

OUTER ISLAND IN DRY DOCK

After hoisting the LCT back into the water, the crew “shanghied” Walt and his son-in-law to help cast off the lines once they were ready to get under way. The two Navy men were invited along for the one hour ride back up to Bayfield. Walt reports that it was a trip back in time as the three Gray Marine diesels fired up and the landing craft headed out of the harbor into Lake Superior.

“That ride was so smooth,” he said, “I was so impressed--it was so much fun to ride on an LCT again.” And what really left an impression on Walt was how the skipper and one crewman operated the craft by themselves. “He handled the wheel, the throttle and clutches by himself”, said Slater. “When we arrived back in Bayfield, he throttled back, swung it around and slid right up against the pier--it took us a full crew to accomplish that!”



Walt Slater and son-in-law, U.S. Navy Commander David Crawford, lend a hand with the *Outer Island* after repairs were completed this August.

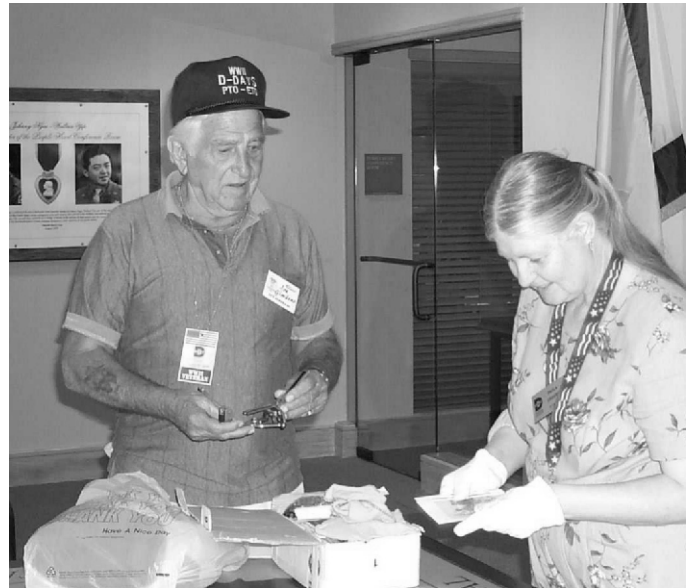


Walt and David speak with the crew over the engine room onboard the former LCT-103.

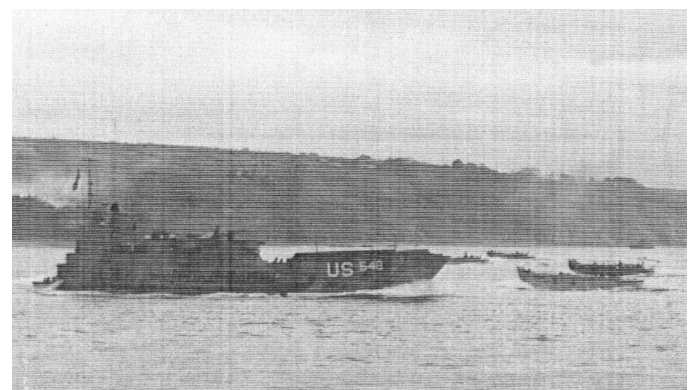
LCT ARTIFACTS DONATED

In our August 2001 issue of *Flotilla*, we reported on the salvage operation off the coast of England which had discovered the sunken remains of the LCT(6)-548. Charles Stubbings of the recovery effort had contacted Rich Fox through our website and the receiver of wreck notified the U.S. Navy which laid claim to the items. Rich then contacted Giordano who suggested to the receiver of wreck that the proper place for the items should be at the D-Day Museum in New Orleans. All parties agreed and the items were sent to Joe for safekeeping until the June LCT reunion.

The LCT-548 was lost off the coast of England after the Normandy landings while being towed back across the Channel. Visit our LCT website for more information and photos of this story.



Joe Giordano turns over recovered salvage from LCT-548 to a museum curator at the D-Day Museum.



The LCT(6)-548 with other landing craft during practice maneuvers off the English coast prior to the Normandy Invasion. Photo reproduced at the National Archives.