



Unalga, 1946

(ex- USS *Tipton*)

WAK-185; AKA-215; MC-2169

An island off Alaska.

Builder: Leatham D. Smith Shipbuilding Company, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

Class: Maritime Commission C1-M-AV1 Type

Length: 338' 9" oa

Beam: 50' 4" max

Draft: 17' 3" max (1966)

Displacement: 5,650 tons fl (1966)

Cost: \$2,100,000

Launched: 13 March 1945

Commissioned: 10 April 1945 (mercantile); 9 October 1946 (USN); 21 October 1946 (USCG)

Decommissioned: 19 June 1950

Disposition: Transferred to the Maritime Commission

Machinery: 1 x two-cycle 6-cylinder Norberg diesel; single screw

SHP: 1,700

Maximum Speed: 10.6 knots; 24,273 mile range

Cruising: 8.0 knots; 27,500 mile range

Complement: 112

Electronics:

Detection Radar: SO-4 (1950)

Radio Call Sign: NRCP

Armament: None

History:

The *Unalga*, one of three Maritime Commission C1-M-AV1 type freighter acquired by the Coast Guard after World War II for service in the construction of the many LORAN stations planned for operation around the globe. The *Unalga* was the former USS *Tipton* that the Coast Guard acquired from the Navy in 1946. She was converted for use as a construction supply freighter at the Coast Guard Yard. After the conversion was complete she was ordered to the Pacific Northwest.

She was stationed at Seattle, Washington. She was used primarily for the construction of the Alaskan LORAN stations. On 28 November 1948 she rendered assistance to the M/V *Kasilof*. She was decommissioned on 19 January 1950 and was turned over to the Maritime Commission.

Sources:

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft, 1946-1990*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1990.
