



### **SS Duca D'Aosta**

SS Duca d'Aosta was an Italian ocean liner named after one of the Dukes of Aosta.

Launched in 1908, she sailed between Italy and New York and South America for most of her career.

**During World War I** she was employed as a troopship carrying United States troops to France as part of the United States Transport Force. **She was scrapped in 1929.**

Duca d'Aosta, was built by Cantieri Navale Siciliani of Palermo, with steam engines provided by N. Odero & Co. of Sestri Ponente

In May 1918, Duca d'Aosta was chartered as a United States troop transport and attached to the United States Navy Cruiser and Transport Force, and sailed on a total of five roundtrips before the Armistice.

Sailing in her first troopship convoy at 6:30pm on May 10, 1918, Duca d'Aosta departed from Hoboken NJ, with U.S. Navy transports Lenape, Pastores, Wilhelmina, Princess Matoika, Antigone, and Susquehanna, and the British steamer Kursk.

The group rendezvoused with a similar group that left New York the same day, consisting of **President Lincoln**, Covington, Rijndam, British troopship **Dwinsk**, and Italian steamers Caserta and Dante Alighieri.

American cruiser Frederick served as escort for the assembled ships, which were the 35th U.S. convoy of the war.

On 20 May, the convoy sighted and fired on a "submarine" that turned out to be a bucket; the next day escort Frederick left the convoy after being relieved by nine destroyers. Three days later the convoy sighted land at 06:30 and anchored at Brest that afternoon. Duca d'Aosta safely arrived back in the U.S. on June 5, 1918.

Fate, however, was not as kind to former convoy mates President Lincoln and Dwinsk. On their return journeys they **were sunk by German submarines** U-90 and U-151, respectively.

After her release from the U.S. charter, Duca d'Aosta once again resumed sailing the Genoa–New York service in 1918, which she continued through June 1921. Returned to South American routes at that time, she continued in that service through February 1929 at which time she was scrapped.