



# USS LST-26

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Builder: Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 7 June 1943

Assigned to: LST 7, Group 21, Division 41

Decommissioned: 1 April 1946

Disposition: Sold to Arctic Circle Exploration, Seattle, Washington, on 17 June 1946 for conversion to merchant service.

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

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## Commanding Officers:

LT Raymond B. Newell: 7 June 1943 - ?

LT Frederick R. Ketcham, USCGR: ?

ENS E. W. Dahl, USCGR: 11 December 1945 - 31 December 1945  
LCDR Leroy Howell: 31 December 1945 - 1 April 1946

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## History:

### **USS *LST-26* LST Flotilla 7, Group 21, Division 41**

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-26* was laid down at the Dravo Corporation's Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania yard on 16 November 1942 and was launched on 31 March 1943. The new warship was sponsored by Mrs. Mathilda B. Coulter. The *LST-26* entered commissioned service on 7 June 1943 under the command of LT Raymond B. Newell, USCG.

Proceeding to the Pacific, *LST-26* was at Towneville, Australia, on 29 October 1943. From there she proceeded to Naples, Italy, arriving on 5 June 1944. On 30 July 1944 she was back in New Guinea. On 15 September 1944 she participated in the landings at Morotai, in the Halamberas. She also participated in the landings at Leyte, Philippines, on 20 October 1944. She left Leyte on 3 April 1945, for Manila and after proceeding to Subic Bay returned to Leyte on 2 May 1945. Departing Leyte on 8 August 1945, she proceeded to Manus, Torokina and Hollandia. Leaving Hollandia on 29 August 1945, she arrived at Zamboanga, Mindanao on 3 September 1945. From there she went to Okinawa and returned to San Francisco, via Leyte and Pearl Harbor, arriving at San Francisco on 6 December 1945.

She was decommissioned and her Coast Guard crew removed on 1 April 1946. She was struck from the Naval Register on 8 May 1946 and sold to Arctic Circle Exploration, Seattle, Washington, on 17 June 1946 for conversion to merchant service.

The USS *LST-26* earned five battle stars for World War II service.

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"Hollandia road to Tokyo. . ."; no date (May, 1944?); Photo No. 2301; photographer unknown.

The USS *LST-26* is the first LST from the bottom of the photo.



"Rolling drums at Biak. . ."; no date (Spring, 1944?); Photo No. 2445; photographer unknown.

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### 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.

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