



# Palmetto, 1917

WAGL-265

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Any palm of the genus *Thrinax* or *Coccothrinax*.

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Builder: Merrill-Stevens Dry Dock & Repair Company, Jacksonville, Florida

Length: 90'

Beam: 22'

Draft: 4'

Displacement: 170-tons

Cost: \$28,975

Commissioned: 19 March 1917

Decommissioned: 23 March 1958

Disposition: Sold

Machinery: 2 four-cylinder 150 HP gasoline engines (1917); 2 Superior 350 HP diesel engines (1930); twin propellers

Performance & Endurance:

Max: 7.5 knots

Cruising: 7 knots; 1,000 mile range

Deck Gear: Wood derrick; gasoline-powered hoist; 8-ton capacity

Complement: 11 (1917)

Armament: None

Electronics: None

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### **Tender History:**

The *Palmetto* was built at Jacksonville, Florida in 1916 as a small bay tender for the Lighthouse Service. She was designed for shoal-water service in the Jacksonville area. She had a steel hull, wood deck and superstructure. Upon commissioning she immediately assumed tender duties out of her permanent station at Charleston, South Carolina. She continued to operate out of Charleston until 1939, when the Lighthouse Service became part of the Coast Guard.

She remained in an active status as a Coast Guard buoy tender until 1 November 1941, when Executive Order 8929 transferred the Coast Guard to the Navy. *Palmetto* continued naval service as a buoy tender stationed at Charleston until 1 January 1946, when she returned to the Treasury Department. Thereafter she functioned as a harbor and coastal buoy tender, servicing the navigational aids in the Charleston area. She was fitted with a pile driver when needed.

*Palmetto* was decommissioned on 23 May 1958 and was sold 13 April 1959 at Charleston.

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### **Sources:**

*Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. Washington, DC: USGPO.

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.

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