

USS *LST-758*

Builder: American Bridge Company, Ambridge, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 19 August 1944

Decommissioned: Coast Guard crew departed 29 March 1946 and Navy took over.

Disposition: Sold by MARAD in 1981.

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 Felix J. Molenda: 19 August 1944 - 29 March 1946

History:

USS *LST-758*
LST Flotilla 29, Group 85, Division 169

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-758* was placed in commission on 19 August 1944 under the command of LT Felix J. Molenda, USCG. Departing Gulfport, Mississippi, on 11 September 1944, she proceeded to Pearl Harbor via the Canal Zone, arriving there on 21 October 1944. Early in February she left for the invasion of Iwo Jima, proceeding by way of Saipan and arriving off Iwo Jima on 19 February 1945. She returned to Saipan on 4 March 1945, and made preparations for the Okinawa invasion, arriving off Okinawa on D+1 day, 2 April 1945. She remained in the Okinawa area until 11 April 1945, and then returned to Saipan. Resupply runs to Okinawa brought her back there on 29 April 1945 and 5 June 1945. Returning to Saipan on 21 July 1945, she next called at the Russell Islands and then at Leyte on 4 September 1945, Manila on 15 September 1945 and Lingayen on 2 September 1945.

On 12 December 1945 she left Samar for return to the United States, arriving in San Francisco via Pearl Harbor and San Diego on 20 January 1946. She was turned over to the Navy on 29 March 1946 and was placed out of commission and in reserve by the Navy on 13 July 1946. She was eventually recommissioned and served during the Korean War and was decommissioned again in 1969. After remaining in the reserve fleet, she was sold by MARAD in 1981. Her ultimate fate is unknown.

The *LST-758* was awarded two battle stars for her service during World War II.



No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.

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.
