



## Coast Guard-Manned U.S. Army "LT" Tugs, World War II

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Under a Joint Chiefs of Staff agreement signed 14 March 1944, the Coast Guard agreed to man certain small Army Transportation Corps vessels (with some already operating in the Southwest Pacific and manned at the time by civilians) due to the lack of trained and experienced civilian crews available for the many vessels in the Army's fleet. The agreement read: "The Coast Guard, due to decrease in category of defense in the United States, will have some personnel available to man ships and craft for which civilian personnel cannot be obtained." Five categories of Army vessels were specified for Coast Guard crews: AMRS (Army Marine Repair Ship), TY (tankers), LT (large tugs), FS (freight and supply vessels), and F (Freight vessels). The Coast Guard manned a total of 288 Army craft.

The Harbor Boat Branch of the Transportation Corps normally operated the Army's tugboat fleet but as noted before there was a lack of available civilian crews. Therefore the Coast Guard, with a surplus of seamen, agreed to provide personnel to the tugboat fleet. The first Coast Guard crew to report aboard an LT did so on 4 April 1944 when they reported aboard LT-135. Ultimately, Coast Guard crews manned 51 of these large tugs, which saw service throughout the Pacific Theatre. The Coast Guard crews were removed and the tugs placed out of commission between late-1945 and early 1946.

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### "LT" tugs manned by Coast Guard crews:

LT-1

LT-20

LT-21

LT-54

LT-57

LT-58

LT-59

LT-128

LT-129

LT-131

LT-132

LT-133

LT-134

LT-135

LT-217

LT-218

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LT-220

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LT-227

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**Sources:**

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

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