



USS LST-761

Builder: American Bridge Co., Ambridge, PA.

Commissioned: 2 September 1944

Decommissioned: Coast Guard crew removed in March 1946; decommissioned on 16 July 1946.

Disposition: 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 H. A. Swagart, USCGR: 2 September 1944 - 29 March 1946

History:

USS LST-761

LST Flotilla 29, Group 85, Division 170

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-761* was commissioned on 2 September 1944 at New Orleans under the command of LT H. A. Swagart, USCGR. On the 8th she departed for two weeks of shakedown at St. Andrews Bay, Florida. On the 25th she received 12 Navy men and one officer to man *LCT-1116* and the next day a similar group to man *LCT-803*.

The *761* remained at New Orleans until 2 October 1944, when she departed for Gulfport, Mississippi, to take on cargo. By the 6th she was underway to Coco Solo Naval Base, Colon, Canal Zone where 129 Army personnel came aboard for transportation to San Diego on the 12th and three Navy men on the 14th. Due to illness of a crew member she put into Corinto, Nicaragua on the 18th where she grounded on Saya Bank as all navigational aids had been extinguished. She was able to retract, however, and moored at the Grace Line pier. Departing the next day she entered San Diego harbor on the 28th and proceeded immediately to San Pedro where she disembarked passengers and went into drydock on the 31st. She remained in drydock and in repair status until November 7th when 100 Navy personnel came aboard for transportation to Pearl Harbor and she departed in company with LST-784 and YMSs 407, 193 and 374. Reaching Pearl Harbor on the 18th she disembarked passengers and completed unloading by the 24th. She remained at Pearl Harbor through December 1944 and January 1945, part of that time being spent in repair status. Departing Pearl Harbor early in February 1945 she arrived at Saipan on 11 February 1945, and on the 19th she reached Iwo Jima where she took part in the invasion. She made a second run to Iwo Jima, arriving there on 25 March 1945. She then returned to Saipan on 15 April 1945, and to San Francisco via Pearl Harbor, 27 May 1945, for two months availability. One more trip was made to Pearl Harbor, arriving 7 September 1945, and she then returned to San Pedro via San Diego on 6 October 1945.

She proceeded to San Francisco, arriving there on 14 February 1946, and on 29 March 1946 was completely manned by Navy personnel. She was decommissioned July 16, 1946.

The *LST-761* 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.
