

Received from James B. Simms USS LST-26

Contributed by Sara Bateman



LST 26 - South Pacific - WWII  
James B. Simms, U.S. Coast Guard



LST 26 Invasion in the Philippines at Layte Gulf October 20, 1944



Philippine Beach Head



LST crew members



South Pacific Beach Head



LST crew members



LST crew members-Tienstin, China  
October 1945

U.S. LST 26  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

December, 1945

NOTICE TO ALL HANDS:

A brief history of the USS LST 26 from commissioning to de-commissioning is presented in chronological order for the general information of all hands.

May 1943 - Launched at Dravo Shipbuilding Corporation, Neville Island, Pittsburgh, Pa.

June 1943 - Lieut. Eugene Kiernan, commanding officer, a crew of six officers and sixty-six enlisted men reported aboard and proceeded to New Orleans for fitting out and on to Panama.

Aug. 1943 - Sailed from Panama bound for Southwest Pacific to report to Group 21, Flotilla SEVEN.

12-26-43	Participated in the initial invasion of Cape Gloucester NB
1-1-44	" " " " support landing " " " " " "
1-7-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
1-13-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
4-23-44	Participated in initial invasion of TanaMerah Dutch New Guinea
5-4-44	" " " Support landing of Aitape, Dutch New Guinea.
5-19-44	" " " Support " " Wadke, Dutch New Guinea.
5-24-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
6-28-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
6-5-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
6-12-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
6-27-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
7-8-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
7-22-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
7-30-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
8-7-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
9-19-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
10-1-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
10-2-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
11-12-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
1-7-45	" " " " " " " " " " " "
1-27-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
2-17-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
3-10-11-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "
10-3-44	" " " " " " " " " " " "

During the period from December 1944 until just prior to the China trip, this vessel was occupied with numerous "milk runs" to Manila, Subic Bay, Hollandia, Finchhafen, and Manus in the Admiralty Islands.

Our last extended trip covered over 9000 miles and included stops at Manus, in the Admiralty Islands, Bougainville, in the Solomons, Hollandia New Guinea, Okinawa, Nansai Shot Island, and finally Tangku on the Poiho river just below Tientsin, China; then back to Leyte, Philippine Islands.

\*Note- last five dates should be 1945 instead of 1944

We received orders to the United States and proceeded via Samar, P.I. through the Marianas, stopping at Pearl Harbor for routing to San Francisco, a total of over 6,000 miles.

During some of the invasions this ship was exposed to enemy mortar shell and sniper fire from the beach, we came out of the Jap Suicide Plane attack in Leyte Gulf on 11-12-44 with no casualties and three Jap planes to our credit.

The 26 along with the other Coast Guard LST'S in Group 21 has carried many hundreds of men, including Marines, Army and CB's and many tons of vital equipment and ammunition. We have had as Group Commander Captain's ~~KIRK~~ Peterson, Higbee, Nelson and Lieut. Com'd. Gardner.

The Commanding Officers of the 26 have been Lieut. Kiernan, Lieut. Baquie, Lieut.(jg) Merrick(acting C.O.) and Lieut. R.B. Newell, who was relieved by your present commanding Officer.

F.R. KETCHUM, Lieut. USCGR  
Commanding Officer



LST 26 World War II  
So.Pacific War



LST. 26 JB Simms (3 Insignias / Bridge)



J.B.SIMMS LST 26



LST 26 SO.PACIFIC BEACH HEAD