

LCT-1241 Chronology

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1 April, 1945, Launched and operationing on D-Day at Okinawa. We, as an operating unit of the invasion force, took on our first tank of aviation gasoline and landed it at Red Beach north of Naha City.

During the battle for Okinawa LCT1241 operated in and around the Ryukyu Islands. Our duties were to bring in men, munitions, vehicles, gasoline, and anything necessary to support the troops. We were fortunate to have no casualties from Japanese fire. We were under many Kamikaze attacks. We went through many storms of the China Sea typhoon season with no major problems. They did serve to break up our routine of unloading ships.

My crew was very resourceful since they were able to obtain beer, a Jeep, a small power boat, and a vicious little spider monkey. All of these things made life a little easier. Generally speaking, duty was boring and routine around Okinawa. We did receive orders to complete evacuation of the US Navy from a small island north of Okinawa. This was Ie Jima. This is where Ernie Pyle, the famous war correspondent, was killed.

6 August, 1945, we were happy to hear of the "A" bomb on Hiroshima. Our LCT flotilla was scheduled to be part of "Operation Olympus" the code name for the

invasion of the Japanese home islands. August 9, 1945 Nagasaki was bombed.

August 14, 1945 was VJ Day--the end of the war. Much crazy shooting and celebration. We immediately began to rotate married members of the crew home.

LCT-1241 remained in Okinawa until March of 1946. It was then loaded onto LST-728 for return to the States. Aboard LST-728 from 9 March until May 1946.

5 May, 1946, lifted off LST-728 at Mare Island, San Francisco. Stayed in port until we sailed into LSD (landing ship deck) #07 for the trip to Swan Island, Portland, Oregon.

As the skipper, I left the crew. Only 2 of the original men were left – Nelson and Swanson. Final fate of LCT-1241 is vague. References in Jane's Fighting Ships (1975-76 edition) indicated the designation was changed from LCT to LSU-1241 and assigned further duties. Nothing further.

Editor's note: Ensign Baruth originally typed this report on an Underwood Typewriter liberated at Ie Jima--Baruth mustered out of the Navy as Lt. j.g.



LSM

Photo taken onboard the LSM-446 shortly after its launching in May of 1945.

Our LCT reunion group toured a similar LSM at Heritage Park in Omaha. See page 9 for photos.

photo courtesy of Ed Spires who served on the LSM-446 as well as the LCT-290.