



Anyone identified this ship or any of the other ships in this set?



Operation Nestegg

We almost missed this stamp from a set of six showing military vehicles associated with Jersey as there is a ship in the background. The scene is from Operation Nestegg – the Liberation of Jersey in May 1945 and depicts **LST 285**. The only other possibility would have been **USS LST 289** but on Nov. 30, 1944 she was decommissioned and transferred to the Royal Navy; and it is very unlikely that she would have carried the initials US in front of her number.

We also found a good account of the daily life on-board as she made her trek over the ocean. It was written by Jack H. Langston and we have included some of his story.

LST 285, USS (landing craft)

Jersey #1706 (2013) 88p

1943 – US Navy; American Bridge Co., Ambridge, Pa., US; K. Aug. 16/43, L. Oct. 24/43, C. Dec. 13/43; Displ. 1,625 t.(lt), 4,080 t.(fl) (sea-going draft w/1675 ton load); 328' o.a. x 50' x (draught - light) - 2'4" fwd, 7'6" aft (sea-going) 8'3" fwd, 14' 1" aft (landing) 3'11" fwd, 9'10" aft (landing w/500 ton load); 12 kts (max); Range 24,000 miles @ 9kts while displacing 3,960 tons; Boats 2 LCVP; Cargo Capacity (varied with mission - payloads between 1,600 and 1,900 tons); Typical loads One Landing Craft Tank (LCT), tanks, wheeled and tracked vehicles, artillery, construction equipment and military supplies. A ramp or elevator forward allowed vehicles access to tank deck from main

deck. Additional capacity included sectional pontoons carried on each side of vessel amidships, to either build Rhino Barges or use as causeways. Married to the bow ramp, the causeways would enable payloads to be delivered ashore from deeper water or where a beachhead would not allow the vessel to be grounded forward after ballasting; Armament (varied with availability when each vessel was outfitted. Retro-fitting

was accomplished throughout WWII. The ultimate armament design for United States vessels was two - Twin 40MM gun mounts w/Mk. 51 directors 4 - Single 40MM gun mounts 12 single 20MM gun mounts; complement seven officers, 104 enlisted; Troop accommodations for 16 officers, 147 enlisted.

The LST-285 was laid down on Aug. 16, 1943 at Ambridge, Pa., by the American Bridge Co.; launched on

Oct. 24, 1943; sponsored by Mrs R. A. Shaw; and commissioned on Dec. 13, 1943.

During the Second World War, **LST-285** was assigned to the European theatre and participated in the invasion of Normandy in June 1944 and the invasion of southern France in August and September 1944.

From the Memories of Jack H. Langston (edited for language).

"We got our orders Feb. 21, 1944 and

boarded LST 285 in Bayonne, NJ, at about 1630. The ship left Bayonne at 0800 the next day for Boston and I had galley duty all the way up the East Coast that day.

(Operation Nestegg, continued on page 50)

