



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Ship yard workers lauded for building of barges used in Sicilian invasion.

Manitowoc Herald-Times (Manitowoc, Wis.)

Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Manitowoc Herald-Times, 1943-08-19

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/X3WIPVZ7XHMZJ9C>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

Ship Yard Workers Lauded For Building of Barges Used In Sicilian Invasion

AUG 19 1943

A citation, commending the men and women at the Manitowoc Ship Building Company for their part in building tank landing barges for the Allied landing on the island of Sicily last month, was received here today from E. L. Cochrane, rear admiral of the United States Navy and chief of the Bureau of the Ships at Washington.

Admiral Cochrane pointed out that these landing operations "on a scale unparalleled in modern times," were effected with the utmost precision and minimum of casualties and added that "this was due in no small measure to the excellence of the specialized land craft built by you."

Post Copies of Telegram

Copies of the telegram are to be posted on bulletin boards of the company so workers who had a part in the landing craft program can see that their efforts have been recognized by high government officials.

Not only were the first landing craft designed, built and tested here but the Manitowoc company was the "lead" yard in the entire landing craft construction program in the middle west.

Following is the wire to the men and women of the Manitowoc yards from Admiral Cochrane:

"You will be glad to know that the L.C.T.s built by you were part of the spearhead in the successful invasion of Sicily. The fact that landing operations on a scale unparalleled in modern times were effected with the utmost precision and minimum of casualties was in no small measure due to the excellence of the specialized landing craft built by you. It is a pleasure to extend thanks to everyone in your organization whose skill and labor went into the design, procurement and construction of these vital craft. You are to be further commended for your work as lead yard on this program."

Started in 1942

First of these tank landing barges were built in Manitowoc early in the summer of 1942, with the Navy personnel here, headed by Commander G. C. Weaver, taking an active part in testing the craft along the lake shore north of Two Rivers.

First designs for the craft were laid out in the drafting offices of the Manitowoc Ship Building Company and a crew of several hundred workers were assigned to the task of turning out the craft.

When the success of the barges was assured the government ordered mass production. The Manitowoc company was designated as the "lead" yard in this big operation, which saw hundreds of these landing craft constructed all over the middle west. All the material and equipment was ordered through the yards here.

The detailed plans and the construction of the barges followed by the tests in the lake off this port, were conducted without

publicity of any kind. It was not until late November of last year that censorship permitted mention in the press of this important project.

Repaired Other Craft

The ship building company here completed its first contract for these landing barges and they were taken to the seaboard under their own power by Manitowoc crews.

In addition, the yards here also repaired a number of such craft built in other yards, but which needed some minor corrections before they could be sent on their way to the Mediterranean.

Following the invasion of Sicily, officials at the yards and Navy personnel here anxiously awaited the pictures. One of the first actual landing scenes sent out showed No. 27, built here, landing tanks on the beach.

An official of the Manitowoc Ship Building Company who had an important part in testing the landing barges, said that he viewed one newsreel picture of landing operations in Sicily and recognized four barges that were built in Manitowoc taking part in the single operation photographed by that particular newsreel cameraman.