

DIRECTORY OF THE OCEAN TUGS OF THE ARGENTINA NAVY

by Hans van der Ster Marcol production

Argentine Navy



Building List

A-1 – Comandante General Irigoyen

Cherokee Class Fleet Ocean Tug:

- Laid down 16-06-1944 as **Cahuilla (AT-152)** at Charleston Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Charleston, S.C.
- Redesignated *Fleet Ocean Tug (ATF-152)*, 15 May 1944
- Launched, 2 November 1944
- Commissioned **USS Cahuilla (ATF-152)**, 10 March 1945
- Decommissioned, 27 June 1947, at San Diego, CA.
- Laid up in the Pacific Reserve Fleet
- Struck from the Naval Register (date unknown)
- Final Disposition, transferred, under the Security Assistance Program, to Argentina, 9 July 1961, renamed **ARA Comandante General Irigoyen (A-1)**
- Current Disposition, still active in Argentine Navy as of 2004

Specifications:

Displacement 1,240 t.(lt) 1,646 t.(fl)

Length 205' x **Beam** 38'6" x **Draft** 15'4"

Speed 16 kts.

Complement 85

Armament one single 3"/50 gun mount, two twin 40mm AA gun mounts, two single 20mm AA gun mounts

Propulsion four GM 12-278A diesel-electric engines, 750hp each, single screw, 3,000hp

A-3 – Francisco De Curruchaga

Abnaki Class Fleet Ocean Tug:

- Laid down, 7 November 1944, at Charleston Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., Charleston, S.C.
- Launched, 17 March 1945
- Commissioned **USS Luiseno (ATF-156)**, 16 June 1945
- Decommissioned, and struck from the Naval Register, 1 July 1975
- Transferred to Argentina under terms of the Security Assistance Program and renamed **ARA Francisco De Curruchaga (A3)**
- Final Disposition
- Fate unknown

Specifications:

Displacement 1,205 t.(lt) 1,646 t.(fl)

Length 205'

Beam 38' 6"

Draft 17' (max)

Speed 16.5 kts.

Complement 8 Officers, 68 Enlisted

Armament one single 3"/50 gun mount, two twin 40mm gun mounts, two single 20mm guns, two depth charge tracks

Propulsion diesel-electric, four General Motors 12-278A diesel main engines driving four General Electric generators and three General Motors 3-268A auxiliary services engines, single screw, 3,600shp



The ARA Francisco De Curruchaga (A3) as ATF-156 USS Luiseno (Photo: Navsource)

A-6 – SubOficial Castillo

Abnaki Class Fleet Ocean Tug:

- Laid down, 18 September 1943 as *Fleet Tug (AT-113)* at United Engineers Co., San Francisco, CA.
- Launched, 18 September 1943
- Redesignated *Fleet Ocean Tug (ATF-113)*, 15 May 1944
- Commissioned **USS Takelma (ATF-113)**, 3 August 1944
- Decommissioned and struck from the Naval Register, 28 January 1992
- Transferred to Argentina, 30 September 1993, under the Security Assistance Program, renamed **ARA Suboficial Castillo**
- August 1998 rammed the Comodoro Somellero (A10) at Ushuaia
- Current Disposition, active in Argentine Navy as of 2003

Specifications:

Displacement 1,205 t.(lt) 1,646 t.(fl)

Length 205' x **Beam** 39' x **Draft** 17' (max)

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Speed 16 kts.

Complement 8 Officers, 68 Enlisted

Armament one single 3"/50 gun mount, two twin 40mm gun mounts, two single 20mm gun mounts, two depth charge tracks

Propulsion diesel-electric, four Alco diesel main engines driving four General Electric generators and three General Motors 3-268A auxiliary services engines, single screw



ARA Suboficial Castillo (A6) as ATF-113 USS Takelma (Photo: Navsource)

A-8 – Saniviron

- Laid down in 1946 as (**ATA-228**) by the Levingston Shipbuilding Co., Orange, TX (yn375)
- Cancelled by the Navy War Shipping Administration 1946.
- Sold in 1947 to Argentine Navy, renamed **Sanaviron (Q16)**, later (**A8**)
- April 1997 stricken from Naval service

A-9 - Alferez Sobral

ATR-1 Class Rescue Tug:

- Projected as *Rescue Ocean Tug ATR-114*
- Laid down, 29 August 1944, as **ATA-187**, at Levingston Shipbuilding Co., Orange, TX. (yn354)
- Launched, 29 September 1944
- Commissioned, **USS ATA-187**, 7 December 1944. Lt. Thomas G. Lewis in command
- Named **USS Salish (ATA-187)**, 16 July 1948
- Decommissioned, 10 February 1972
- Struck from the Naval Register, 1 February 1975
- Transferred (sold) to Argentina, 1 February 1975, under the Security Assistance Program, renamed **ARA Alferez Sobral (A9)**
- Had been retired in the late 1980's, but was restored to service due to her economy of operation and the lack of other assets.
- 1982 damaged in Falkland War due to a sea skua missile attack in her midships Repaired. The original bridge was replaced in 1982 and is now kept at the Naval Museum in Tigre Buenos Aires
- 1984 stricken
- Current Disposition in service in the Argentine Navy as of 2004

Specifications:

Displacement 534 t.(lt) 835 t.(fl)

Length 143' x **Beam** 33' 10" x **Draft** 13' 2"

Speed 13 kts.

Complement 45

Armament one single 3"/50 gun mount two twin 40mm AA gun mounts

Propulsion diesel-electric engines, single screw

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The ARA Alferez Sobral (A9) in 1946 as ATA-187 USS Salish (Photo: Navsource)

A-10 – Comodoro Somellero

Maricopa Class Auxiliary Fleet Tug:

- Laid down (date unknown) as **ATR-137** by Gulfport Boiler and Welding Works, Port Arthur, TX., under a Maritime Commission contract
- Reclassified **ATA-210**, 15 May 1944
- Launched, 15 February 1945
- Commissioned, **USS ATA-210**, 18 April 1945, Lt(jg). R. W. Standart, USNR, in command
- Named, **USS Catawba (ATA-210)**, 16 January 1948
- Decommissioned (date unknown)
- Struck from the Naval Register, 1 February 1975
- Sold, 1 October 1975, to Argentina under the Security Assistance Program and renamed **ARA Comodoro Somellera (A10)**
- August 1998 rammed and sunk by the A-6 Suboficial Castillo at Ushuia salvaged but not repaired.
- Final Disposition.



The ARA Comodoro Somellera (A10) as the ATA 210 USS Catawba (photo Don Becke)

Specifications:

Displacement 835 t.(fl)

Length 143' x **Beam** 34' x **Draft** 15' (43.59x10.36x4.57)

Speed 13 kts.

Complement 45

Armament one single 3"/50 dual purpose gun mount two single 20mm AA gun mounts

Propulsion diesel-electric engines, single screw