



USS LST-262

Builder: American Bridge Company in Ambridge, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 16 June 1943

Decommissioned: 14 January 1946

Disposition: Sold for scrap.

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

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 Herman W. Klotz, USCGR: 16 June 1943 -

LT Victor M. Hill, USCGR:

LT (jg) K. V. Lawrence, USCGR:

LT F. G. Stoye, USCGR

History:

USS LST-262

LST Flotilla 12, Group 35, Division 69

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-262* was laid down on 7 September 1943 at the American Bridge Company of Ambridge, Pennsylvania. She was launched on 13 February 1943 and commissioned on 16 June 1943 under the command of LT Herman W. Klotz, USCGR.

(Reports of operations from date of commissioning to 4 April 1944 are not available.)

The *LST-262* was operating in the Mediterranean area on 14 April 1944 and arrived in England on 3 May 1944. She was in service in the United Kingdom until 1 July 1944 when she was rammed by the *LST-373*, resulting in a hole just forward of the port booby hatch. The compartment was dogged off and operations continued. On 14 July 1944, a temporary patch was placed over the hole, replaced by a permanent repair later. She continued operations in England until 14 June 1945, when she left for Norfolk.

On 1 July 1, 1945, she arrived at Norfolk and on 6 July 1945 at New York. Proceeding to New Orleans she arrived there 18 July 1945 and went to Orange, Texas, on availability until 17 October 1945, when she returned to Norfolk, arriving 15 November 1945. On 8 December 1945, she went to Poole's Island but returned to Norfolk for disposal.

She was decommissioned at Norfolk on 14 January 1946. She was struck from the Naval Register on 19 June 1946 and sold for scrap on 9 December 1947 to the N. Block and Company in Norfolk.

The *LST-262* was awarded two battle stars for her service during World War II.



No caption/date (mid-June, 1944?); Photo No. 2517; photographer unknown.

A panoramic view of the Omaha beachhead after it was secured, sometime around mid-June 1944. The Coast Guard-manned LST-262 is the third beached LST from the right, one of 10 Coast Guard-manned LSTs that participated in the invasion of Normandy, France, in June, 1944.

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.
