



WITH A FRENCH ACCENT—LSM 125 becomes part of the French Navy under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program

Wednesday afternoon at 2 p. m. at berth eight. Details in the story below. (19792)

French To Take Over LSM 125 Wednesday

LSM 125 will wear a new name and carry a new flag Wednesday, January 20 when the French government accepts her here as part of the Mutual Defense Assistance Program. Ceremonies are planned for 2 p. m. at berth eight.

Capt. Duncan MacMillan, commanding, Pacific Reserve Fleet, will accept the ship from Skipper H. L. Decker, and will decommission the LSM which the shipyard has prepared for release to the French. Following decommissioning Rear Adm. John H. Carson, area commander, will transfer her to French Consul General Louis de Guiringaud of San Francisco. The consul turns to the ship over to Lieut. Comdr. Paul Content, French naval attache from Washington and he hands her to Lieut. Jean Balenci, the commanding officer.

In subsequent ceremony, including blessing of the vessel by The Reverend A. Lebihan, the new skipper will take over.

Expected to be present for the afternoon are five officers and 40 enlisted men who will make up the crew, representatives of the French embassy in Washington and Louis De Guiringaud, consul general from San Francisco.

The Stars Spangled Banner, the Marseilles and other appropriate tunes will be played by the 12th Naval District bandmen.

One of five such American ships to be turned over to France, LSM 125 displaces 885 tons, is 203 feet long and has a 34 foot beam. The ship is capable of carrying a dozen tanks and military vehicles or similar cargo.