



USS *Lowe* (DE-325) & USCGC *Lowe* (WDE-425)

DE-325; WDE-424

Edsall Class Destroyer Escort

Displacement: 1,253 tons standard; 1,102 tons full load

Length: 306' oa

Beam: 36'7"

Draft: 10' 5' full load

Machinery: 2-shaft Fairbanks Morse diesels, 6,000 bhp

Range: 10,800 nm at 12 knots

Top Speed: 21 knots

Complement: 186

Armament: 3-3"/50; 2-40mm; 8-20mm; 3-21" torpedo tubes; 2 depth charge tracks; 8 depth charge projectors; 1 hedge hog.

LOWE Harry James Lowe, Jr., born 6 January 1922 in Paducah, Ky., entered naval service as a seaman apprentice 28 August 1940. He served in heavy cruiser SAN FRANCISCO (CA-38) from 6 December 1940 to 12 November 1942, when he was killed in action off the Solomon Islands when he refused to abandon his gun in the face of an onrushing Japanese torpedo plane. For his extraordinary heroism, Gunner's Mate Third Class Lowe was posthumously awarded the Navy

Cross.

USS LOWE (DE-325) was laid down by Consolidated Steel Corp., Orange, Tex., 24 May 1943; launched 28 July 1943; sponsored by Mrs. Harry J. Lowe, mother of Gunner's Mate Third Class Harry J. Lowe Jr.; and commissioned 22 November 1943, Comdr. Reginald H. French, USCG, in command. After a shakedown cruise to Bermuda, LOWE reported for convoy duty 2 February 1944 and departed Charleston, S.C., escorting convoy UGS-32 to Casablanca, French Morocco, and back.

On her second such assignment, LOWE went into action 20 April when her convoy came under tenacious enemy air attack off the north African coast. Simultaneously, two high-speed wakes made directly for the starboard side of the ship. She evaded the torpedoes by a hard right turn which enabled her to escape between the oncoming warheads. LOWE continued convoy escort service, making a total of 12 Atlantic crossings until 5 March 1945 when she joined TG 22.14, an exclusively Coast Guard "killer" group, with the specific mission of finding and destroying an enemy submarine operating due east of Newfoundland.

While steaming in search of the enemy 18 March, 100 miles east of Halifax, LOWE made sonar contact and attacked with two patterns of hedgehogs. The depth charge attacks with those of other ships of the group brought an oil slick and large amounts of debris to the surface. The submarine was still on the bottom the following day when LOWE reestablished sound contact. Postwar investigation verified the destruction of U-866 by this group; LOWE received credit for the kill, and her commanding officer and four other crew members received awards for their part in the action. While serving with TG 22.14 3 May, LOWE rescued the crew of the foundered Newfoundland schooner MARY DUFFITT and her guns sank the hulk, which was a menace to navigation.

Commencing 6 July, the ship assumed duties as a training vessel at Norfolk, Va., departing only to participate in the Navy Day observance at Washington, D.C., 24 October. Departing the Capital 1 November, she offloaded ammunition at Yorktown, and 30 December arrived at St. John's River, Fla., headquarters of the Florida Group, 16th Fleet, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, where she decommissioned 1 May 1946 and entered the Reserve Fleet.

Recommissioned 20 July 1951 as USCGC LOWE (WDE-425), she saw service as a weather ship in the Pacific Oceans and was homeported at Long Beach, CA. She decommissioned a second time 1 June 1954 at the Todd Shipyard,

Long Beach, Calif.

With Lt. Comdr. J. R. Bohlken in command, she was recommissioned in the Navy at Long Beach Naval Shipyard after being converted to a radar picket escort vessel. LOWE joined Escort Squadron 5 at Seattle, Wash. She saw extended duty with the North American Air Defense Command as a unit of the seaward extension of the DEW line, eventually completing 67 tours as a picket vessel.

While on station 20 February 1962, she was an emergency rescue link for Lt Col. John Glenn's three-orbit space mission. At the disestablishment of the Radar Barrier 30 June 1965, LOWE sailed for the western Pacific and joined the 7th Fleet 5 August. Taking station off the coast of Vietnam 15 August, she was assigned the task of preventing seaborne infiltration of enemy elements to the south of that country as a part of Operation "Market Time".

In early September 1965, she returned to her new homeport, Guam, for a period of rest and upkeep. She rejoined TF 115 off Vietnam 22 November and resumed "Market Time" surveillance. When not a unit of TF 115, LOWE served as a unit of the Taiwan Patrol Force or as station ship in Hong Kong. This pattern of duty continued until 20 September 1968 when she decommissioned at Guam. Struck 23 September, LOWE began stripping in preparation for being sold for scrapping.

LOWE was reclassified a radar picket ship, DER-325, on 28 October 1954. She was sold for scrap on 3 September 1969.

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