

USS *HOGA*
(YT-146)
(YTB-146)
(YTM-146)
(*City of Oakland*)
Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet
Benicia vicinity
Solano County
California

HAER CA-2261
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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(YT-146)
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(*City of Oakland*)

HAER No. CA-2261

Location: Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet, Benicia vicinity, Solano County, California

Type of Craft: Yard tug; fireboat

Official Numbers: YT-146 (Harbor Tug); YTB-146 (Large Harbor Tug, changed May 1944); YTM-146 (Medium Harbor Tug, changed February 1962)

Principal Dimensions: Length (oa): 100'
Beam: 25'
Draft: 9'-7"
Displacement: 325 tons
Maximum speed: 14 knots
(The listed dimensions are as-built, but it should be noted that draft, displacement, and tonnages were subject to alteration over time as well as variations in measurement.)

Propulsion: Twin diesel-electric engines, single screw

Dates of Construction: Laid down: July 25, 1940
Launched: December 31, 1940
Accepted: May 22, 1941

Builder: Consolidated Shipbuilding Corporation, Morris Heights, New York

**Original/
Present Owner:** U.S. Navy

Disposition: Inactive; slated for transfer to Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum

Significance: USS *Hoga* is typical of a World War II-era U.S. Navy tug, but it is significant for its role in assisting naval ships during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and as the only surviving yard craft from that day.

Project

Information:

This project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program to document historically significant engineering and industrial works in the United States. The Heritage Documentation Programs of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, administers the HAER program. Todd Croteau, HAER Maritime Program Coordinator produced the large-format photographs, and Justine Christianson, HAER Historian, compiled the report in 2012.

Description:

Hoga is a typical example of a U.S. Navy tug from World War II and remains relatively unaltered aside from the addition of some equipment in 1948. It is constructed of welded steel. The mechanical plant initially consisted of twin 250-hp electric pump motors that pumped water to three monitors and two manifolds. This was further enhanced with the addition of three 8-cylinder, 225-hp diesel engines and centrifugal pumps in 1948. The ship's total pumping capacity was 10,000 gallons per minutes (gpm) after those additions. The original twin Diesel 650-hp McIntosh and Seymour engines powering twin 515-hp Westinghouse electric motors connected to a reduction gear and single screw are still extant, as well as the two original 410-kw direct current generators.¹

History:

The name "Hoga" derives from a Sioux word meaning "fish." It was built by the Consolidated Shipbuilding Corporation in Morris Heights, New York, for the U.S. Navy in 1940, and then assigned to the 14th Naval District, Pearl Harbor where it was present for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. As James Delgado notes in the National Historic Landmark nomination, "Hoga particularly distinguished herself through her crew's actions in helping beach the burning and sinking USS Nevada at Hospital Point as her run for the open sea was aborted by Japanese bombers who intended to sink her in the channel and block Pearl Harbor."² The ship's crew worked tirelessly over a three-day period battling fires on the USS *Arizona*, among others. Afterwards, the ship participated in the salvage and cleanup efforts before it was leased to the city of Oakland, California, in 1948. It was during this period that the pumping capacity was augmented, and the vessel was reconditioned by Pacific Coast Engineering Company at Pacific Dry Dock and Repair in Oakland at a cost of \$73,000. During the ship's tenure as a fireboat at Oakland, it participated in combating numerous fires and in some rescue operations. It was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1989. The ship was taken out of service in 1996 and transferred to the Maritime Administration's Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet. In 2005, the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum won a

¹ James Delgado, "City of Oakland, ex-Hoga (YTB-146)," The Maritime Heritage of the United States NHL Study-Large Vessels, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1989, Section 7.

² Delgado, "City of Oakland, ex-Hoga," Statement of Significance.

competition for the ship's title, but transfer to the museum has been stalled.³

Sources:

Delgado, James. "City of Oakland, ex-Hoga (YTB-146)." *The Maritime Heritage of the United States NHL Study-Large Vessels*, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1989.

"Hoga." *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*,
<http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/h7/hoga.htm>, accessed June 2012.

Sandlin, Jake. "Hays Still Wants Tugboat for NLR." *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, February 19, 2012.

³ Delgado, Statement of Significance, Section 8; Jake Sandlin, "Hays Still Wants Tugboat for NLR," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, February 19, 2012; "Hoga," *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, available online at <http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/h7/hoga.htm>, accessed June 2012.