

Dictionary of
**American Naval
Fighting Ships**

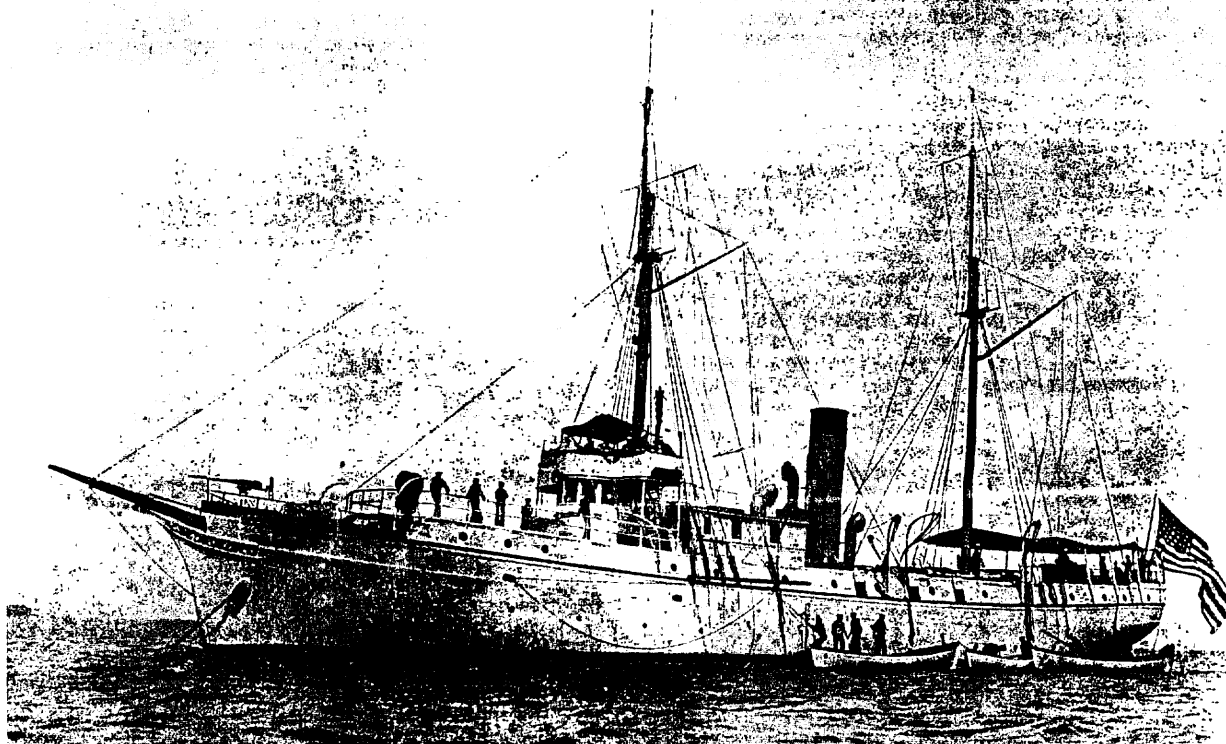
VOLUME III • 1968

USS GORDONIA
AF 43

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION • WASHINGTON



USS *Gopher* circa 1906

Gordonia, a provision stores ship, was launched 30 November 1944 by Pennsylvania Shipyards of Beaumont, Tex. under Maritime Commission contract; sponsored by Mrs. B. S. Matthews; and commissioned 14 May 1945 at Galveston, Tex., Lt. Ira V. Chapman in command.

Gordonia conducted a brief shakedown cruise in the Gulf of Mexico before departing for the Pacific. She loaded refrigerated cargo at Mobile, Ala., transited the Panama Canal, and arrived Pearl Harbor 1 July 1945. There the ship reloaded stores for fleet issue and steamed westward 10 July to bring supplies to the fleet off Okinawa. After stopping at Ulithi she spent 6-23 August in the Okinawa area dispensing much-needed stores then returned to Pearl Harbor, arriving 13 September.

In the months that followed, *Gordonia* made three more voyages to the Far East, carrying precious refrigerated cargo. Her first passage was 23 October to 27 November, and on the second, beginning January 1946, the ship visited Okinawa, Jinsen, and Taku in support of American Marines in China. She arrived San Francisco 4 March. After one more voyage, this time to the Philippines, *Gordonia* arrived San Francisco 13 June. There she decommissioned 8 July 1946 and was returned to the Maritime Commission the same day. *Gordonia* was subsequently renamed *Whale Knot* and is berthed with the National Defense Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay, Calif.

Gore

A British name retained. Sir Thomas Gore, a captain in the Royal Navy, commanded HMS *Triton* from 1796 to 1801.

Herzog (DE-277) (*q.v.*) was renamed HMS *Gore* upon transfer to the United Kingdom under lend lease 14 October 1943.

Gorgas, General, see General W. C. Gorgas Gorgon

In Greek mythology one of three snaky-haired sisters whose terrifying appearance turned the beholder to stone. The second *Gorgon* is a British name retained.

I

The gunboat *Naubuc* (*q.v.*) was renamed *Gorgon* 1 June 1869 while laid up at League Island, Pa.

II

(BAM-18: dp. 890; l. 220'6"; b. 32'; dr. 9'6"; s. 18 k. cpl. 80; a. 1 3", 6 20mm.; cl. HMS *Catherine*)

BAM-18 was laid down 15 August 1942 by Savannah Machine & Foundry Co., Savannah, Ga.; launched 24 January 1943; transferred to the United Kingdom under lend lease 28 August 1943; and named HMS *Gorgon*. During World War II, she served the Royal Navy as a minesweeper off the English coast and along the English Channel. After the war, she was returned to the custody of the United States Navy 12 November 1946 and sold to the government of Greece in January 1947.

Gorgona

A former name retained: one of three sisters, Stheno, Eurayle, and Medusa, with snaky hair, who turned the beholder to stone.

(SP-2164: dp. 732 t.; l. 112'; b. 30'; dr. 15'6"; s. 12 k. cpl. 27; a. none)

Gorgona was built in 1915 by the Staten Island Steam Boat Co., Staten Island, N.Y.; she was commissioned 1