05_442_01-02 *S.S. Ridgefield* hull construction record from Robert Haig's (VP) SSHS archives covering hulls 101 thru 600.

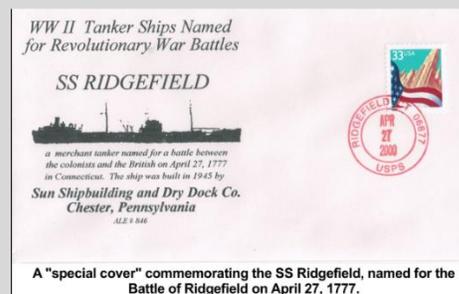
4.4: S.S. Ridgefield's Launching Plaque:
 Launching plaque was donated to SSHS by Lynne Krauss and David Morris, grandchildren of the Ship's Sponsor, Mrs. Lucy Hartz and her husband Mr. William Hartz 84-31.

Sun Ship's Launching Plaque History:
 It is customary to give the sponsor of the ship launched a ceremonial plaque commemorating the launching of the vessel. The sponsor would typically be the wife or daughter of an executive of the company that had purchased the ship. In the case of WWII however, there were so many ships being launched and purchased by the Maritime Commission that sponsors were chosen by lottery among the shipyard workers. A bottle of champagne would be broken across the bow of the vessel, when the ship would first start to slide towards the river, then be named by the sponsor



SSHS: 500_442_10-1r
Plaque Text:
 S.S. RIDGEFIELD
 BUILT BY THE
 SUNSHIPBUILDING & DRY DOCK CO.
 CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 FOR THE
 UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION
 LAUNCHED 1944 JULY 7
 MRS. LUCY D. HARTZ
 SPONSOR

5. Photos, etc:



A "special cover" commemorating the SS Ridgefield, named for the Battle of Ridgefield on April 27, 1777.
 5.1-Ship's digital Commemorative Cover
 SSHS: 037_10_01^[1]



5.2- *'Esso Purefleet'*, ex. *'Ridgefield'*
500_442_11_av-3^[5]



5.2- *'Esso Purefleet'*, ex. *'Ridgefield'*
500_442_11_av-6^[5]



5.3- *'Esso Purefleet'*, ex. *'Ridgefield'*
500_442_11_av-7^[5]

6. Sources:

- 1-SSHS Archives
- 2-Delaware County Historical Society
- 3-Independence Seaport Museum
- 4-Hagley Museum and Library
- 5- Auke Visser's Famous T-Tankers Pages
- 6- Miramarshipindex
- 7-Marine Eng. And Shipping Review.
- 8- www.coltoncompany
- 9- Wikipedia
- 10- facebook.com/groups/oldridgefield/
posts/2330881790295364/
- 11-U.S. Merchant Marine usmm.org