



GLORY DAYS

A PICTORIAL LOOK AT THE LAST GREAT AMERICAN OCEAN LINER – THE SS UNITED STATES
BY EDWARD BRANDT

On 3 July 1952, the USS *United States* departed New York Harbor on her maiden voyage, and what a voyage it would be! She broke the transatlantic speed record held by RMS *Queen Mary*, a record the British ship had held for 14 years. The *United States* broke the record by ten hours, making the maiden crossing from the *Ambrose* Lightship at New York Harbor to Bishop Rock off Cornwall. The trip took 3 days, 10 hours, 40 minutes and the liner had an average speed of 35.59 knots. The American government noted the excellent service given by RMS *Queen Mary* and RMS *Queen Elizabeth* during WWII when they were converted to troop ships. The cost of the SS *United States* would be \$79.4 million and 70% of that would come from American taxpayers since the Navy wanted the *United States* to be easily converted to a troopship in case of national emergency, carrying up to 15,000 soldiers. The remaining \$28 million would come from the United States Lines.