

The History of the *USS Shadwell* (LSD-15)

“Press on Regardless”

Her Mission:

Versatility is the keynote to *Shadwell's* operational capabilities. Highly adaptable to special missions, she considers among her routine chores the following:

- a. To carry an objective area landing craft and amphibious vehicles or trucks which can be discharged rapidly from the flooded well deck.
- b. To accommodate, support and operate troop and cargo carrying helicopters.
- c. To dry dock and effect repairs to landing craft and small vessels.
- d. To transport and deliver any type of cargo to any port or beach in the world.

How She got her name:

A house in Albermarle County, VA. The house burned down in 1770, now it is presently in ruins, it was the birthplace and early home of Thomas Jefferson, author of Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States.

Originally named HMS Tomahawk then renamed HMS Waterway, upon assignment to the United Kingdom. LSD-15 was reassigned back to the United States and named *Shadwell*. LSD stands for Landing Ship, Dock.

Timeline of the History:

February 1944 The keel of *USS Shadwell* (LSD-15) was laid in Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Newport News, VA.

24 May 1944 Miss Mary Greenman, daughter of Capt. W.C. Greenman, USN, christened Hull 407 as *USS Shadwell*, Landing Ship Dock 15.

24 June 1944 *Shadwell* was commissioned in the U.S. Navy at ceremonies in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA.

August 1944 *Shadwell* sailed for the West Coast.

20 Oct. 1944 *Shadwell* departed the United States to join Amphibious Forces in the South Pacific.

December 1944 *Shadwell* participated in the invasion at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon.

9 Jan. 1945 *Shadwell* bagged a Japanese Zero.

January 1945 *Shadwell* took Japanese torpedo in starboard side.

June 1945 Arrived in Bremerton, Wash, for major repair work.

July 1945 Sailed to join Adm. Halsey's Third Fleet.

August 1945 *Shadwell* was among the first units to enter Tokyo Bay to perform routine occupation duties.

10 July 1947 *Shadwell* was placed out of commission in the Atlantic Fleet Reserve, Orange, Texas.

20 Sept. 1950 *Shadwell* was again placed in commission at Orange, Texas.

1951 Participated in the Arctic expedition operation “Bluejay” at Thule, Greenland; participated in Operation “Convex” in Newfoundland; and in “LANTFLEX_52” in the Caribbean area.

1952 *Shadwell* underwent yard period in Baltimore which

produced a mezzanine deck, super deck, flag quarters and helicopter landing deck.

1952 Participated in two more operations North of Arctic Circle.

May 1953 Participated in Operation "Pinetree" at Labrador.

1955 Two cruises took *Shadwell* to Havana and Bermuda.

1956 Assigned resupply operation in the Caribbean.

Late 1957 & 58 Participated in several operations in the Caribbean in coastal waters.

1959 *Shadwell* becomes the first LSD helicopter carrier.

1960 Deployed to Mediterranean with helicopters aboard.

May 1961 *Shadwell* received major overhaul under the Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization Program.

May 1962 Deployed to the MED for the fourth time.

October 1962 Participated in Cuban crisis blockade.

April 1963 Entered yard for two-month overhaul in New York City area.

20 Sept. 1963 Departed U.S. for fifth Mediterranean deployment.

26 Feb. 1964 Participated in "Quick Kick V", a major Amphibious landing off the coast of South Carolina.

July 1964 Spent a week in New York City so crew could attend the World's Fair.

October 1964 Deployed to Mediterranean taking part in Operation "Steel Pike" enroute off the coast of Spain.

March 1965 *Shadwell* returned to CONUS and began upkeep period.

Summer & Fall 1965 *Shadwell* conducted several lifts of a non-Amphibious nature.

March 1966 Began seventh MED deployment.

August 1966 Returned from Mediterranean to commence regular overhaul.

January 1967 *Shadwell* spent one month undergoing refresher training at Guantanamo, Cuba, followed by Amphibious training at Little Creek.

March 1967 *Shadwell* commenced eighth Mediterranean deployment.

September 1967 *Shadwell* returned to CONUS and began upkeep period.

January 1968 Departed US to participate in Operation "SPRING CARD" in the Caribbean.

February 1968 Returned to CONUS.

April 1968 *Shadwell* commenced ninth Mediterranean Deployment.

Embarked troops consisted of Beach Master Unit TWO, Assault Craft Unit TWO, C Battery First Battalion Tenth Marines; 1

st

Platoon, Company "C", 2

nd

Shore Party

Battalion

August 1968 *Shadwell* returned to CONUS and began upkeep period.

October 1968 *Shadwell* transported Marines to Vieques Island in the

Caribbean and returned to CONUS.

December 1968 *Shadwell* transported Marines to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and returned to CONUS.

9 March 1970 Decommissioned at U.S. Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA.

Statistics of the commissioned *USS Shadwell*:

Classification:

Casa Grande

a) Length Overall:

457'9"

b) Beam:

72'

c) Draft:

18'

d) Max Speed:

16 knots

e) Displacement:

9,375 tons

f) Complement:

252 Officers and men

Accommodations for additional 220 Army or Marine Personnel

g) Armament:

2 Quad 40 mm

Description:

An adaptation of the floating dry-docks principal. Landing craft up to the size of Landing Craft Infantry (large) (LCI (L)) may be stowed in the well. Two 35-ton cranes service the craft, handle vehicles and move cargo.

Capacity:

3 Landing Craft Tank (LCT) (5) or (6) each with 5 medium Tanks or 2 LCT (3) or (4) each with 12 medium Tanks or 14 Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM) (3) each with 1 medium Tank or 15 long tons of cargo, or 14 LTVs or 47 DUKWs.

Awards the *Shadwell* wears:

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign

Medal – WWII

American Campaign Medal

– WWII

Armed Forces

Expeditionary Medal with a

Bronze Star

American Defense Service

Medal – WWII

National Defense Service

Medal with a Bronze Star

Navy Occupational Medal

World War II (WWII)

Victory Medal
Philippine Liberation Medal
Philippine Republic
Presidential Unit Citation

Awards Earned by the Crew in 1967:

(1967 is considered her greatest year of achievement):

The Battle Efficiency Award
Majorie Sterrett Battleship Fund
Second Amphibious Assault Award
Communications Proficiency Award (Green 'G')
Gunnery Proficiency Award (White 'E')
A finalist for the NEY Award
Recommended for the Arleigh Burke Award

Information is gathered from:

Commanding Officer, *USS Shadwell* (LSD-15). The Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1). History of United States Ship SHADWELL (LSD-15) Rev. Feb. 1969. (26 February 1969).
Behrend, B.M. History of the ex-*USS Shadwell*. Naval Research Laboratory.