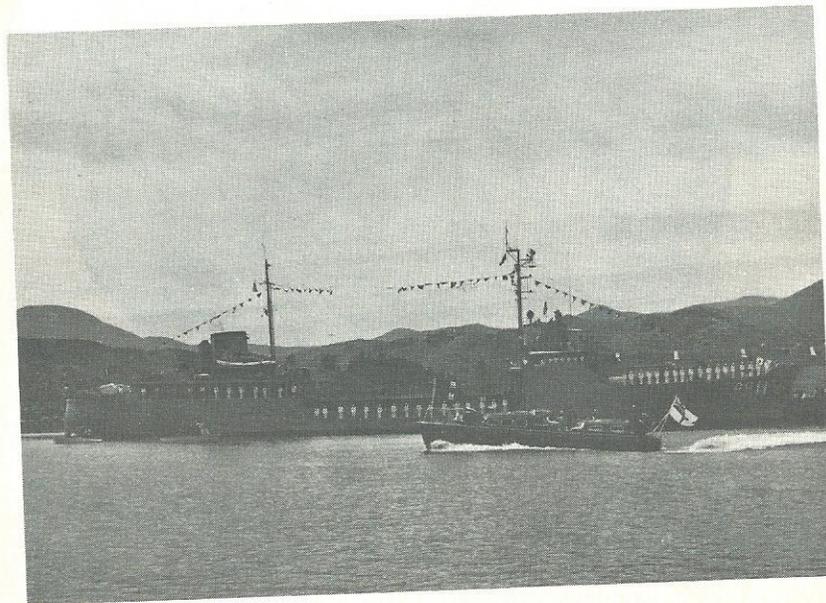


Contributed by D. Laird Blue

# **Operational History of the USS TOMBIGBEE AOG-11**

**18 November 1943 To 30 June 1963**



**Under the Operational Control  
of  
COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE  
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET**

**Propulsion:** Four 16 Cylinder General Motors Diesel Engines (970 BHP Each).

**Drive:** Diesel Electric.

**Screws:** Two 4 Bladed Solid Type.

**Armament:** Three 3"/50 Single Mounts.

**Allowance:** 6 Officers and 75 Enlisted Men.

**Primary Mission:** Transport and deliver clean Petroleum Products as a Unit of the Mobile Support Group.

### COMMANDING OFFICERS

LCDR A.O. ASKLAND, USNR	13 July 1944 - 13 December 1945
LT G.B. MARTIN-VEGUE, USNR	13 December 1945 - 5 March 1946
LT J.M. ENZWEIZER, USN	5 March 1946 - 18 June 1949
LT W.E. HUMMEL, USN	18 June 1949 - 12 December 1949

DECOMMISSIONED FROM 12 DECEMBER 1949 TO 28 JULY 1950

LT C.A. SCOVILLE, USN	28 July 1950 - 5 July 1952
LT C. MALONE, USN	5 July 1952 - 2 May 1953
LCDR C.R. CHISHOLM, USN	2 May 1953 - 17 June 1955
LT J.A. JORDAN, USN	17 June 1955 - 10 October 1957
LT E.M. LEIDHOLDT, USN	10 October 1957 - 13 July 1958
LT J.N. GREEN, USN	13 July 1958 - 21 July 1960
LT R.V. DALTON, USN	21 July 1960 - 31 May 1962
LT R.H. McSWEENEY, USN	31 May 1962 -

### AWARDS

Pacific Theater Ribbon with two stars:

1 Star - Assault and occupation of Iwo Jima, 27 Feb. - 9 March 1945

1 Star - Assault and occupation of Okinawa Gunto, 24 March - 30 June 1945

China Service Medal

Navy Occupation Service Medal (Asia)

Korean Service Medal

United Nations Medal

Korean Presidential Unit Citation Badge.

### SHIP'S NAME

U.S.S. TOMBIGBEE (AOG-11), like all tankers, was named after a river. The Tombigbee River, 409 miles long, is a part of the Warrior - Tombigbee System connecting Birmingham, Alabama with the Gulf of Mexico at Mobile. Thousands of tons of steel for the Gulf Coast's busy ship yards have been borne down the Warrior and Tombigbee.

The Tombigbee River derived its name from the Choctaw in which language it means "coffinmakers." The Choctaw words "itombi" meaning "coffin" and "ikbi" translated into English as "makers." The Itombi-ikbi were a class of old men among the Choctaws of Alabama who cleaned the bones of the dead and placed them in boxes.

### SHIP'S HISTORY

1943

On 18 November 1943 Mrs. F.R. Stoltz launched TOMBIGBEE on a long and successful career by breaking the traditional bottle of champagne over her bow. TOMBIGBEE was one of many ships launched sideways in the narrow rivers and harbors of the midwest during the war. From Minnesota she was floated down the Mississippi and fitted out in New Orleans.

1944

After sea trials and acceptance tests, TOMBIGBEE was commissioned at Algiers Naval Station, New Orleans on 7 July 1944 and her crew of 112 men and 8 officers took her out for shakedown and training in the Gulf of Mexico. Although built as a gasoline tanker, TOMBIGBEE was assigned the mission of carrying fresh water for ships and troops engaged in amphibious assaults in the Pacific. On 13 August she left Galveston after a final training cruise, bound for San Diego via Panama. A change of orders took her to San Pedro for a final refit and she sailed from there for Pearl Harbor on 4 September. Here she began her wartime mission by delivering water to the troop ships in the harbor. On 21 September she joined a convoy for Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands. Ironically, the ship had to observe water hours during the voyage, for her cargo of over half a million gallons of fresh water was reserved for use at the battlefield.

On 8 October TOMBIGBEE sailed in convoy from Eniwetok to join Service Squadron TEN in Ulithi. While there she watered ships on their way to forward areas, an important but unromantic job. The