

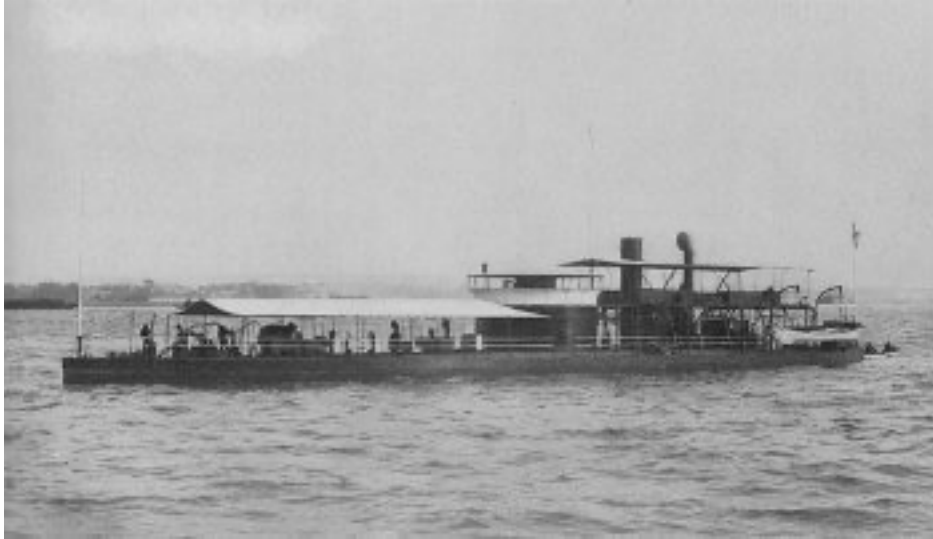
USS *Nantucket* (LCS 27)



The United States Navy (USN) christened one of its newest *Freedom*-variant littoral combat ships (LCS), the USS *Nantucket* (LCS 27), earlier this summer on August 7, in Marinette, Wisconsin.

“The USS *Nantucket* is the third U.S. Navy ship commissioned to honor the maritime history and spirit of Nantucket,” said Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Harker. “I have no doubt the Sailors of USS *Nantucket* will carry on the proud legacy from generations past in preserving sea lanes, countering instability, and maintaining our maritime superiority.”

The last Navy ship to be named the USS *Nantucket* was commissioned in 1862 to serve the Union side during the Civil War. (continued on next page)



Monitor USS Nantucket, 1862

The first USS *Nantucket* was a Passaic-class coastal monitor in the United States Navy launched 6 December 1862 by Atlantic Iron Works, Boston, Massachusetts; and commissioned 26 February 1863, Commander Donald McNeil Fairfax in command.

Assigned to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, *Nantucket* participated in the attack on Confederate forts in Charleston Harbor 7 April 1863. Struck 51 times during the valiant but unsuccessful assault on the vital Southern port, the single-turreted monitor was repaired at Port Royal but returned to Charleston to support Army operations on Morris Island, engaging Fort Wagner 16, 17, 18, and 24 July. She captured British steamer *Jupiter* at sea 15 September. She again challenged the Charleston Harbor forts 14 May 1864 and thereafter remained on blockade duty through the end of the American Civil War.

USS *Ranger*, later USS *Rockport* and USS *Nantucket* (PG-23/IX-18), was a gunboat of the United States Navy. A screw steamer with full-rig auxiliary sail, *Ranger* was destined for a very long 65-year career, serving first as a U.S. Navy gunboat from 1876 to 1920, and later as a training ship with the Massachusetts Maritime Academy from 1909 to 1941.

Sometimes included when referring to prior U.S. Navy ships named *Nantucket* is the *Lightship Nantucket* (LV-112). Although not commissioned as a Navy vessel, during World War II (1942-1945), LV-112 was withdrawn from lightship duty, painted battleship gray, designated as the USS *Nantucket* and served as an examination Patrol

Vessel off Portland, Maine. While serving, LV-112 saved crewmembers of the USS *Eagle-56*, which was torpedoed and sunk off Portland by a German U-Boat, U-853.

Unveiling of the Official Crest



On September 20, 2021, the Nantucket Historical Association hosted the unveiling of the official crest of USS *Nantucket* (LCS 27) at the Whaling Museum.

It is anticipated that USS *Nantucket* will visit her namesake island throughout her career, where her officers and crew will work alongside and interact with residents, local government and other island organizations.

Nantucket Historical Association article from 2022

***USS Nantucket* (1942-45)**

Upon the United States entering WWII, *Nantucket Lightship LV-112* was removed from lightship service, stationed on the remote Nantucket Shoals Lightship Station— 100 miles off the U.S. mainland / approximately 50 miles southeast of Nantucket Island and replaced with a buoy as a result of Nazi U-Boat activity in the Atlantic, along the U.S. east coast and the Gulf of Mexico. Lightships were always anchored, exposed and at great risk of being attacked. During the war, several hundred ships were torpedoed and sunk by Nazi U-Boats off the U.S. east coast and Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. Lightships that were at risk for attack were armed during WWII. Some lightships were converted to examination vessels and reassigned to the entrances of U.S. seaports, where Naval bases and war time ship building facilities were located. An examination vessel was used to scrutinize ships and small craft entering and leaving a seaport. *Nantucket LV-112* served during World War II from 1942–1945, renamed *USS Nantucket*, refitted as an armed examination patrol vessel (Two—50 cal. water-cooled foredeck mounted machine guns and one—3"/50 caliber gun—platform mounted on the ship's fantail) and reassigned to the harbor entrance of Portland, Maine.

Just two weeks before Germany surrendered, the last Nazi U-Boat (*U-853*) that entered American waters, torpedoed and sank the *USS Eagle-56*, outside of Portland, Maine Harbor on April 23, 1945. The *USS Nantucket* helped save the surviving crewmembers of the *USS Eagle-56*. Only 13 of the crew of 67 survived the deadly attack. The *U-853* escaped, headed south and sank another U.S. ship off Block Island, Rhode Island. The U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard finally tracked down the enemy sub and sank it with all hands, where it lies today submerged in 120 ft. as an underwater grave site.