



# Frederick Lee, 1927

WSC-139

---

Revenue Captain Frederick Lee was a noted Revenue officer who commanded the cutter *Eagle* during the War of 1812.

---

CLASS: Active Class Patrol Boat

BUILDER: American Brown Boveri Electric Corp., Camden, NJ

COMMISSIONED: 4 April 1927

LAUNCHED: 14 February 1927

DECOMMISSIONED: 15 December 1964 and sold 19 May 1966

DISPLACEMENT: 232 tons

PROPULSION: 2 x 6-cylinder, 300 hp engines

LENGTH: 125 feet

BEAM: 23 feet, 6 inches

DRAFT: 7 feet, 6 inches

PERFORMANCE:

Max speed: 13 knots, 1945, 2,500 mile range

Econ. speed: 8.0 knots, 3,500 mile range

COMPLEMENT: 3 officers, 17 men (1960)

ARMAMENT: 1927: 1x 3"/27

1941: 1 x 3"/23, 2 x depth charge tracks

1945: 1 x 40mm/80 (single), 2 x 20mm/80 (single), 2 x depth charge tracks, 2 x

mousetraps

1960: 1 x 40mm/60

---

## Class History:

This class of vessels was one of the most useful and long-lasting in Coast Guard service with 16 cutters still in use in the 1960's. The last to be decommissioned from active service was the *Morris* in 1970; the last in actual service was the *Cuyahoga*, which sank after an accidental collision in 1978. They were designed for trailing the "mother ships" along the outer line of patrol during Prohibition. They were constructed at a cost of \$63,173 each. They gained a reputation for durability that was only enhanced by their re-engining in the late 1930's; their original 6-cylinder diesels were replaced by significantly more powerful 8-cylinder units that used the original engine beds and gave the vessels 3 additional knots. All served in World War II, but two, the *Jackson* and *Bedloe*, were lost in a storm in 1944. Ten were refitted as buoy tenders during the war and reverted to patrol work afterward.

---

## Cutter History

This vessel was named for a Revenue Service captain who commanded the cutter EAGLE in the War of 1812. The CGC LEE was stationed at Boston, Massachusetts, through World War II on escort and weather duties as well as in the Greenland Patrol. She was at Chicago, Illinois from 1945 through 1951; New Bedford, Massachusetts from 1951 to 1963; and Freeport, Texas from 1963 to 1964.

---

## Sources:

Cutter History File, Coast Guard Historian's Office.

Donald Canney. *U.S. Coast Guard and Revenue Cutters, 1790-1935*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1995.

U.S. Coast Guard. *Record of Movements: Vessels of the United States Coast Guard: 1790 - December 31, 1933*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934; 1989 (reprint).

---