



USS LST-787

Builder: Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 13 September 1944

Decommissioned: 27 May 1946

Disposition: Sold for scrap on 7 May 1948, to the Bethlehem Steel Company, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

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 W. S. Lawrence, USCGR: 9 August 1944 - 29 January 1946

LT Andrew G. Ramstad: 29 January 1946 - 27 May 1946.

History:

USS LST-787

LST Flotilla 29, Group 85, Division 170

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-787* was built at Pittsburgh by the Dravo Corporation. She left the shipyard on 4 September 1944, and proceeded down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans where she was commissioned on 13 September 1944. Her first commanding officer was LT W. S. Lawrence, USCGR. After shakedown at Panama City, Florida, she was loaded with five LCT sections and departed for Mobile, Alabama, to take on a tank deck cargo of ammunition. She waited out a Gulf hurricane from October 11th to the 19th.

Arriving Pearl Harbor on 6 December 1944, via the Canal Zone, San Pedro and Port Hueneme. Cargo, ammunition and LCT sections were unloaded at Pearl Harbor and a preload taken aboard, and after rehearsals and embarkation of the 4th Marine elements and equipment in the Maui-Hawaii-Kaloolae, area, from January 14th to 20th, 1945, for the invasion of Iwo Jima. She reached Saipan via Eniwetok on February 10th, where amphibian tractors and additional Marines were loaded and after a rehearsal off Tinian on February 12th and 13th she departed Saipan on the 15th, arriving off Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands on 19 February 1945, D-day. Here she launched her amphibian tractors with Marines embarked and was then occupied with amtrack supply and maintenance. On February 23rd, and 24th, she beached and unloaded "hot cargo" of trailers, ammunition, gasoline, maintenance amtracks and crews. Ferrying troops and equipment from transports on February 26th and 27th, she departed Iwo Jima on February 28th, arriving at Saipan on March 5th.

From March 9th to 13th, a Fleet Marine Force of heavy AAA elements and equipment was loaded at Tinian and the 787 departed Saipan on 26 March 1945, arriving off Okinawa on D-day, 2 April 1945. The Marines were debarked at Hagushi from the 9th to the 14th of April and pontoon causeways launched at le Shima on 20 April 1945, miscellaneous Army units being ferried from Okinawa to le Shima on the 28th and 29th. At Kerama Rhetto from May 3rd to 15th a tank deck cargo of empty shell cases and brass was loaded from combat ships. In a raid on the 13th the 787 claimed destruction of an enemy aircraft and on the 20th she departed Okinawa, reaching Saipan on 26 May 1945.

Departing Saipan on 5 June 1945, the 787 joined a convoy on the 7th and arrived at Leyte on the 10th. Departing on the 12th arrived at Lingayen Gulf on the 15th where she loaded elements of the 308th Bomb Wing, 5th Air Force, with equipment and on the 20th departed for Okinawa, arriving on the 24th. On the 26th she loaded elements and equipment of the 307th Regiment, 77th Army Division at Hagushi and on the 29th departed Okinawa, arriving on July 14th at Leyte. Proceeding to Cebu on the 5th she unloaded at Davao on the 7th and returned to Subic Bay on the 11th. Here she loaded a 5th Air Force Service

Squadron and equipment and departed on the 16th, towing an Army crash boat, anchoring at Lingayen Gulf on 17 July 1945, at a typhoon alert.

Underway on the 18th she beat up and down the Luzon coast, casting off her tow on the 15th in rough sea and high wind and resuming her course on the 20th. On the 21st and 22nd escorts reported submarine contacts but she reached Okinawa on July 23rd. On the 26th she took aboard elements and equipment of the 382nd Regiment, 96th Army Division and sortied and returned to anchor on the 30th with a typhoon threatening. She departed 1 August 1945, executing a typhoon avoidance plan and making a wide swing to the east on August 4th after contacts which suggested a submarine wolf pack, and arrived at Leyte on August 7th. She departed on the 10th to unload at Mindoro on the 12th. She returned to Subic Bay on the 13th and next day VJ-day was celebrated. Proceeding to Leyte on the 19th she went into drydock from September 5th to 7th for stern tube bearing overhaul and bottom painting.

The 787 left Leyte on September 15th for Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippine Islands where on the 18th and 19th elements and equipment of the 116th Engineer Combat Battalion, 41st Army Division were loaded, departing for Honshu, Japan on the 19th. She changed course on the 26th. On the 28th she stood out on a typhoon avoiding retirement, circling west and north and east in the China Sea and returning to Okinawa on 1 October 1945. On October 2nd, she departed Okinawa, passing through the Bungo Strait and Inland Sea, Japan on the 6th where three mines were sighted and anchorage made off Tsuru Island. Honshu was reached and the ship beached and unloaded on October 7th, at Hiro, Honshu, Japan. A typhoon to the south delayed departure until October 11th, and the 787 arrived at Manila on October 18th, leaving on the 23rd for Lingayen Gulf. There, on the 24th and 25th, casual 25th Division officers and elements and equipment of the 66th Signal Battalion and the 1292nd Engineer Combat Battalion were loaded and the 787 departed on October 26th for Nagoya, Japan.

Departing Nagoya on 8 November 1945, she began her last journey towards them. She reached Saipan on November 14th, Pearl Harbor on December 9th, San Diego on December 27th, San Pedro on 4 January 1946, and San Francisco on January 17th. Here she was decommissioned on 27 May 1946.

The *LST-787* earned two battle stars for her service during World War II.



No official caption/photo number; photographer unknown.

The LST-787 beached at Iwo Jima, 1945.

U.S. Navy photograph provided courtesy of LST-764 veteran Paul George.



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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.

