



USS LST-71

Builder: Jeffersonville Boat and Machine Company, Jeffersonville, Indiana

Commissioned: 9 June 1943

Assigned to: LST Flotilla 5, Group 15, Division 30

Decommissioned: 25 March 1946

Disposition: Sold for conversion to merchant service on 23 January 1948, to the Atlantic and Pacific Packing Co., Seattle, Washington.

Length: 327' 9" oa

Beam: 50'

Draft: 1' 6" bow, 7' 5" stern (unloaded); 8' 2" bow, 14' 1" stern (loaded -- at sea); 3' 1" bow, 9' 6" (loaded -- beaching)

Displacement: 1,625 (light); 4,080 (w/ full load of 2,100 tons)

Propulsion: 2 x General Motors 12-567 diesels, twin shafts/rudders

Range: 24,000 nm @ 9 knots

Top Speed: 11.6 knots

Complement: 111

Troops: 163

Initial Armament: 7 x 40mm (single mount); 6 x 20 mm (single mount); 2 x .50-caliber mgs; 4 x .30-caliber mgs

Commanding Officers:

LCDR Frank E. Miner, USCGR: 9 June 1943 -

LCDR Thomas A. Ruddy, USCGR:

LT(jg) Edward J. Rooney, USCGR: 21 September 1945
LT John Dalin: 14 November 1945 -
LT E. E. Taylor: 7 February 1946 -

History:

USS *LST-71* LST Flotilla 5, Group 15, Division 30

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-71* was laid down on 27 November 1942 at the Jeffersonville Boat and Machine Company of Jeffersonville, Indiana. She was launched on 27 February 1943 and was sponsored by Mrs. Lew Murphy. The *LST-71* entered commissioned service on 9 June 1943 after transiting the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Her first commanding officer was LCDR Frank E, Miner, USCGR.

On 16 April 1944 she was at Nounsa. She reached Pearl Harbor on 29 April 1944 where slight damage was sustained at Alenuihaha Channel. On 3 July 1944 she was in the Saipan assault area, 19 days after the first day of the invasion and took part in the invasion of Guam between 21 July and 5 August 1944. Returning to Pearl Harbor on 23 August 1944, *LST-71* was engaged in resupply runs to Saipan and Guam, arriving Saipan on 20 November 1944, and at Guam on 24 December 1944. Returning to Pearl Harbor, she departed there for Tulagi and the Russell Islands, arriving there on 25 February 1945, in preparation for the invasion of Okinawa where she arrived on D-day, 1 April 1945. Here on 6 April, she shot down an enemy plane engaged in a suicide dive on her. She departed Kerama Rhetto on 14 April 1945 for Guam, Ulithi and Leyte, returning to Okinawa on 3 July 1945 for a 10-day stay. Proceeding via Leyte and Pearl Harbor, she reached Seattle on 7 September 7 1945, for 16-month availability.

Proceeding to San Diego on 4 January 1946, she arrived at San Francisco. She was decommissioned and her Coast Guard crew removed on 25 March 1946.

The USS *LST-71* earned three battle stars for her service during World War II.



"USS LST-71 Photographed circa 1945."; Photo No. NH 83259; courtesy of D.M. McPherson, 1975. U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph -- Released.

Sources:

LST files, Coast Guard Historian's Office.

United States Coast Guard. *The Coast Guard At War. V. Transports and Escorts. Vol. 2.* Washington: Public Information Division, Historical Section, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, May 1, 1949, pp. 66-116.

United States Navy. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.* Volume VII. Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1981, pp. 574-742.

