

BRIT MK-4 *continued from cover*

Though the Royal Navy liked the higher load capability of the Mk-3, it soon discovered several construction deficiencies which led to the addition of longitudinal stiffeners which avoided the stresses to so lengthy a hull.

The Mk-4 measured 187 feet in length but had a much wider beam of almost 39 feet as opposed to 31 feet of the Mk-3 and a displacement of 586 tons. The wider beam was intended for cross-channel operations where the ferrying aspect was critical for the fast unloading of raiding assaults as opposed to sea-going use for the transfer of tanks and vehicles to smaller landing craft.

As the war broadened in scope after Pearl Harbor, the British production of LCTs increased. 350 Mk-3s were built (71 with Sterling gasoline engines) followed by over 800 Mk-4s powered with two of the reliable 460 h.p. Paxman diesels. These could carry nine M4 Sherman or six Churchill tanks. Carrying a load of 350 tons, the Mk-4 would be built throughout the war, being the largest LCT production in the English shipyards.

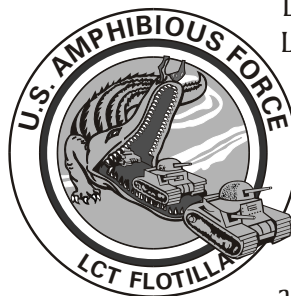
England's hard-learned lessons in amphibious warfare would inure to the benefit of their Yankee allies. Soon to be mass-produced, American-made Mk-5 and Mk-6 LCTs, 160 of which were lend-leased to the Royal Navy, would be 177- and 120-footers, respectively, and both marks would be rated at about 285-ton displacement. These versions would see the largest number of LCTs procured with 500 Mk-5s and over 950 Mk-6s built by the war's end.

Armament varied widely on the LCTs with the ponderous 2-pounder pom-pom mounts gradually losing favor to the more agile faster firing 20mm Oerlikons of later production. The Mk-4 also used a combination of 40mm Bofors/20mm Oerlikon which made them a superb gun-fire support vessel.

The photo below is the British T.L.C. 47. As any LCT vet will admit, most landing Craft did need a certain measure of *tender loving care* !



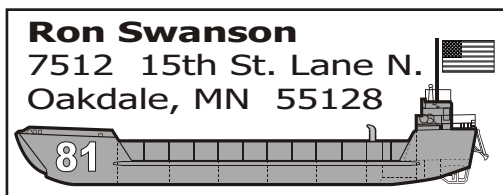
MAILING LABELS



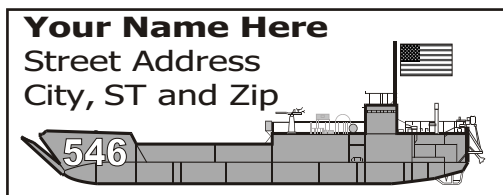
Due to the great success of our LCT mailing labels, we will continue to offer them to our Flotilla readers. In addition, we now have the original Gator Label also available.

This was the unofficial logo of the U.S. Amphibious Forces and are printed in color on self-adhesive sheets with twenty 1½" stickers per sheet.

On the mailing labels, your name will be in blue with a full-color U.S. flag on the version of your choice (Mk5 or 6). We will fit your address on the label no matter how long it may be. Just be sure to include your info as you want it printed, plus Mk and LCT hull number. Samples below are at actual size:



Mk5



Mk6

Send \$2 per sheet for either the gator or the mailing labels to **Ron Swanson, LCT Flotillas WWII** at the address in the Mk5 sample above. Include a *legal size self-addressed – stamped envelope* for return mailing. It will speed along your labels. The Post Office will require one First Class postage stamp per 2 sheets.

Photo reproduced at the National Archives