



Bonham, 1927

WSC-129

CLASS: Active Class Patrol Boat

BUILDER: American Brown Boveri Electric Corp., Camden, NJ

COMMISSIONED: 29 January 1927

LAUNCHED: 30 November 1926

DECOMMISSIONED: 20 April 1959 and sold 30 December 1959

DISPLACEMENT: 232 tons

PROPULSION: 2 x 6-cylinder, 300 hp engines

LENGTH: 125 feet

BEAM: 23 feet, 6 inches

DRAFT: 7 feet, 6 inches

PERFORMANCE:

Max speed: 13 knots, 1945, 2,500 mile range

Econ. speed: 8.0 knots, 3,500 mile range

COMPLEMENT: 3 officers, 17 men (1960)

ARMAMENT: 1927: 1x 3"/27

1941: 1 x 3"/23, 2 x depth charge tracks

1945: 1 x 40mm/80 (single), 2 x 20mm/80 (single), 2 x depth charge tracks, 2 x mousetraps

1960: 1 x 40mm/60

CLASS HISTORY:

This class of vessels was one of the most useful and long-lasting in Coast Guard service with 16 cutters still in use in the 1960's. The last to be decommissioned from active service was the *Morris* in 1970; the last in actual service was the *Cuyahoga*, which sank after an accidental collision in 1978. They were designed for trailing the "mother ships" along the outer line of patrol during Prohibition. They were constructed at a cost of \$63,173 each. They gained a reputation for durability that was only enhanced by their re-engining in the late 1930's; their original 6-cylinder diesels were replaced by significantly more powerful 8-cylinder units that used the original engine beds and gave the vessels 3 additional knots. All served in World War II, but two, the *Jackson* and *Bedloe*, were lost in a storm in 1944. Ten were refitted as buoy tenders during the war and reverted to patrol work afterward.

CUTTER HISTORY

At Boston, Massachusetts, for a short time before taking station at San Pedro, California, in January 1928, she remained on the West Coast and in Alaskan waters her entire service life.

SOURCES:

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships. Washington, DC: USGPO.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft of World War II*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1982.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft, 1946-1990*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1990.

