



Sun Ship Historical Society's Ships History Page

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Name: *Atlantic Refiner*
Hull No: 488

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

Note 1: While due diligence has been applied in the research of this information, responsibility for any errors is the ultimate responsibility of the end-user.

Note 2: Information has been obtained from various sources to enhance the history of Sun Ship and where possible, sources have been identified.

Note 3: Text added by SSSS to the review will be bordered with parentheses.

Note 4: If you find this information interesting, I highly recommend obtaining a copy of this source book to get the 'rest of the story'

Note 5: A series of three 'periods', before or after transcribed text indicates that not all the text was transcribed to the review.

Thank You,
Dave Kavanagh
SSHS
davekav@verizon.net

1. Ship's Record:

Sun Hull No: 488
Name Orig: *Atlantic Refiner*
Port of Reg: Philadelphia PA
Contract Price: \$2,957,800
Contract Date: 1944.05.02
MC Hull #: 2449
Shipway: NY-16
Keel Laying: 3-15-45
Launched: 6-15-45
Delivery: 7-7-45
L-B-D: 503'-68'-39'3"
DWT: 16,350
Gross Tons: 10,297
Type: Tanker T2-SE-A1
Propulsion: 1 Westinghouse Turbine
Boilers(s): 2 Babcock and Wilcox
Propeller(s): 1-Dia 19'6" (T2-Class)

HP: 7,500
Speed-Knots: 15-1/2
Cargo Cap. Bbls: 141,148
Complement: 87 Men
Sponsor: Mrs. N.W. Glossop
Owner: 1st: U.S. Maritime Comm.
Operators: 1st: Atlantic Refining
Official No: 248006

Sun 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

3. Ship's History^{R1}

<u>3.1 Names</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Owners</u>
' <i>Atlantic Refiner</i> '	1945	Atlantic Refining
' <i>Atlantic Refiner</i> '	1954	LBR Monrovia
' <i>Pochttec</i> '	1962	LBR Monrovia

3.2 Construction History:

-1962: Conv to molten sulphur tanker. Renamed '**POCHTECA**'

3.3 Disposal Info:

-Broke Up at Vinaroz, Spain 1968.09 by Desguaces Maritimos ^{R9}

2. Resources

Note: Sun Ship/SSHS-Unless otherwise listed.

R¹: www.miramarshipindex.com
R²: Navsource.org/archives
R³: National Archives
R⁴: Dictionary of American Fighting Ships
R⁵: *DMK Library, #: 17_20_042:*
Malta Convoy by Peter Shankland and Anthony Hunger
R⁶: Independence Seaport Museum
R⁷: Hagley Museum and Library
R⁸: Delaware County Historical Soc.
R⁹: Auke Visser's Famous T-2 Tankers Page

3. Artifacts:

3.1 Haig Ship Construction Detail Archives

(Records started by VP Robert Haig, Hulls 101 thru 600)

#68_05_488_01r

FORM 800 S.S. & D.D.CO.

Cont. # 488 - S/S "Atlantic Refiner"
 Built on Way # 16 D.W.T. Tonnage: 16,350
 Owner: U.S.M.C.
 Sponsor: Mrs. M. W. Glossop

Keel Laid	3-15-45	On Ways	93	Days
Launched	6-15-45	Wet Dock	22	Days
Delivered	7-7-45	Total	115	Days

Hull Steel	Tons	Base Price
Plates	4,372.13	
Shapes	619.24	FRT.
Total	5,021.37	

Cost	Hull	Per Dwt.	Eng.	Per Dwt.
Labor	553,334.	33.24	237,133.	14.51
Burden	331,999.	20.31	142,280.	8.70
Mat'l	471,669.	28.85	713,975.	45.50
Total	1,357,002.	83.00	1,123,388.	68.71

Labor	790,467.	48.35
Burden	474,279.	29.01
Mat'l	1,215,644.	74.35
Total	2,480,390.	151.71

Miscellaneous

O. T. Bonus	44,387.	2.71
Hull Extras	99,914.	6.11
Errors and Defects	2,902.	.18
(B) Misc. Credits	204,263.	12.49
Total Cost	2,423,330.	148.22
(A) Total Sales Price	2,553,330.	156.17
Profit 3/31/48	130,000.	7.95

Contract Price
 Extras & Changes
 (A) Total Sales Price 2,553,330. 156.17

3.3: S.S. 'Atlantic Refiner' – T2 tanker's WWII Sun Ship Launching Victory Pin.

Research has shown that these pins were given out to all employees attending launches from the 'Shooting Star' H-205 to the 'Utrecht' H-560. For further information on the launching pins, review the August, 1955 Our Yard magazine issue. #011_488_ebr



4. Photos/Scans:

4.1 Launching Photo from Our Yard magazine August, 1945.

S.S. 'Atlantic Refiner' had as its sponsor on June 15, Mrs. Nellie Wilkins Glossop, wife of J. William Glossop, foreman of the Pattern Shop, Wetherill plant. Mr. Glossop has a record of 47 years and 1 month with Sun Ship. SSDB#: 705_4508_17 2b



#68_05_488_02r

(A) Total Sales Price	
Original Contract Price	2,957,800.00
Bonus Overtime - Direct and Indirect	58,298.73
Soc. Sec. & Unempl. Ins. Tax	1,107.55
Wage Increase	82,041.17
Material Increase	1,515.40
Special Items - Excess	102,710.04
National Defense Features	84,678.00
Deaussing System	17,687.27
Other Changes & Extras	49,862.32
U.S.M.C. Changes	335,976.87
Profit in Excess of Limitation	255,976.87
	2,558,322.66

Deduct	
Purchase of Surplus Mat'l.	815.43
Refund a/c Cost Credits	4,177.20
Total Sales Price	2,553,330.03

(B) Misc. Credits	
Overhead Adjustment	173,276.99
Scrap Cr. & Left-over Mat'l.	23,723.90
Inventory Adjustment	2,270.87
Purchase of Surplus Mat'l.	815.43
Refund a/c Cost Credits	4,177.20
Total Misc. Credits	204,263.99

4.2 'Atlantic Refiner' Underway

Early photo of Robert M. Croasdale's favorite Atlantic Refining Company tanker, the 'Atlantic Refiner'

SSDB#: 500_488_03_01 (Courtesy Auke Visser)^{R9}



4.3 S.S. 'Atlantic Refiner' – T2 tanker owned by the Atlantic Refining Company. Built by Sun Ship as Hull No. 488. Annual ship repair, machinery and hull work performed c:1948.05.

(Ship adjacent to No.1 Dry Dock)

SSDB#: 705_480615_1b



4.4: Newspaper text pertinent to the launching of; 'Atlantic Refiner, published June 11, 1945 from the Philadelphia Bulletin:

SSDB#: 331_05_19450613_01

"The S. S. '**Atlantic Refiner**' will be christened Friday at approximately 6:27 P.M. Mrs. Nellis M. Glossop, wife of William Glossop, foreman of the Pattern Shop at the Wetherill plant, will sponsor the vessel. Glossop is one of the oldest employees of the company, having served for 47 years and one month.

[5. S.S. 'Atlantic Refiner' Tanker Model Donation](#)

5.1: The Sun Ship Historical Society was contacted by Pamela Croasdale in October of 2023 to see if we would be interested in acquiring a model of a T2-Sun Ship built tanker that her father arranged to have built.

Partial text from Pamela's donation letter read:

"I have a beautiful ship – It is the **Atlantic Refiner**. My father sailed on this, the (**Atlantic Dealer**), the (**Atlantic Trader**) and **the EJ Henry**, but the (**Atlantic Refiner**) was his favorite ship.

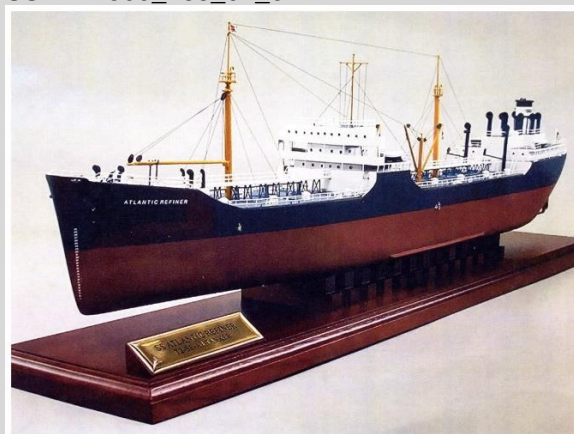
Information about this ship is below. My father had this built."

As previously stated, her father, Robert M. Croasdale started as a seaman for the Atlantic Refining Company in 1952. During that time, he had worked in ship's engine rooms. He went into the Army c:1955, returning to Atlantic Refining from 1958-1960.

Three of the ships that Robert had worked on were built by Sun Ship included ; '**Atlantic Refiner**' Hull-488, '**Atlantic Trader**' Hull-475 and the '**E.J. Henry**' Hull-181.

5.2: Here are photographs of the spectacular 29" model with a close-up of the brass-nametag S S '**Atlantic Refiner**'.

SSDB#: 500_488_02_01r



SSDB#: 500_488_02_05



SSDB#: 500_488_03_11

SS ATLANTIC REFINER
T2-SE-A1 TANKER

5.3: Ship's model on display at SSSS

Photo of donated model on display at Sun Ship Historical Society 'Office'

#500_488_02_04d



5.4 In addition to the ship's model, several photographs of ships and family members were donated to us and here a few of them:

5.4.1: Photograph of Robert M. Croasdale in his early years while employed by Atlantic Refining Co. as an Engine Room 'Wiper'

Wiper's Job Description: "An engine room wiper is responsible for assisting the ship's engineers as directed and to maintain the engine room's cleanliness."

SSDB#:500_488_02_11a



5.4.2: Robert Croasdale's United States Coast Guard's 'Certificate of Discharge' dated 1954.01.04, while Robert was onboard our 'Atlantic Refiner'.

SSDB#: 500 488 02 07b

Serial No. C 9502805 Dated this 4 day of Jan 1954 United States Shipping Commissioner (or Master of Vessel)	UNITED STATES COAST GUARD Certificate of Discharge TO MERCHANT SEAMAN	Name of Seaman: Robert M. Croasdale (Full name)
	Signature of Seaman: <i>Robert M. Croasdale</i> (Master of Vessel): <i>Harold P. Brown</i>	Citizenship: USA Certificate of Identification No. 2 922737
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above entries were made by me and are correct and that the signatures hereon were witnessed by me.		Rating: Wiper (Capacity in which employed)
Date of Discharge: 24 Dec 53		Date of Discharge: 04 Jan 54
Place of Discharge: Phila Pa		Name of Ship: Atlantic Refiner
Official No.: 248006 Class of Vessel: steam (Steam, Sailing, Gas, or other)		Name of Voyage: foreign (Foreign, Inland or Coastwise)

5.4.3: Croasdale Family Photos:

Family photo from 1961 with Brother Bobby, Mother Elizabeth (passed away 2007.5.9), Sister Teri (passed away in 1994.3.1) and Father Robert (passed away 2003.7.19).

SSDB#: 500_488_02_17



Photograph of Father Robert Croasdale, Daughter Pamela Croasdale, and Mother Elizabeth Croasdale.

SSDB#: 500_488_02_16



5.4.4: Photograph of Son 'Bobby' Croasdale and his Father Robert Croasdale.

SSDB#:500_488_02_12c



6. SSSS Note:

The Sun Ship Historical Society is extremely grateful for the donation by Pamela Croasdale and family of her father's 'Atlantic Refiner' model and related artifacts.

While the main focus of our website is Sun Ship, I believe we do not lose sight on what happens to our hard work after delivery and how dependent on others that is. I hope these borrowed words reflect our gratitude towards those who offer that care.

"Man-the-BUILDER has toiled for days, months or even years to shape this new and shining tool. Now it is to be committed to the sea, to a hidden destiny; and Man-the-SEAFARER must put forth in her to test the mystery of oceans and to give her the life for which she has been cunning made."

Source: R5
See: Note 4