

Panama Canal Museum Oral History Interview Clip Transcript
William and Carol Hellums
July 8, 2011

Interesting story happened after that: I think it was [19]74, somewhere around there. I was out of the Army and lost contact, but they shut her down, the reactor, and was going to take her back to the States. So, they had a small crew on board as watchmen and so forth. It had to be towed by tugboats. They were advised against it because it was hurricane season, but they went ahead and did it anyway. There was a big storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, really bad storm. They had to cut the towboats loose, because they thought the ship was gonna sink and they didn't want to take the boats down with it. They brought helicopters to get the crew off. Last man got off, and the ship rolled over to its side, and they thought for sure it was gone. But somehow she righted herself, and later on they were able to connect the tow cables up again and get her in. The innards of the ship, the reactor portions inside, were severely damaged. It was never used again.