

Tug Tales #26

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**DeLand Army Tugboat
Preservation Group, Inc**



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**Even More HUGE Army ST Tug Models
By Dan Friend President DATPG Inc**

About two months ago I wrote of the wonderful model of ST 477 that Ed Carson commissioned Bob McCray to build. It's now on display at DeLand City Hall.

Within two weeks of that point I found not one, but two large tugboat models, one needing considerable work, that could be made to represent our ST boats...I actually had been looking for months for any large model at a reasonable price. I bought them both and they are now about 95% finished. Much of the hard work of hull construction had been done on both models.

The first boat is an amazing 48" long and about 1/18th scale. I chose to make it a model of that most historic of the Beresford Boats,

ST 344. This one needed a good deal of work to make it a Design 257 example.

Delivered to the US Army in the fall of 1943, ST 344 was undoubtedly at Normandy D-Day on D-Day +1 to help build the mulberry docks, and tragically was lost about six weeks later on July 20, 1944, in the outer harbor of Cherbourg, France. She hit a mine and exploded. We have no details on casualties. Here she is represented just before she hit the mine with machine guns and Army gunners which she probably carried.



Here's another shot from the rear...gee, where did the boys pick up that WW2 Harley?



The other boat is a nicely done 41" Design 327 tug which I am reluctant to re-paint. What has been done is very nice and will certainly do for now for a representation of ST 676 "Soekalila", the long distance voyager of our Beresford Boats. (Besides, Carson's ST 477 shows this design in wartime paint) She survived the infamous convoy NY-119 to serve throughout the war, and then along with three others was purchased in 1948 by the Shell Oil company for service in Malaysia. She made a fantastic 23,000 mile voyage from Holland to Malaysia bobbing and weaving the entire way!

Now all we need are nice large models of the 1953 Design 3004 65' tug, and the Design 320 45' tug built by Olson in 1946. Seems like we'll need a room or secure space soon to display all of our models, artifacts, and history...to explain the story, to show multi-media projects, to recruit members and donations.....hmmm! Who knows what the future will bring....

