



USS LST-25

Builder: Dravo Corporation, Wilmington, Delaware

Commissioned: 3 May 1943

Assigned to: LST Flotilla 17, Group 51, Division 101

Decommissioned: USCG crew switched vessels with the Navy crew of USS LST-381 on 25 August 1943.

Disposition: sold for scrapping, 31 March 1948, to Kaiser Company, Inc., Seattle, Washington.

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: 66 men, 6 officers (when commissioned); 76 men, 6 officers (August, 1943)

Troops: LST had 14 passenger berthing compartments with 9 bunks each along with accommodations for 20 transient officers for a total troop capacity of 146 people. Most of the time the troops being transported preferred to sleep in their vehicles.

Initial Armament: 6x 10mm single mount; 1 x 3"/50 caliber dual-purpose rifle (1943); 7 x 40mm single mount; 12 x 20mm single mount; 1 x 3"/50 caliber dual-purpose rifle (1945)

Coast Guard Commanding Officers:

LT J. B. Holmes, USCGR: 3 May 1943 - 7 July 1943

LT J. P. Houlihan, USCGR: 7 July 1943 - 25 August 1943

History:

USS *LST-25*

LST Flotilla 17, Group 51, Division 101

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-25* was built at the Dravo Corporation's Wilmington, Delaware yard in the spring of 1943. She was sponsored by Miss Dolly Hemphill. The Navy commissioned *LST-25* on 3 May 1943 under the command of LT J.B. Holmes, USCGR. She was outfitted in the Philadelphia Navy Yard during the next two weeks and received her shakedown in the Chesapeake Bay and there operated as a training ship for new LST crews. On 7 July 1943, LT J. P. Houlihan, USCGR, took over command.

In mid-July, 1943, she proceeded to Davisville, Rhode Island, to load for overseas duty. Returning to Norfolk, she embarked 21 US Navy officers and 165 enlisted Construction Battalion (CB) personnel and on 27 July 1943 she sailed for North African waters, arriving at Oran on 14 August 1943, where she disembarked her passengers and unloaded her cargo. A week later she proceeded to Bizerte, Tunisia, and here her Coast Guard crew switched ships with the Navy crew of USS *LST-381*. The exchange was made on 25 August 1943.

The *LST-25* earned three battle stars for her service during World War II.



Donated courtesy of Gordon B. Lease, a crewman of LSTs 25 & 381. He notes that:

"LST-25, Spring, 1943, near Little Creek, Virginia. Practice landing while engaged in training new crews. Ship is in the act of retracting from the beach. Note disturbed water and wake to the left of the ship."



Donated courtesy of Gordon B. Lease, a crewman of LSTs 25 & 381. He notes that:

"Photo of three inch fifty caliber dual purpose gun aboard USS LST-25, May, 1943, showing detail of fire director's scope and gun pointer's scope and other equipment. This weapon was very effective for surface targets but nearly useless as an anti-aircraft gun. Most of these were

replaced by 40 millimeter single or dual mounts by early 1945. Crew of this gun was GM1/c Gordon Lease, Dickinson, Fleming, McAlister & Stover (all Coast Guardsmen). The 3"-50 dual purpose rifle had a 3" bore and 150" long barrel. Effective range was 8 miles. Anti-aircraft max was 15,000 feet."



Donated courtesy of Gordon B. Lease, a crewman of LSTs 25 & 381. He notes that:

"USS LST-17, Coast Guard manned. Taken Spring of 1943 near Little Creek, Virginia, as the ship approached the beach while practicing beaching. Photo was taken from LST-25, also Coast Guard manned. Note the bow doors are fully open and vehicle ramp is 3/4 down. This was SOPOS for beaching, to save time of offloading combat vehicles."

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.

