

Tug Tales #25

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Snohomish Mystery Tugs Identified

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Our Army ST tugboat website has garnered yet another mystery answer: one more piece of the puzzle. Earlier in a story about the various ST mysteries I pointed out that in 1947 six 74' Design 257 tugs were put on to a converted LST and towed all the way from Seattle, Washington, to Argentina by the former Coast Guard tugboat **Snohomish**. This was a trip of over 10,000 miles and one of the longest towing jobs in marine history. But the actual "ST" numbers of the Army boats destined for South America were a mystery until now.

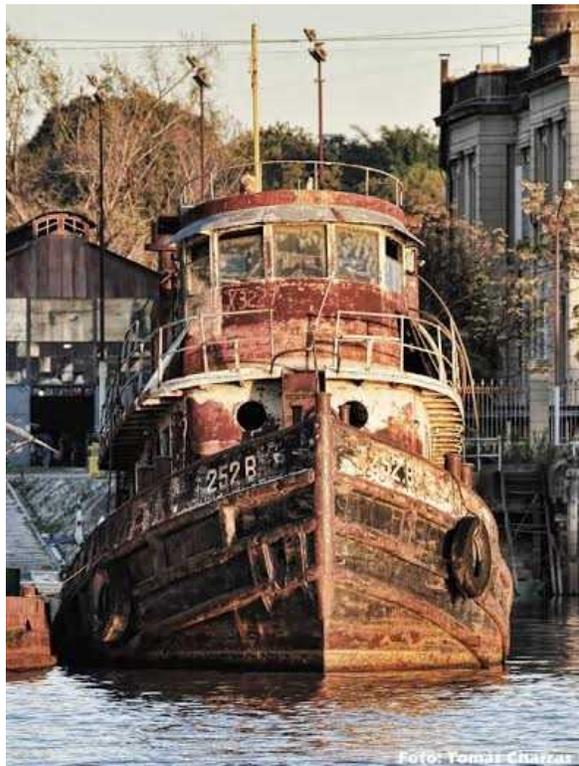
Bram Risseeuw, a former Dutch Navy radio operator, harbor controller, and marine researcher from the Netherlands now living in Ireland has sent details on the identity of five of the six former US Army

Design 257 ST's that were in that epic tow.

Risseeuw, a *Janes Fighting Ships* contributor, is mostly interested in the ships and armed forces of Paraguay, but found records that indicate that:
ST 85 became 253 B

ST 146 and ST 147 became 254 B and 255 B....but uncertain as to which is which....ST 164 and ST 167 became 252 B and 256 B, but once again, it is not certain which is which.

(So: 252B – 256B were ST's! DF)



252 B: World's most forlorn looking ST still afloat!

The owners were the Ministerio de Obras Publicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 253 B sank in 1975 km 512.7 Rio Parana. Some or all of the others are still around including laid up ones .I have no idea of the 6th tug but the 251 B was of another type as was 257 B. The photos were found on the internet at Histarmar.com.ar

Bram Risseeuw