



USS LST-794

Builder: Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 16 October 1944

Decommissioned: Fully manned by USN personnel by 9 July 1946

Disposition: Sunk as a target on 22 May 1958.

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:

LT W. C. Cain, USCGR: 9 August 1944 -

LT George C. Gross, Jr., USCGR

LT(jg) George E. Goodman, USCGR: 20 February 1946 -

History:

USS LST-794

LST Flotilla 29, Group 87, Division 173

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-794* was built at the Neville Island Shipyard, Coropolis, Pennsylvania, by the Dravo Corporation and after passage down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans was commissioned on 16 October 1944. After alterations she proceeded on her shakedown cruise and exercises in St. Andrews Bay, Florida, from 24 October 1944, until she returned to New Orleans on 9 November 1944. She departed for Gulfport, Mississippi on November 15th for heavy equipment loading.

The *794* arrived at Pearl Harbor, via the Canal Zone, San Pedro and Port Hueneme, California, on 23 December 1944, and after unloading heavy equipment, commenced loading personnel as passengers for *Espirito Santo* and for the Russell Islands. She departed Pearl Harbor on 2 January 1945, in company with *LSM-75* and without escort. Arriving at *Espirito Santo* on January 16th, she debarked passengers and in company with *LST-945* proceeded to Banika, Russell Islands without escort. Arriving on the 20th she proceeded to Pavuvu, Russell Islands without escort. Between January 22nd and February 23rd, operating under Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, she transported troops and cargo between Russell Islands and Guadalcanal.

Between 24th and 28th of February she loaded personnel and cargo at Tulagi and Guadalcanal in preparation for forthcoming practice exercises for the invasion of Okinawa. On 9 March 1945, she reembarked combat personnel and vehicles (17 LVTs) of 9th Amphibious Tractor Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and on the 11th reembarked combat personnel of the 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division, FMF, Pacific and on March 12th departed Florida Island for Ulithi staging area where she arrived on March 21st. Here on the 23rd more combat personnel of the 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division and two Coast Guard public relations men were embarked and on the 25th she departed for Okinawa in convoy, escorted. Arriving at Okinawa on 1 April 1945 (D-day), she launched small boats and LVTs in assault waves and put combat personnel ashore in vehicles. On the 2nd she launched *LCT-1392* from her main deck and pontoon causeways from the side carry and then started unloading priority cargo. On April 6th, four of the ships company were wounded by shell splinters in firing on an enemy plane, unloading was completed on April 8th, and the remaining passengers disembarked and on April 11th, she departed Okinawa en route Saipan empty and unescorted in convoy arriving April 17th. She departed Saipan on 7 May 1945, with another load for Okinawa, arriving on May 14th and returning to Saipan on May 26th.

Detached from the 5th Fleet and assigned to the 7th Fleet she departed Saipan unescorted on 14 June 1945, en route Leyte, Philippine Islands, arriving on June

10th. Proceeding to Subic Bay on June 12th, she embarked personnel and equipment of the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile, 5th USAAF for transportation to Okinawa. Proceeding to Lingayen Gulf she joined a convoy there for Okinawa where she arrived on June 24th. On the 27th she embarked personnel and equipment of Headquarters Company and companies A & B, 77th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, and returned to Leyte, arriving on July 4th. On 5 July 1945, she departed Tacloban, Philippine Islands for Cebu, Philippine Islands where she discharged cargo and disembarked troops and returned to Subic Bay in convoy unescorted arriving on July 13th. Here she embarked personnel of the 6th Emergency Rescue Squadron and 421st Night Fighter Squadron, 5th USAAF, with equipment for transportation to Okinawa, arriving via Lingayen Bay on July 23rd. Here she detached from convoy and proceeded to Ie Shima to discharge cargo and disembark passengers, returning to Okinawa on the 26th to embark personnel and equipment of the 321st Medical Battalion, 15th Portable Surgical Hospital, 6th Portable Surgical hospital and 96th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (mechanized), all U. S. Army. Departing Okinawa on 1 August 1945 she arrived at Leyte on the 7th and departed on the 10th for Panducaran, Philippine Islands unescorted, en route Batangas, where she arrived on the 12th. Here equipment of the 27th Infantry Division was loaded and she departed on the 19th for Subic Bay in convoy, unescorted, arriving on the 20th and departing on the 25th for Okinawa, arriving on the 30th. Unloading cargo she embarked personnel and equipment of the 241st Replacement Company, 24th Army Corps COA, the 3rd Signal Battalion DCO, 472nd Amphibious Truck Company and the 29th General Hospital, all U. S. Army for transportation to Jinsen, Korea.

She departed Okinawa on 13 September 1945, and arrived at Jinsen, Korea, on the 17th disembarking passengers and unloading cargo and departed on the 23rd for Okinawa, arriving on September 27th. She departed Okinawa on September 29th, to evade a typhoon returning on 11 October 1945, and embarking personnel and equipment of the 377th Station Hospital 3119th Engineers, 57 Detachment (fp) and the 31st Station Hospital, all U. S. Army, and departed Okinawa on October 18th, for Jinsen, Korea, where after debarking passengers and unloading she departed October 27th. She arrived at Saishu To on October 28th, and embarked Japanese prisoners of war and U. S. Army Guard Detail for transportation to Sasebo, arriving on October 31st. On 2 November 1945, she departed Sasebo for Okinawa.

Arriving Okinawa on 14 November 1945, she departed on the 10th for Taku, China, arriving on the 16th and taking on Japanese prisoners of war for delivery at Sasebo, Japan, where she arrived 1 December 1945. A second trip to Taku ensued as she left Okinawa on December 3rd, and arrived December 7th proceeding to Tsingtao and departing there for Guam December 15th. She returned to Guam December 27th, and proceeded to return to United States arriving at San Francisco via Pearl Harbor on 28 January 1946. She was fully manned by Navy personnel on 29 March 1946, and on 9 July 1946, was placed cut of commission in reserve.

The *LST-794* earned one battle star for her service during World War II.

Photographs:

None available.

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.

