

*DeLand Army Tugboat  
Preservation Group*



**DeLand's ST 842 sleeps  
with the New Jersey fishes.**

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US Army tugboat **Billy D**, built early in 1945 at the Beresford boat works as **ST 842**, had a 50 year career before being abandoned in the mid-1990's on the Shrewsbury River in New Jersey. There she sat; abandoned and

neglected until the winter of 1997. She then sank not once, but twice, leaving a great deal of diesel fuel and other pollutants. When she was raised the second time, it was determined that even after cleaning she would be too contaminated to sink in inshore waters so she was selected by the Artificial Reef Association to become an artificial home for sea life.

Clearly, **Billy D** was not pleased with her fate as she sank once more on the way to the Shark River artificial reef! She was picked up for a third time and sent to her permanent home about 100 feet down on the reef with several other ships. The wreck has begun to become encrusted with sea life. Her upper superstructure shows evidence of ice damage from the cold winters and she has become fouled with fishing ropes and netting, but she still can be safely visited today.



**AMC 's ST 842 "Billy D" being towed to her final rest  
In the Shark River reef off New Jersey.  
Photos courtesy njscuba.net**



**Billy D  
with a  
little  
help!**



**Billy D in happier working  
times.**

The **CLOSEST** known DeLand boat to us at this time is the **Billy D!**