

Contributed by Tom Armstrong

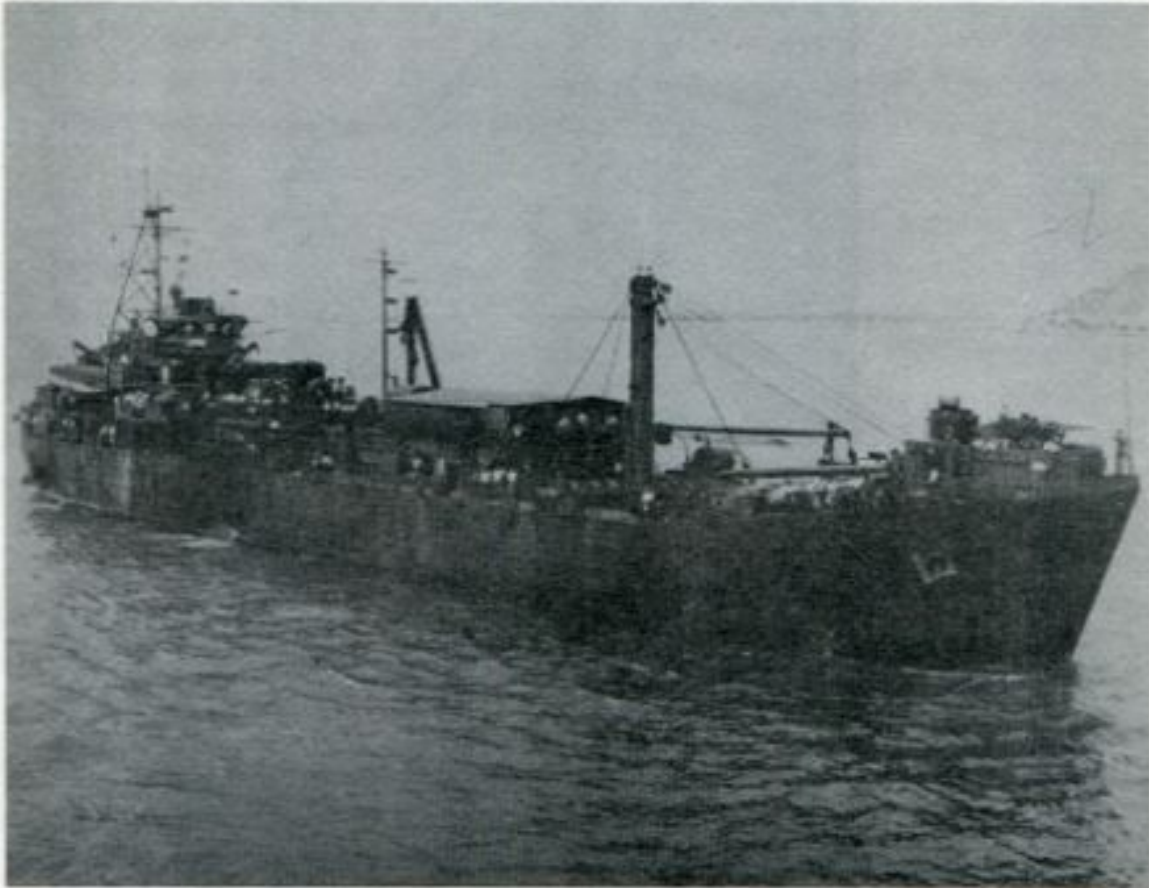


*The Commanding Officer, Officers and Crew  
requests the honor of your presence  
at the Decommissioning of the  
United States Ship Sphinx (ARL-24)  
on Thursday morning, the thirtieth of September  
nineteen hundred and seventy-one  
at ten o'clock  
Pier Delta  
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard  
Bremerton, Washington*

*R.S.V.P.*

*Uniform for Naval Personnel:  
Service Dress Blue*

*Decommissioning  
Ceremony*



**USS SPHINX (ARL-24)**

**30 SEPTEMBER 1971**

**PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD  
BREMERTON, WASHINGTON**

## THE SHIP

USS SPHINX' keel was laid 20 October 1944 at the Bethlehem Steel Yards, Hingham, Massachusetts, and was commissioned seven-and-one-half weeks later, 12 December 1944, as LST-963. She sailed for Jacksonville, Florida, where on 8 January 1945 she was decommissioned for conversion to a landing craft repair ship.

Upon recommissioning, 10 May 1945, and after accelerated training exercises, SPHINX sailed for the West Coast and duty as repair support for amphibious assault landing craft and minesweeping units of the Pacific Fleet. On 25 July 1946 SPHINX witnessed the "Baker Test" of the atomic bomb at Bikini Atoll as part of "Operation Cross Roads." After the war SPHINX returned to Long Beach, California, and was decommissioned in San Diego, California, 23 May 1947.

On 3 November 1950 SPHINX was recommissioned for service in the Korean conflict. On 15 August 1954 she sailed for Haiphong, Vietnam, in support of the "Passage to Freedom" evacuation of refugees after the division of Vietnam. SPHINX decommissioned for the third time on 30 January 1956 in San Diego.

SPHINX was called to duty once again and was commissioned 16 December 1967 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She arrived in Vung Tau, South Vietnam, 10 June 1968 and commenced operations in the Mekong River Delta area. Except for two six-week yard periods in Japan, SPHINX remained in the brown rivers continuously from June 1968 to May 1971. She arrived 2 July 1971 in Bremerton, Washington, for decommissioning.

Among the medals the ship has been awarded are the World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, and the Presidential Unit Citation.



## SHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS

KEEL LAID .....	20 OCTOBER 1944
LAUNCHED .....	18 NOVEMBER 1944
COMMISSIONED .....	10 MAY 1945
	3 NOVEMBER 1950
	16 DECEMBER 1967
	26 JULY 1985
TOTAL SERVICE TO DAY ....	11 YEARS, 9 MONTHS, 3 DAYS
DISPLACEMENT .....	4840 TONS
OVERALL LENGTH .....	327' 9"
BEAM .....	50' 1½"
DRAFT, FULL LOAD .....	16' 3"
PROPULSION .....	TWO GENERAL MOTORS DETROIT TWELVE CYLINDER 12-27BA DIESELS DEVELOPING 1800 COMBINED HORSEPOWER TWO FIXED PITCH 7' BRONZE PROPELLERS FOUR 100 KW AC SHIP'S SERVICE GENERATORS FIVE 100 KW DC SHIP'S SERVICE GENERATORS
MAX SPEED .....	10' KNOTS
SHIP'S BOATS .....	TWO 36' LCVP
CRANE .....	ONE 25 TON FIXED KINGPOST CRANE ONE 5 TON BRIDGE GANTRY CRANE
ARMAMENT .....	TWO 40 MM MOUNTS MARK II, MOD 18 (QUAD) TWO GUN DIRECTORS MARK 5, MOD 2 SIX 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS TWO STINGER FIRING STATIONS

## RIBBONS AND AWARDS

SPHINX is entitled to display the following unit awards and service ribbons, in the order of precedence indicated:

Presidential Unit Citation

Navy Unit Commendation (1 bronze star)

American Campaign Ribbon

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon

World War II Victory Ribbon

Navy Occupation Service Ribbon (Asia)

National Defense Service Ribbon (1 bronze star)

Korean Service Ribbon (1 bronze star)

Vietnam Service Ribbon (1 silver star, 3 bronze stars)

Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Medal Color with Palm)

United Nations Service Ribbon

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon

SPHINX's PUC was awarded for 1969 service with the Mobile Riverine Force in Vietnam. Her two NUC's were received for riverine duty during 1968-69 and 1970-71. The National Defense Service Ribbon awards represent service during the Korean and Vietnam emergencies. SPHINZ earned one engagement star on the Korean Service Ribbon and eight on the Vietnam Service Ribbon.

The RVN MUC and RVN Campaign Ribbon are Vietnamese awards to which SPHINX is entitled; the UN Service Ribbon was earned in Korea. Ships or individuals who are entitled to wear the Korean Service Ribbon are also entitled to the UN Service Ribbon.