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For Immediate Release

New Exhibit: The Role of Manitowoc's Landing Craft Tanks (LCTs) In WWII

MANITOWOC, Wis. — June 6, 1944 lives in infamy as D-Day, when Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. This choreographed effort is, to this day, the largest amphibious invasion in military history. The shipbuilding tradition of Manitowoc played a significant role in the success of this campaign that ultimately turned the tide to end World War II.

In recognition of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum is pleased to open its latest exhibit, "Turning the Tide of WWII: The Role of Manitowoc's Landing Craft Tanks (LCTs) In WWII".

In 1942, the United States Navy contracted with the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company for 36 Landing Craft Tanks (LCT) in addition to the three submarines already in production and 20 additional submarines on order. In June 1942, the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company successfully built and tested the first Mark (Mk) 5 class LCT. The Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company built a total of 36 Mk 5 LCTs, trained representatives for each LCT assembly site, and provided all the plans and supplies needed to build 400 Mk 5 LCTs.

The LCTs built in Manitowoc participated in every major amphibious invasion in Europe. Thirteen Manitowoc-built LCTs were among nearly 7,000 ships involved in the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, on the beaches of Normandy, France and helped transport approximately 160,000 troops ashore that day.

"Turning the Tide: The Role of Manitowoc's Landing Craft Tanks (LCTs) In WWII" features an interview with one of the LCT builders, scale models of LCT 1 and LCT 501, along with authentic artifacts that were witness to the dramatic events of D-Day, 1944.

A formal opening of “Turning the Tide” will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, June 8th. LCT veteran, Walter Slater, will be in attendance at the exhibit opening. He was a member of the LCT-982 crew in the Pacific.

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum welcomes all people to connect with our waterways through inclusive programming, engaging exhibits and a world-class collection. For more information, visit wisconsinmaritime.org or call (920) 684-0218.

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