

## SS EDWIN A. ROBINSON



Photo furnished by Mr. William Layton

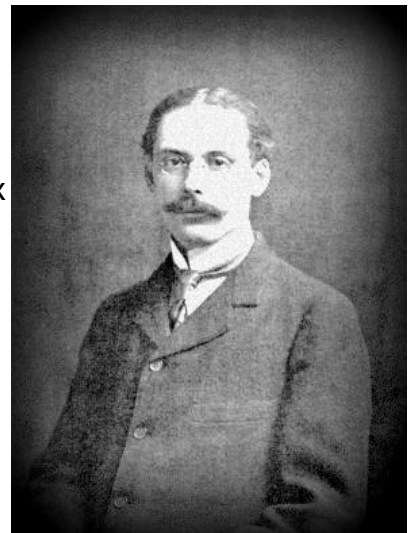
The SS *Edwin A. Robinson* was a Liberty ship freighter named after the Maine Poet Edwin A. Robinson (1869-1935) whom won the Pulitzer prize three times for poetry. He was the 'boy' that his parents wished would have been a girl, in fact his parents did not name him for six months because they were so sure they would have a girl they only considered "Girls names". Edwin was actually named when people threw names into a hat....and a complete stranger reaching in and pulling one of those names out.

Edwin went to college and made his parents proud, and embarked on many journeys one of those was trying to marry his deceased brother's wife....which never took place. [that is a story in it's own right]

He self-published his first book in 1896, which didn't go over all that well, but he soon published another...and this one caught the eye of President Theodore Roosevelt's son whom was a 'reader of poems'.

Well he got into the good graces of the Roosevelt's and Theodore obtained a job for Edwin at the New York Customs Office. He stayed with this job until Roosevelt left office. It was just after this that his literary successes began to gain success.

Edwin A. Robinson won the Pulitzer Prize for his first *Collected Poems*, in 1922 for his first *Collected Poems*, in 1925 for *The Man Who Died Twice*, and in 1928 for *Tristram*.



---

## VESSEL PARTICULARIZATION

**Maritime Commission Emergency Hull No.** 1816. **Builder:** Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard. **Engine:** General Machinery Corp. This particular vessel was “renamed” to *Samsip* [part of the Lend-Lease program] before delivery was made to WSA [War Shipping Administration]. Compliment of men was not available to the author. **Operator:** British Ministry of War Transport. **Master:** E. A. Quick.

---

## TIME LINE

- October 8, 1943 - Keel Laid
  - November 1, 1943 - Launched
  - November 9, 1943 - Delivered to the above named Lend-Lease Operator
  - June through October 1944 - fitted in twelve trips to the British/Canadian landing beaches known as *Gold, Juno* and *Sword*.
  - December 7, 1944 - [**Final Voyage**] from Antwerp, Belgium to Barry in ballast.
- 

---

## DAMAGED BY MINE SUNK BY ALLIED SHIPS DECEMBER 7TH, 1944

The HMS *Samsip* [ex-*Edwin A. Robinson*] was fairly busy between June through October 1944 with fitting in twelve trips to the landing beaches of Gold, Juno and Sword. *Samsip* was managed by New Zealand Shipping Company, and was commanded by Captain E. A. Quick

On one of these trips *Samsip* carried troops, motor vehicles and fuel from Scotland to the beaches, transiting the Dover Strait at night because of the long-range German guns positioned on the French coast at Calais.

On some of the earlier



trips, reported by Captain Quick, the ships cargos were unloaded into landing craft off the beaches, but once the Mulberry harbour at Arromanches was in operation, she was able to discharge alongside. *Samsip* survived the Normandy operations but was to meet her fate on December 7th, 1944. when sailing from Antwerp to Barry in ballast.

She struck a mine in the River Schelde and caught fire, and despite the best efforts of HM Tug *Sea Giant* (ex-USS *Contocook*) [right] to save her, she had later to be sunk by gunfire.

Seven of the crew were killed [author was unable to obtain any of the lost crew] in the explosion, and everyone else on board was injured. Captain Quick's injuries were very serious indeed and as a result he was incapacitated for several months.



For his services aboard the ship at the time of the incident, First Radio Officer Lawrence Hadden was officially commended.

---

Author: Bud Shortridge

Sources:

Liberty 'The Ships That Won the War  
By: Peter Elphick

The Liberty Ships, A to Z  
By: Capt. Walter W. Jaffee

---

[cshortridge73@gmail.com](mailto:cshortridge73@gmail.com)

[Comments are Always Welcome]

