



USS LST-19

Builder: Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 15 May 1943

Assigned to: LST Flotilla 13, Group 37, Division 73

Decommissioned: 20 March 1946

Disposition: Sold on 5 December 1947 to Ships and Power Equipment Company of Barber, New Jersey, for scrapping.

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:

LCDR Charles M. Blackford, III, USCGR: 15 May 1943 - ?

LT Howard K. Heath, USCGR: ?

LTJG. Oakley, Jr., USCGR: 8 June 1945 - 12 October 1945

LTJG D. S. Williams, USCGR: 12 October 1945 - 20 March 1946

History:

USS *LST-19* LST Flotilla 13, Group 37, Division 73

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-19* was built in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by the Dravo Corporation. She was laid down on 22 October 1942 and was launched on 11 March 1943. Mrs. Frances P. Gott sponsored the new vessel. She was floated down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and entered commissioned service on 15 May 1943 under the command of LCDR Charles M. Blackford, III, USCGR. The Navy then assigned *LST-19* to LST Flotilla 13, Group 37, Division 73.

From 1 - 17 July 1943, she was on the California coast en route to Alaska. She stopped at San Diego, Mare Island Navy Yard and San Francisco, loading cargo and embarking Army personnel at the latter location. On 17 July 1943 she was underway out of San Francisco Bay, arriving at the Naval Air Station, Woman's Bay, Kodiak, Alaska on 25 July 1943. On the 27th she was underway in convoy with three Navy escorts and in company with LSTs 20, 23, 69, 169, 205, and 479 for Adak Island in the Aleutians where she arrived on 1 August 1943. Here the Army personnel were disembarked and *LCT-81* launched. Beaching exercises were carried out. Practice operations were continued, some in Great Sitkin Island area and cargo was unloaded at Sweeper's Cove. Departing Adak on 14 August 1943, the *LST-19* took position in a convoy operating with Task Force 16.10. On the 16th she broke off and proceeded independently, anchoring off Kiska Island. She then entered Kiska Harbor on the 19th and began unloading Army equipment. Getting underway on the 19th in convoy with *LST-69* and LCIs 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, and 82, escorted by the USS *Coughlan*, she began proceeding independently on the 22nd and anchored at Adak Island. She departed for San Francisco on 31 August 1943 but turned back to Adak due to engine problems.

(No further records of movements of *LST-19* are available until 4 April 1944.)

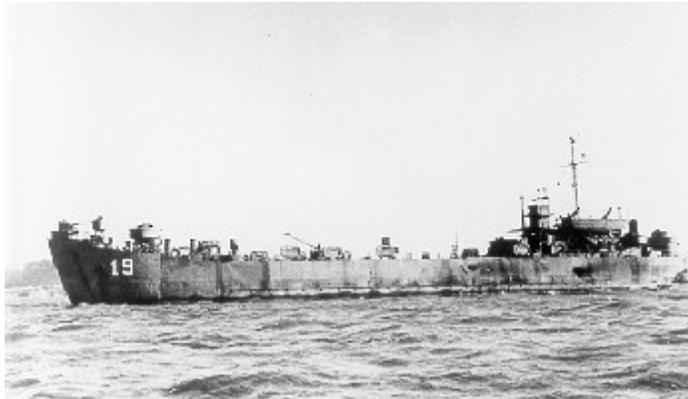
The *LST-19* was at San Pedro on 4 April 1944. Proceeding to San Diego and San Francisco, she departed for Pearl Harbor on 3 May 1944. Proceeding by way of Saipan and Eniwetok *LST-19* arrived at Peleliu on D-1 day, 14 September 1944, and was also engaged in the raids on Volocano-Bonia and Yap. She

returned to Peleliu and Angaur on 24 December 1944. On the 31st she was at Fais Island, returning to Peleliu on 15 January 1945.

The *LST-19* arrived at Kossol on 4 February 1945, and Ulithi on 11 February. She departed Ulithi on 5 March for San Francisco via Eniwetok, Pearl Harbor, San Pedro and San Diego, arriving on 28 July 1945. On 5 August 1945 she departed San Francisco for Pearl Harbor, returning on 3 September 1945. The *LST-19* was redesignated as *LSTH-19* on 15 September 1945. Again departing San Francisco on 25 September 1945, she proceeded to Wakayama, Japan, via Pearl Harbor and Buckner Bay, Okinawa, arriving there on 5 November 1945. She returned to San Francisco in January of 1946 via Saipan and Pearl Harbor. She then sailed for Charleston, South Carolina, via the Canal Zone, on 18 January 1946, arriving at Charleston on 14 February 1946.

The *LST-19* was decommissioned and her Coast Guard crew removed on 20 March 1946. She earned four battle stars for her service during World War II.

[Click here](#) to access an illustrated memoir of *LST-19*'s World War II career, written by one of her crewmen, QM 3/c Walter Nasmyth, USCGR.



"USS LST-19 in San Francisco Bay, 1945-46."; Photo No. NH-82162;
courtesy of Donald M. McPherson, 1975;
Naval Historical Center photograph, released.

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.

