



# USS LST-762

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Builder: American Bridge Co., Ambridge, PA.

Commissioned: 5 September 1944

Decommissioned: Coast Guard crew removed on 26 March 1946; first decommissioning on 16 July 1946.

Disposition: Final decommissioning on 3 September 1969, sold for scrap on 1 December 1975.

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

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## Commanding Officers:

LT Franklin Ewers, USCGR: 5 September 1944 - 3 September 1945

LT C. C. Pearson: 3 September 1945 - 29 March 1946

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## History:

### **USS LST-762**

#### **LST Flotilla 29, Group 85, Division 170**

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-762* was commissioned at Algiers, Louisiana, on 5 September 1944. On the 17th she departed for two weeks shakedown at Panama City, Florida, and returned to New Orleans for post shakedown availability until 12 October when she departed for Gulfport, Mississippi for loading tank deck cargo.

On 14 October 1944, she departed for Coco Solo, Canal Zone, unescorted but hove-to in heavy seas on the 16th when a hurricane overtook her, and proceeded to New Orleans under great difficulty. She arrived at New Orleans on 20 October 1944, and on the 27th departed again for Coco Solo, Canal Zone, where she arrived 3 November. Transiting the Canal she proceeded to San Diego in company with the USS LSTs 766 and 939 unescorted and arrived there on 18 November 1944. She departed San Diego unescorted as commander of a task unit consisting of *YMS-412*, *YTB-387*, and *LST-939*, the *YTB-387* breaking down en route and being towed for two days by the 762. She arrived at Pearl Harbor on 2 December 1944, and after visiting Kahaliu, Maui, returned to Pearl Harbor on 10 December. She departed Pearl Harbor on 27 December 1944, and arrived at Leyte, Philippine Islands, on 11 February 1945, via Eniwetok and Palau. She departed Leyte on 8 February for Guadalcanal, arriving on the 19th. Proceeding to the Russell Islands she took on ammunition and 400 Marines, 17 LVTs, trucks, etc., and after training operations in the Guadalcanal area departed for the staging area at Ulithi, preparatory to the invasion of Okinawa. She departed for Okinawa on 25 March 1945, and on 1 April 1945, approached the west coast of Okinawa as part of Task Unit 51.12.2, launching LVT's with 400 Marines aboard on Blue Beach and pontoons from four sides. On the 2nd she launched the LCT from her main deck and continued operating in the area until 13 April 1945, discharging ammunition while beached at Blue Beach One, where serious hull damage and buckled starboard propeller were received while beached. On 5 April 1945, she was credited with shooting down one Japanese plane during an air attack. On the 13th, she proceeded to Keramo Rhetto to join Task Unit 51.15.21, a cripple convoy, and departed on the 14th in a convoy of 19 ships and 14 escorts for Ulithi. On the 16th she took the completely crippled LST-884 in tow arriving with her at Ulithi on the 23rd. She departed for Pearl Harbor independently on 5 May, arriving 22 May 1945.

Loading five LCT sections she departed Pearl Harbor in convoy on 1 June 1945, for Seattle for repairs and over haul due to damage sustained at Okinawa. Arriving at Seattle on 12 June 1945, she was drydocked until 26 July 1945, and on 5 August 1945, proceeded to San Diego for refresher training operations. On 20 August 1945, she departed for Pearl Harbor where she arrived on the 30th.

On 13 September 1945, 167 Marine troops reported aboard and she departed for Sasebo, Japan, via Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok and Okinawa, arriving 8 October 1945. She returned to San Francisco on 27 December 1945.

After a trip to San Pedro, she returned to San Francisco, arriving on 20 January 1946, and her Coast Guard crew was removed and replaced by Navy personnel on 29 March 1946.

The *LST-762* was awarded one battle star for her service during World War II.

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### **Photographs:**

None available.

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### **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.

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