



From the Editor

Back in August my father and I had a wonderful experience when we were given special permission to inspect an original Mark 5 LCT. Owned by a local consortium, the "Outer Island", as it is called now, has been sailing the waters of Lake Superior since the late 1940s when it was purchased by a Bayfield, Wisconsin man. Used to haul lumber, vehicles and other cargoes, she has quite a history on the big lake including two sinkings.

Originally the LCT(5)-103, this vintage landing craft had its ramp blown apart at Normandy and was returned to the States for repairs where it rode out the War. I am currently trying to locate more official history on its wartime exploits.



My father, Douglas Swanson, served on the LCT-81, another early Mark-5, so this was a real journey back in time for him. While the "Outer Island" has had several major renovations over the years, it is in remarkably good condition with many original parts and fixtures from the War including the three Detroit Gray Marine engines in working order after several overhauls.

We thank Charles Engh who provided us with the tip about this LCT at the Omaha reunion. In our next issue of Flotilla I will give a full report on the "Outer Island" and have a slide show prepared for our reunion in New Orleans. See you then....and Happy Holidays to you all.

Ron Swanson



Received from Denmark, dated Sept. 12 . . .

Dear Sir:

I've got a request, that might for a while help you think of something else than the terrible thing that happened yesterday. All the people that I know are in deep sorrow. My thoughts are with the victims and families. I am a serious scale modeller (The Danish champion a few times) searching for accurate drawings of an LCT(6) as I want to scratch-build the beast in scale. To be able to do that, I need accurate and complete drawings with measurements and details. I wonder if you could please help me in any way?

*Frank Hestehauge
Hellerup, Denmark*

Thanks to Wallace Ritter, I was able to send detailed schematics to Frank of the original LCT(6) drawings that Wallace acquired from the Manitowoc Ship Building Co. in Wisconsin during the War. Frank was elated and wrote back:

Dear Ron:

You just made my day. I really appreciate this ...I sure will keep you posted as the project goes along. I can't wait to get started and I expect it will take some time to complete the thing . . .

Regarding the terrorist incident . . . on the night of the attack I went to the American Embassy along with a couple of thousands of Danes, to light candles and place flowers to show our sentiments. There I read a card that struck me--it said: "Today we are all Americans".

This must be the first time since 1945 that we're really together, and not arguing about the price of bacon and other rather insignificant issues.

Author Bill McGee writes to us concerning his special offer on page 15.

Please know the combination of your newsletter and Rich [Fox's] website outsell comparable efforts by the LCI and LST associates--even though they have many more members to draw on . . .

*William L. McGee
Santa Barbara, California*