SHIP’S HISTORY

of

U.S.S. LST 853

19 November 1944
The U.S.S. LST 853, built by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, Seneca, Illinois, was launched this date.

1 December 1944
Officers and crew reported aboard. Ship placed in reduced commission.

2 December 1944

10 December 1944
Arrived New Orleans and commenced fitting out period.

11 December 1944
Ship was placed in full commission.

25 December 1944
Completed fitting out period. Departed New Orleans, Louisiana, enroute to Panama City, Florida, for shakedown cruise.

27 December 1944
Arrived St. Andrews Bay, Panama City, Florida, and commenced shakedown exercises.

7 January 1945
Annual Military Inspection held by Condr. Wynn USN and inspection party from Amphibious Training Base, Panama City, Florida.
Completed shakedown period. Took departure from Panama City, Florida enroute to New Orleans, Louisiana.

8 January 1945
Arrived New Orleans, Louisiana.

19 January 1945
Departed New Orleans, Louisiana, with load of bulk cargo for Balboa, Canal Zone.

25 January 1945
Anchored in Limon Bay, Colon, Canal Zone.

26 January 1945
A.M. Underway for transit of Panama Canal.
P.M. Arrived Balboa, Canal Zone.

29 January 1945
Underway for San Diego, California, with twenty-three Naval enlisted passengers returning to the U.S. for rehabilitation leave.

11 February 1945
Moored to pier 2, Naval Repair Base, San Diego, California.

16 February 1945
Took departure from San Diego enroute to San Francisco, California.

18 February 1945
Anchored in San Francisco Harbor, San Francisco, California.

25 February 1945
Underway for Seattle, Washington.

2 March 1945
Moored to Pier 90, Seattle, Washington.

5 March 1945
Shifted berth to Sound Construction and Engineering Company docks. Commenced taking on cargo.

10 March 1945
Underway from Seattle, Washington, enroute to Saipan, Marianas Islands, carrying Company "C" 1903 Engineering Aviation Battalion and equipment. LOT being carried on main deck. In company with three other LST's.
23 March 1945 Arrived Pearl Harbor, T.H., enroute to Saipan, Mariana Islands. Accomplished minor repairs to both propellers and bow doors and received aboard two 2 x 30 pontoons which were lashed to the sides.

4 April 1945 Underway from Kowale Basin, Honolulu Harbor, T.H., enroute to Saipan, Mariana Islands, in company with eleven LST's and eight LSM's.

16 April 1945 Anchored in Eniwetok Harbor, Eniwetok, Island.

17 April 1945 Underway from Eniwetok Island enroute to Guam on second leg of route to Saipan from Pearl Harbor.

22 April 1945 Anchored in Apra Harbor, Guam. Commenced replenishing stores.

23 April 1945 Completed taking aboard stores.

24 April 1945 Underway from Guam for Saipan.

25 April 1945 Messed in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan. Discharged officers and men of Company "C" 1906th Engineer Aviation Battalion. Received aboard Company "C" 1878th Engineer Aviation Battalion for transportation to Okinawa.

27 April 1945 Underway from Saipan enroute to Okinawa in company with seven LST's, 2 LSM's, and 2 escorts.

2 May 1945 Due to heavy weather and excessive rolling starboard pontoon broke loose and drifted free despite all precautions and efforts to save it.

3 May 1945 Anchored in Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa. Four air raids this date.

4 May 1945 Fired starboard battery at 0445 at enemy aircraft caught in searchlight and approaching ship. Port 20mm gun on LOT suffered a casualty, three men were injured -- flying shrapnel, one seriously. Two other air raids this date.

5 May 1945 Two air raids this date.

6 May 1945 Anchored at Green Beach #1, Hagushi, Okinawa to unload personnel and equipment of Company "C" 1878th Engineer Aviation Battalion. Six air raids this date.

7 May 1945 Two air raids this date.

8 May 1945 Completed unloading cargo and retracted from beach.

9 May 1945 Shifted berth to Nakagusuku Wan (Later called Buckner Bay). Three air raids this date.

10 May 1945 Pontoon launched and cast off by C.B. working party. Two air raids this date.

11 May 1945 Launched LOT from main deck. One air raid this date.

12-17 May 1945 Anchored as before in Nakagusuku Wan. An average of one air raid each night.

18 May 1945 Underway from Okinawa enroute to Saipan in company with seven LST's, twenty-six LSM's, and four escorts.

25 May 1945 Anchored in Saipan Harbor.
4 June 1945, Underway from Saipan Harbor enroute to Leyte, Philippine Islands, in company with thirty LST's.

10 June 1945, Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I.

12 June 1945, Underway from Leyte, P.I. for Luzon, P.I., in company with various LST's of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

15 June 1945, Entered Subic Bay, Luzon, P.I., and beached prior to loading cargo.


18 June 1945, Underway from Luzon, P.I., enroute to Okinawa in company with eight LST's.

19 June 1945, Picked up two escorts at San Fernando Roads, Luzon, P.I.

24 June 1945, Anchored in Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa.

25 June 1945, Shifted north to Toguchi, Okinawa, beached bow on to beach and commenced unloading cargo.

26 June 1945, Completed unloading cargo and retracted from beach. Ship grounded on reef in Toguchi Anchorage. Ship floated free of reef with assistance of another LST in afternoon, no damage sustained.

27 June 1945, Underway for Hagushi Anchorage from Toguchi, Okinawa. Moored bow on to a pontoon causeway at Purple Beach #2, Hagushi. Loaded troops and equipment of 307th Infantry, U.S. Army.

29 June 1945, Underway from Okinawa, enroute to Leyte, P.I. in company with ten LST's and three escorts.

4 July 1945, Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I.

5 July 1945, Underway from Leyte, P.I. enroute to Cebu, P.I.

6 July 1945, Anchored in Magellan Bay, Cebu, P.I.

7 July 1945, Underway for Danao, Cebu, P.I., Beached north of Danao Point and disembarked troops and equipment of the 307th Infantry, U.S. Army. Retracted from beach and anchored in Magellan Bay.

8 July 1945, Shifted north from Magellan Bay to Cebu City, Cebu, P.I.

9 July 1945, Underway from Cebu to Subic Bay, P.I.

11 July 1945, Anchored in Subic Bay, P.I. Commenced three day anchor availability.

14 July 1945, Beached at Subic Beach. Commenced loading Army personnel and cargo of the Fifth Air Force.

15 July 1945, Completed loading cargo. Retracted from beach and anchored in Subic Bay.

16 July 1945, Underway from Subic Bay, P.I. enroute to Okinawa in company with fourteen LST's and three escorts.

17 July 1945, Anchored in San Fernando Roads, Lingayen, P.I.
23 July 1945  Anchored off Hagushi, Okinawa.

24 July 1945  Underway for beaching. Reached at Hamaaki Beach, Okinawa, and commenced unloading personnel and cargo of the Fifth Air Force.


27 July 1945  One air raid this date.

29 July 1945  One air raid this date.

30 July 1945  Two air raids this date.

1 August 1945  Underway from Yonabaru Wan, Okinawa, enroute to Leyte, P. I. in company with twenty-four LST's and three escorts.

4 August 1945  Submarine contacted by escort; depth charge pattern dropped. Possible hit reported. Torpedo reported fired at escort.

7 August 1945  Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P. I.

9 August 1945  Underway in company with nine LST's from Leyte, P. I. enroute to Mindoro, P. I.

11 August 1945  Anchored in Mangarin Bay, Mindoro, P. I. Underway for beaching south of Bugangao Point, Mindoro, to unload personnel and equipment of Army Infantry units of the 96th Division. Upon completion of unloading returned to anchorage in Mangarin Bay.

12 August 1945  Underway from Mindoro enroute to Zamboanga, Mindanao, P. I., in company with nine LST's.

14 August 1945  Anchored in Zamboanga Harbor. Underway for beaching at San Mateo Beach, Zamboanga.

16 August 1945  Retracted from beach and anchored off San Mateo Point, Zamboanga, P. I.

19 August 1945  Underway from Zamboanga in company with nine LST's enroute to Leyte, P. I.

21 August 1945  Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P. I.

27 August 1945  Underway for Batangas, Luzon, P. I., in company with twenty-seven LST's.

30 August 1945  Beached at Taloga Beach, Luzon, P. I. to load service units of the U. S. Eighth Army.

1 September 1945  Upon completion of loading retracted from beach and anchored in Batangas Bay.

3 September 1945  Underway for Yokohama, Japan, in company with sixteen LST's and one escort.
12 September 1945  Arrived destination. Moored bow on to Takashima landing dock, Yokohama, and unloading cargo.

13 September 1945  Shifted berth to anchorage in Yokohama Bay.

14 September 1945  Beached at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. Commenced loading personnel and equipment of the Forth Marine Division.

15 September 1945  Completed loading cargo, retracted from beach and anchored in Yokohama Ko, Tokyo Bay, Japan.

19 September 1945  Underway enroute to Guam, M.I., in company with one LST and one escort.

26 September 1945  Arrived Port Apra Guam, M.I. Moored to unloading dock and unloading cargo.

27 September 1945  Shifted berth to Calalan Banks Jetty.

9 October 1945  Underway from Guam enroute to Leyte, P.I.

14 October 1945  Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I.

25 October 1945  Underway for beaching at Rizal, Leyte.

26 October 1945  Completed loading cargo. Retracted from beach and anchored in San Pedro Bay.

28 October 1945  Underway from Leyte, P.I. enroute to Aomori, Japan, in company with fourteen LST's and one escort.