A Guide to the AP-2 and AP-3 Cargo and Victory ship plans

HDC1306

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

2018, National Park Service

**Title:** AP-2 and AP-3 Cargo and Victory ship plans  
**Date:** 1944  
**Identifier/Call Number:** HDC1306 (SAFR 21365)  
**Creator:** Duncan, John Alexander  
**Physical Description:** 27 items.  
**Repository:** San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Historic Documents Department  
Building E, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  

**Abstract:** The AP-2 and AP-3 Cargo and Victory ship plans collection (SAFR 21365, HDC1306) consists of 27 notebook pages of plans, engineering specifications and outfitting drawings for AP2 and AP3 cargo ships, or Victory ships from 1944. A note in the collection indicates that the notebook belonged to John Alexander Duncan, Assistant Superintendent of Outfitting, and that these ships were built at Kaiser Shipyard #2 in Richmond, California. The pages are offset printing and handwritten and include profiles of the ships, drawings of decks, engine rooms and machinery arrangement, tables and general specifications. The collection is open for use.

**Physical Location:** San Francisco Maritime NHP, Historic Documents Department  
**Language(s):** In English.

**Access**  
This collection is open for use unless otherwise noted.

**Publication and Use Rights**  
Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the researcher's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

**Processing Note**  
The descriptions in this collection guide were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material and subject matter experts. While every effort was made to provide accurate information, in the event that you find any errors in this guide please contact the reference staff in order for us to evaluate and make corrections to this guide.

**Preferred Citation**  
[Item description], [Location within collection organization identified by Collection Number/Series Number/File Unit Number/Item Number], HDC1306 (SAFR 21365), AP-2 and AP-3 Cargo and Victory ship plans, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

**Acquisition Information**  
SAFR-00001

A note indicates the collection was brought in by John Alexander Duncan's son. These records are part of a bulk accession from Golden Gate National Recreational Area when the San Francisco Maritime Museum became a National Historical Park in 1988.

**Historical or Biographical Note**  
According to the note in the collection file, John Alexander Duncan was a marine engineer from Scotland, who was the Assistant Superintendent of Outfitting at Kaiser Shipyard #2 in Richmond, California. He may have worked specifically at the Permanente Metals Corporation. The note mentions "dock 42 43, 44-45," which may refer to the years Duncan was there. He was also a machinist with Chevrolet/Fisher Body in Oakland, California.

Kaiser was one of a number of U.S. yards that produced Victory ships during World War II. The ships were designed to replace shipping losses caused by German submarines, and they were faster and had stronger hulls than Liberty ships. AP2
and AP3-type Victory ships had different horsepower engines (6,000 versus 8,000, respectively).

Collection Scope and Content
The AP-2 and AP-3 Cargo and Victory ship plans collection (SAFR 21365, HDC1306) consists of 27 notebook pages of plans, engineering specifications and outfitting drawings for AP2 and AP3 cargo ships, or Victory ships from 1944. A note in the collection indicates that the notebook belonged to John Alexander Duncan, Assistant Superintendent of Outfitting, and that these ships were built at Kaiser Shipyard #2 in Richmond, California. The pages are offset printing and handwritten and include profiles of the ships, drawings of decks, engine rooms and machinery arrangement, tables and general specifications. The collection is open for use.

Collection Arrangement
Original order was maintained.

Related Materials
The San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park has numerous collections related to Victory ships and Kaiser Shipyards. A few of these are listed below, but researchers will find more if they search the Park’s web catalog.
Lidgerwood Manufacturing Company instructions booklet, 1944, for Victory ship electro-hydraulic steering gear, SAFR 7839, HDC0673
SS FORDHAM VICTORY test records, 1945, SAFR 7840, HDC0674
U.S. Maritime Service Training School papers, 1944-1981, SAFR 8136, HDC0730
John Kinney-Ed Parker papers, 1943-1944, SAFR 14672, HDC1095, papers related to fitting Liberty and Victory ships at Kaiser Shipyard #2
Dolores H. Burns photo collection, 1943-1945, SAFR 17652, P88-011, group portrait at Kaiser Shipyard #2

This material is located at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War, 1939-1945
victory ships
Shipbuilding industry
Kaiser Shipyards (Richmond, Calif.)
Specifications
Naval architecture
shipfitting