



Magnolia, 1904

WAGL-231

Any of various deciduous or evergreen trees and shrubs of the genus *Magnolia* of the Western Hemisphere and Asia, many of which are cultivated for their showy white, pink, purple, or yellow flowers.

Builder: Baltimore Shipping & Drydock Company, Baltimore, Maryland

Length: 173'

Beam: 30' 5"

Draft: 13' 1"

Displacement: 877-tons

Cost: \$124,873.60

Commissioned: 5 May 1904

Decommissioned: n/a: sunk on 25 August 1945

Disposition: Sunk

Machinery: 2 compound surface condensing steam engines; 2 Page & Burton coal-fired, watertube boilers; 700 SHP; 2 propellers

Performance & Endurance:

Max: 11.5 knots

Cruising: 10.5 knots; 1,400 mile range

Deck Gear:

Complement: 27 (1910); 41 (1945)

Armament: 1 x 3"/50; 2 x 20mm/80; 2 depth charge tracks

Electronics: SO-8 detection radar; WEA-2a sonar (1945)

Tender History:

The *Magnolia* was one of two *Magnolia*-class bay and sound tenders built for the Lighthouse Service by the Baltimore Shipbuilding & Drydock Company of Baltimore, Maryland. She was launched in October of 1903 and commissioned on 5 May 1904. She was assigned to the 8th Lighthouse District as an inspection tender and was based out of Mobile, Alabama. She was converted from coal to oil-burning in 1934.

She was rammed amidships on 25 August 1945 by the cargo ship SS *Marguerite Lehend* off Mobile Bay. She sank in two minutes and one of her crew was killed. The other 49 were rescued. Those survivors cross-decked to the new tender CGC *Salvia* (WAGL-400) which then took her place.

Sources:

Douglas Peterson. *United States Lighthouse Service Tenders, 1840-1939*. Annapolis: Eastwind Publishing, 2000.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft of World War II*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1982.

