



Tug Tales #7 November 1, 2013
**A DELAND TUGBOAT MODEL
& OTHER ST MYSTERIES**

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It has worked out that almost every day I face the excitement of not knowing what I will find in the way of US Army ST tugboat related email. I'm in touch with several folks with groups in Europe that know and love the old boats; and by expanding my research out to include all ST's, and not just our local boats, I've vastly increased the number of mysteries, conflicts, and challenges. Sometimes I do find answers; bits and pieces, or small clues; and the website is definitely helping with this. Most of the time I just end up with more mysteries, conflicts, and challenges....

I received an email recently from Bill Barkus in South Carolina who found a model boat at a local flea market. It was fairly crude, but clearly hand built and done as a representation of a US ARMY ST...and had the number ST 845 in several places. The collector was calling me as he had found my website. I realized that ST 845 was the last AMC/Beresford boat built during WW2: this is a boat we know almost nothing about other than the name of one crew member. Here are two photos:



I have to think a man who served on the ST made this model largely from scratch. It's been played with; it's now missing small parts, but it speaks to me of a sailor that thought enough of his boat to spend quite a bit of time making it. Sadly, his name probably will be lost to history, but I did also learn one thing: the tugboat is painted in US Army peacetime colors, so my guess is ST 845 survived WW2. I purchased the model, and it will end up with all of the other Beresford tug bits and info I'm collecting for the future; a tangible artifact of a boat we probably will never see again.

As I make contacts I'm trying to verify which ST's were at Normandy; which ones were lost in WW2, and tons of other details. I've discovered several errors in the records of "ST's lost in WW2" and at times I know I'm making a difference. One contact with a support group involved with a museum "ST" in Europe agreed with me that clear evidence existed to verify their US tugboat could not have been at Normandy until October of 1944. As a result, they re-wrote their website to delete the claim of a presence at D-Day, which had apparently been out there for quite some time. Good for them!

I had to laugh about a blog I read from 2009 about an ST for sale. This "war veteran" ST tugboat had been at Normandy, in the WW2 Pacific Theater, in the Korean War, and in Vietnam. It clearly was a world-wide scooter! As I suspected, a quick look at the ship's real recorded history pointed out it had no verifiable war service at all. I hope I never run into the folks that bought that boat...or the guy who wrote the "enhanced" sales script. The research continues. *Caveat Emptor!* - (buyer beware!)

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