

ADVANCE RELEASE

Mehrtens-Maritime-60

ADVANCE RELEASE: For MONDAY MORNING Papers, September 28, 1942

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

MARITIME COMMISSION

OWI-562

The first Liberty Ship to be named after an outstanding American Negro will be launched Tuesday, September 29, when the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON slides down the ways of the California Shipbuilding Corporation at Wilmington, California, the Maritime Commission announced today.

The vessel will be sponsored by Marian Anderson, noted contralto. In addition to christening the new vessel, Miss Anderson will sing the Star Spangled Banner in honor of the occasion. The address of the day will be made by Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, National Director of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C. Negro delegations from California and adjoining states, including service groups, will participate.

It is expected that the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON will be completed for service by the middle of October. At that time the 10,500 ton freighter will be turned over to Captain Hugh Mulzac, the only Negro to hold a master's certificate. Captain Mulzac, who is 56, will sail with a crew composed of white and Negro officers and men.

Those in attendance at the launching will be Mrs. Portia Washington Pittman, daughter of Booker T. Washington, and his two grand-daughters, Miss Fanny Pittman and Miss Louise Washington.

Matron of honor will be Mrs. Peter Ross, wife of a Calship foreman, whose suggestion to name the new ship after the great Negro educator, won instant approval by both the shipbuilding company and the Maritime Commission.

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WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION
WashingtonIMMEDIATE RELEASESEP 24 8 25 AM '42
September 22, 1942

When the Liberty ship BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, named after the great Negro educator, goes into service next month, a Negro captain will be in command of the vessel, the War Shipping Administration announced today.

Captain Edward Macauley, Deputy Administrator supervising the recruitment and manning of merchant ships, stated that Captain Hugh Mulzac, the only Negro to hold a master's certificate, has been assigned the Liberty ship and is now securing officers and men for the new ship.

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, which will be launched soon by the California Shipbuilding Corporation, Wilmington, California, is expected to be completed by the middle of October. The 10,500 ton freighter will then be ready to carry cargoes vital to the war effort.

Captain Mulzac, of Brooklyn, New York, has held a master's certificate for 20 years. During the last war he served as chief mate on merchant ships and at one time was master of the YARMOUTH when this vessel was operated by the Black Star Line.

Captain Mulzac, who is 56, will sail with a crew composed of white and Negro officers and men. Officials of the National Maritime Union have stated they will cooperate with Captain Mulzac in his efforts to obtain seamen for his ship.

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION

OWI-524

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, September 22, 1942

When the Liberty ship BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, named after the great Negro educator, goes into service next month, a Negro captain will be in command, the War Shipping Administration announced today.

Captain Edward Macauley, Deputy Administrator supervising the recruitment and manning of merchant ships, said Captain Hugh Mulzac, the only Negro to hold a master's certificate, has been assigned the Liberty ship and now is securing officers and men for it.

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, a 10,000 ton freighter which will be launched soon by the California Shipbuilding Corporation, Wilmington, California, is expected to be completed by the middle of October.

Captain Mulzac, of Brooklyn, New York, has held a master's certificate for 20 years. During the last war he served as chief mate on merchant ships and at one time was master of the YARMOUTH when this vessel was operated by the Black Star Line.

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X-3899

ADVANCE RELEASE: For Monday, September 21, 1942

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

MARITIME COMMISSION

Workers of many racial extractions--Chinese, Filipinos, Mexicans, Negroes and whites--helped construct the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, first Liberty Ship to be named for a Negro. *in many*

The 10,000-ton vessel is being built at the California Shipbuilding Company yard at Wilmington, Cal. Workers of all of these racial groups are employed in that yard.

More than 500 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Negro workers were employed in the yard as the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON was being rushed to completion. This represented an increase over the 278 Negroes employed there in March, 1942.

Negro skilled workers in the yard include electricians, shipwrights, studgun weld operators, painters, welders, burners, chippers and buffers.

Negroes are employed in a number of semi-skilled categories, including helpers in the following classifications: shipfitter, burner, flanger, coppersmith, welder, chippers and welder trainees.

Negro employees are integrated throughout the yard, so only a percentage of the total number of colored employees worked on the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON. The majority of them are expected to witness the christening of the ship by Marian Anderson, celebrated contralto, however.