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**Some US Army ST's actually had  
.50 Caliber Machine Gun Platforms  
By Dan Friend President DATPG Inc**



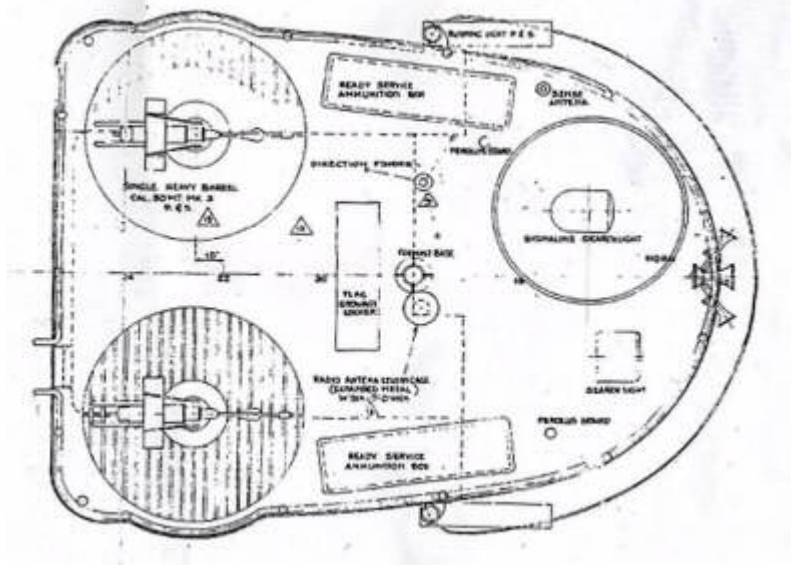
Some of the WW2 Beresford tugboats actually were built with provisions for two machine guns on top of the wheelhouse, but not all of them. The earlier Design 257 boats did not have a provision for them, and it very well may be that the early Design 327 tugs did not have them as well. But certainly by the time ST 676 was built at Beresford they were a design feature.

Here's a part of an original Design 327 plan. I am not certain which one this is as there were at least six Design 327 versions. Note the two circular areas at the rear of the wheelhouse deck, and the slight bulge in the roofline to accommodate the pine machine gun platforms.

Each held one .50 caliber M2 machine gun, but records reflect that at least one tug in the Pacific theater actually carried *five* M2 machine guns. Later on, that ST shot down two Japanese bombers.

But as ST 250 skipper Joe Richards knew, the additional weight of the pine platforms, ammo boxes, and heavy machine guns did nothing to help the top heavy nature of the all-steel Design 327. Richards details tossing the pine platforms into the sea and moving the guns below decks. This brazen action might have saved his tug... and his life.

One radio control boat blogger had asked why most of the remaining Design 327 tugs did not have the bulge in the roofline, and another blogger said that the US Army



“cut away” the wheelhouse roof in order to save upper deck weight. I can't imagine that would save much weight... I can't be certain yet, but I would think that only some versions of the Design 327 had the bulges like the ST “Forney” above.

But certainly our ST 676 had them: check out this photo from Convoy NY 19 during WW2.



The ST 676 shown when alongside the USS O'TOOLE on October 6th. The ST was in the process of having water transferred from the DE's tanks. (Courtesy of Sabin Sanger).