



USS LST-766

Builder: American Bridge Company, Ambridge, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 25 September 1944

Decommissioned: 19 March 1946

Disposition: Sold for commercial operations on 24 December 1946 to Pedro Bidegaray. Her ultimate fate is unknown.

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:

LT Lester W. Newton, USCGR: 25 September 1944 - 17 April 1945

LT W. H. Clay, USCGR: 17 April 1945 - 24 December 1945

LT W. W. Lyon, USCGR: 24 December 1945 - 19 March 1946

History:**USS LST-766**
LST Flotilla 29, Group 86, Division 171

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-766* was commissioned on 25 September 1944 under the command of LT Lester W. Newton, USCGR. After shakedown exercises in St. Andrews Bay, Florida, she proceeded to Gulfport, Mississippi for loading and departed for Pearl Harbor on 28 October 1944, via the Canal Zone and San Diego, arriving on 10 December 1944.

She engaged in amphibious training in the Hawaiian area and on 19 February 1945 appeared off Iwo Jima with the invasion forces. After completing operations at Iwo Jima she returned to the Hawaiian area where she engaged in training activities until 26 April 1945. She proceeded to Okinawa late in April 1945, via Eniwetok, Guam and Saipan, arriving there 14 July 1945, for a two week's stay. Returning to Saipan on 14 August 1945, she engaged in transportation activities between Saipan and Guam, making two trips to Guam and proceeding from there on the second trip to Hagushi and Okinawa on 22 September 1945, arriving at the latter point on the 27th. From Okinawa she went to Tsingtao, China, returning to Guam for a three week layover on 26 October 1945.

She returned to San Francisco on 16 December 1945, by way of Guam and Pearl Harbor. Here she was decommissioned on 19 March 1946.

The *LST-766* was awarded one battle star for her service during World War II.

Photographs:

None available.

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.

