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USS Whetstone (LSD-27)



International Radio Call Sign:
November - Alpha - Foxtrot - Whiskey
NAFW

Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons



Precedence of awards is from top to bottom, left to right

- Top Row - Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Second Row - China Service Medal (extended) - American Campaign Medal - World War II Victory Medal
- Third Row - Navy Occupation Service Medal (with Asia clasp) - National Defense Service Medal (2) - Korean Service Medal (4)
- Fourth Row - Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal - Vietnam Service Medal (8) - Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation
- Fifth Row - United Nations Service Medal - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal - Republic of Korea War Service Medal (retroactive)

Casa Grande Class Dock Landing Ship:

- Laid down, 7 April 1945, at Boston Naval Shipyard, Boston, MA.
- Launched, 18 July 1945
- Commissioned **USS Whetstone (LSD-27)**, 12 February 1946, CDR. G. R. Keating in command
- Following World War II *USS Whetstone* was assigned to Occupation and China service in the Far East for the following periods:


 Navy Occupation Service Medal	 China Service Medal (extended)
9 to 16 April 1947	8 March to 8 April 1947

1 to 3 June 1947	5 to 23 May 1947
24 July to 21 August 1947	13 June to 23 July 1947

- Decommissioned, 20 October 1948, at San Diego, CA.
- Laid up in the Pacific Reserve Fleet, San Diego Group
- Recommissioned, 25 June 1950
- During the Korean War **USS *Whetstone* (LSD-27)** participated in the following campaigns:

 Korean War Campaigns	
Campaigns and Dates	Campaigns and Dates
Communist China Spring Offensive 12 June to 9 July 1951	Third Korean Winter 2 to 10 January 1953 22 to 29 January 1953 5 to 13 February 1953 13 to 29 March 1953 2 April 1953
UN Summer-Fall Offensive 9 to 21 July 1951 31 July to 4 August 1951 15 August to 10 September 1951 9 to 21 November 1951	Korea, Summer-Fall 1953 14 to 20 May 1953 1 to 11 June 1953 19 to 20 June 1953 22 to 27 July 1953

- During the Vietnam War **USS *Whetstone* (LSD-27)** participated in the following campaigns:

 Vietnam War Campaigns	
Campaigns and Dates	Campaigns and Dates
Vietnam Defense 4 to 9 July 1965	Tet Counteroffensive 30 January to 20 February 1968 1 to 18 March 1968 26 to 30 March 1968
Vietnam Counteroffensive 27 March to 13 May 1966 1 to 30 June 1966	Vietnam Counteroffensive - Phase IV 3 to 7 April 1968 28 April to 8 May 1968
Vietnam Counteroffensive - Phase II 1 July to 3 August 1966 28 August 1966	Tet/69 Counteroffensive 23 to 27 May 1969 5 to 8 June 1969
Vietnam Counteroffensive - Phase III 1 to 4 December 1967 12 to 16 December 1967 24 December 1967 to 29 January 1968	Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969 9 to 30 June 1969 2 to 20 July 1969 9 August to 30 September 1969

- Decommissioned, 2 April 1970
- Struck from the Naval Register, 1 September 1971
- Laid up in the National Defense Reserve Fleet
- Custody transferred to the Maritime Administration, 17 February 1983
- Final Disposition, sold for scrapping 17 February 1983
- USS *Whetstone*** earned four battle stars for Korean service and eight campaign stars for Vietnam War service

Specifications: (as reported by Office of Naval Intelligence, 7 April 1944)

Displacement 4,032 (light draft), 7,930 (seagoing - loaded)

Length 457' 9" o.a.

Beam 72"

Draft

8' 2 1/2" fwd, 10' 1/2" aft (light draft)

15' 5 1/2" fwd, 16' 2" aft (seagoing loaded)

Speed 17 kts (design speed)

Endurance 8,000 miles @ 15 knots

Complement

Officers 17

Enlisted 237

Troop Accommodations

Officers 22

Enlisted 218

Well Deck Capacity (varies with mission)

three LCT (Mk V or VI) each w/ 5 medium tanks or

two LCT (Mk III or IV) each w/ 12 medium tanks or

fourteen LCM (Mk III) each w/ 1 medium tank or 1, 500 long tons cargo or

forty-seven DUKW or

forty-one LVT or

Any combination of landing vehicles and landing craft up to capacity

Aircraft (still in commission in late 40's or early 50's) were fitted/retro-fitted with a prefabricated steel grated "Portable Deck" suspended between the wing walls and supported by removable I-beam girders. The aft end of the portable deck contained a wooden helicopter platform, enabling the ship to land and launch 1 helicopter at a time. Stowage of helicopters was limited to capacity of the portable deck installed for the mission. Aircraft servicing was limited to re-fueling. With portable deck and aircraft platform installed, the Landing ship, dock was still capable of transporting, launching and repairing smaller amphibious craft and vehicles up to the size of a Landing craft, utility (LCU) in their well decks.

Armament

one single 5"/38 cal dual purpose gun mount in open tub (w/director)

two quad 40mm AA gun mounts (w/directors)

two twin 40mm AA gun mounts (w/directors)

sixteen single 20mm AA gun mounts (local control)

Fuel Capacities

NSFO 11,720 Bbls

Diesel 160 Bbls

Gasoline 5,085 Gals

Propulsion




two Newport News Shipbuilding steam turbines








two Babcock and Wilcox oil fired D-type boilers, two drum, single furnace, single uptake, 250psi

single Newport News Shipbuilding Main Reduction Gears

two turbo-drive 300Kw 120V/240V D.C. Ship' Service Generators

twin propellers, 7,000shp

Click On Image For Full Size Image	Size	Image Description	Contributed By
	17k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) at anchor, date and location unknown.	
	17k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) underway, date and location unknown.	Frank Wood
	37k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) anchored, date and location unknown.	Hyperwar US Navy in WWII

	19k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) underway, date and location unknown.	Hyperwar US Navy in WWII
	254k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) underway off Point Loma, San Diego, circa early-1950s. US Navy photos	David Buell
	221k		
	63k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) during operations near the DMZ off Vietnam, 1969.	Photo by William P. Jones, M.D., former Medical Officer <i>USS Niagara Falls</i> .
	142k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) anchored off the coast the Hawaiian Islands during boat operations, 1964.	Photo by LT. Richard Dawson <i>USS Renville</i> .
	82k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) anchored off the coast the Hawaiian Islands, 1964.	Photo by LT. Richard Dawson <i>USS Renville</i> .
	66k	USS <i>Whetstone</i> (LSD-27) underway, date and location unknown.	Gerhard Mueller-Debus

For more photos and information about *USS Whetstone*, see;

- [Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships](#)
- [USS Whetstone LSD-27 - The Rolling Stone "On-Line"](#)

Commanding Officers		
01	CDR. Keating, Gordon Ripley	12 February 1946 - 1947
02	CDR. Zimmerman, Milton Abraham, USN	1947 - 15 October 1948

03	LT. Prada, Gerald Warren, USN (Officer in Charge)	15 October 1948 - 20 October 1948
	Decommissioned	20 October 1948 - 25 June 1950
04	CDR. Lavery, Richard John	1953 - September 1954
05	CDR. Spruance, Edward Dean	September 1954 - August 1955
06	CDR. Ahern, Robert Joseph	August 1955 - 1 November 1957
07	CDR. Wiggins, Raymond	1 November 1957 - 1958
08	CDR. Somerville, Henry Brooke	1958 - 1959
09	CDR. Galing, Searcy Garlits	1959 - April 1961
10	CDR. Debuhr, Claude Noel	April 1961 - 1963
11	CDR. Zinn, Franklyn K.	no dates
12	CDR. French, D. M.	1964 - ?
13	CDR. Webb, William Hubert	1966 - ?
14	CDR. Seabaugh, Raymond Ray	1967 - 1968
15	CDR. Rabun, Floyd Kelley	1968 - 1969
16	CDR. Beede, Albert Joseph, USN	1969
Courtesy Wolfgang Hechler and Ron Reeves		

Crew Contact And Reunion Information
[U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation - Navy Log](#)

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