

# M/S VILLE DE BORDEAUX

THE  
MOST COMPLETELY  
AUTOMATED VESSEL  
IN FRANCE



Early last fall when Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire de Navigation, Paris placed its new vessel, M/S *Ville de Bordeaux* in service, it started a whole new trend in French shipbuilding concepts. Built at Chantiers & Ateliers de la Seine Maritime, Le Trait, the fully automated ship has the following general characteristics:

Length over-all .. .. .	155.20 m
Beam .. .. .	19.90 m
Draft .. .. .	9.15 m
Deadweight (at 9.15 m draft) .. .. .	12,000 tons

She is powered by a 12,000 bhp B & W engine, Model 874 VT2BF 160, supercharged at 64% with two exhaust gas-driven superchargers. This Mobil-lubricated power plant gives the vessel a service speed of 19 knots.

As the most fully automated vessel under the French flag, the *Ville de Bordeaux* is quite a departure from the traditional. While under way or during maneuvering, she is completely controlled from the bridge. There is no watch in the engine room. However, an engineer (officer)

is available day and night to intervene when trouble arises.

Three bridge control boards handle all the steaming apparatus. Amidships is the one housing the rudder control, angle indicator, gyro-compass, automatic pilot, main engine active rudder and bow-thruster controls, telephone, etc. On the port side are controls for the auxiliary engines and their couplings, plus the river radar and navigation light switches. On the starboard side is the consol housing all the navigating gear, sea radar, an echo-depth sounding device, V.H.F. radio and a system of watch-keeping in fog that operates on the principle of stereophony.

According to the latest reports, the *Ville de Bordeaux* is operating perfectly. Her automated gear provides a means of control, both when steaming at sea or maneuvering in confined waters, that is a far cry from the conventional methods—engine room telegraph, commands to the helm, etc. To be sure, this gear is costly. But from a safety angle alone, it will more than pay its way.

*The Compass* salutes this fine ship and wishes her many years of good sailings.