



USS LST-887

Builder: Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 8 November 1944

Decommissioned: Fully manned by a Navy crew on 29 March 1946

Disposition: Sold under terms of the Foreign Assistance Sales Program to Indonesia and renamed *Tanjung Nusanive* (LST-1); ultimate fate 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 Loring Chandler, USCGR

LT Robert A. Orr, USCGR

History:

USS LST-887

LST Flotilla 29, Group 87, Division 174

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-887* was built by the Dravo Corporation Shipyard, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and ferried down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans, where she was fully commissioned on November 7, 1944. Her first commanding officer was Lt. Loring Chandler, USCGR. After loading supplies, provisions, fuel and ammunition she departed for two weeks shakedown exercises at Panama City, Florida, (St. Andrews Bay) on November 7, 1944. From there she proceeded to Gulfport, Mississippi, where she loaded Quonset huts, plywood, glass and jeeps for Pearl Harbor, departing on December 3, 1944.

She reached Pearl Harbor on February 24, 1945, via New Orleans, the Canal Zone, San Diego and Puget Sound, at which latter port she loaded 129 officers and men, with vehicles and equipment of the 1901st Engineers Aviation Battalion and the 135th Engineer A Regiment. At Pearl Harbor on March 3rd, 282 additional troops of the above units were brought aboard including one officer and 22 men of the 128th Causeway Battalion, USNCB. Departing Pearl Harbor March 4, 1945, as part of Task Group 51.13.4 she stopped one day each at Eniwetok and Saipan and reached Okinawa on the morning of April 2, 1945, proceeding to Hagushi Beaches on the west side of Okinawa. Here she beached on Orange Beach and commenced unloading to pontoons from the coral reef 150 yards to seaward.

Unloading was completed on the 14th and the *887* anchored in the Okina area until April 16th, amid daily air alerts but with no plane coming close enough to attack until the 6th of April. From the 6th there were several raids each day doing damage to nearby ships. Loading 60 personnel and DUKWs of the 728th Infantry Tractor Battalion on the 9th, the *887* proceeded to Kerama Rhetto for a day returning to Okinawa on the 10th. Eight members of the crew were wounded while at anchor during the next ten days and were later awarded the Purple Heart. On the 12th the *887* took credit for shooting down a Japanese plane which had approached at a low altitude with no ships intervening. The plane burst into flames and crashed 600 yard off the port quarter. There were two severe storms during the period and many boats broached, with the smaller ones being lost. She departed Okinawa on April 16th, for Ulithi in convoy arriving there on the 22nd for repairs and remaining until May 10, 1945.

She departed Ulithi for Guadalcanal on May 10th, via Manus and Russell Islands and there embarked 77 members of the 11th Motor Transport Battalion and 4th Amphibious Tractor Battalion of the 3rd U. S. Marine Corps, departing for Guam, via Eniwetok on May 26th. Arriving at Guam June 9, 1945, she unloaded and proceeded to Saipan arriving on the 16th to load 4,400 drums of 80-octane

gasoline for Okinawa, where she arrived on the 26th. After unloading at Nago Wan she proceeded to Naha to take aboard 220 men of the 6th Assault Tractor Battalion, 9th Amphibious Tractor Battalion and the 6th Assault Signal Company of the U. S. Marine Corps who were veterans of many campaigns ultimately bound for the United States. They were disembarked at Guam on July 11, 1945, and the ship returned to Saipan on July 12th. Here she underwent logistics until July 29, 1945, when she departed for Agrihan, Marianas loaded with 350 men and equipment of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Division, 10th U. S. Marine Corps. The same troops were returned to Saipan on August 12th. On August 27th the 887 departed for Peleliu where she arrived on August 31, 1945, to embark 227 men and equipment of the 10th Service Battalion, U. S. Marine Corps and the 8th AAF Radio Squadron. Departing Peleliu on September 2, 1945, she arrived at Saipan on the 6th and after unloading the Marines, took on more cargo and the Army unit to Guam, returning to Saipan on the 14th.

Here she was attached to the 5th Amphibious Force and loaded with 286 men of the 43rd U.S. Navy Sea Bees and 2nd Assault Signal Corps, USMC, for Japan. She left Saipan on the 17th of September and arrived at Nagasaki on the 24th. Unloading was completed on the 27th and she proceeded to Sasebo to join a Task Group leaving for Manila on the 28th. Arriving at Manila on October 6, 1945, she departed for Lingayen Gulf on the 10th arriving next day to take aboard 225 personnel and cargo of the 75th Amphibious Tractor Company, 750th Quartermaster Railhead Battalion, 38th Post Surgical Hospital Battalion and 198th Signal Photograph Battalion, USA, and departing for Mitsuhamma, Japan on the 18th. Beaching at Mitsuhamma on October 25th, 1945, she unloaded and departed for Manila on the 29th. She heaved to at Hirowan for a day (30th October) in a severe tropical storm and she arrived at Manila November 6, 1945. On the 9th she proceeded to Subic Bay for drydocking. She left for Batangas following her availability and from there proceeded to Mindoro on November 30th returning to Batangas December 3rd and proceeding to Manila on the 8th. She arrived at Lingayen on December 15, 1945, and picking up troops to be returned home sailed for the United States on December 16, 1945.

She arrived at San Francisco on January 30, 1946, via Guam and Pearl Harbor. By March 29, 1946, she was completely Navy manned.

The *LST-887* earned 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.

