



Tug Tales #9 December 1, 2013
A DeLand ST Tugboat Postcard
and ST 1987's Model

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Tug Tales #8 revealed the existence of the orphaned Olson builder's plaque for **ST 1987**, the last of ten boats that the Olson Corp agreed to build in 1952 for the US Army. As I pointed out, the contact was not completed, and at least according to some sources the unfinished hulls were floated to Jacksonville for completion by the Rawls Brothers. Inasmuch as **ST 1987** was the last of the ten, Rawls may have completely built the hull as well....research continues. But the boat ended up in Ft. Eustis, Virginia, at their 3rd Port Facility, and was chosen for whatever reasons as the basis for a very nice model. My guess is the real boat has a Rawls Brothers builder's plaque installed.



ST 1987: an Army 65" ST tugboat built in 1954. **US Army Transportation Museum, Ft. Eustis, VA**

Amazingly enough, I was able to recently purchase a postcard from Ft. Eustis, probably done in the 1950's, that shows not only

ST 1987, but two other DeLand/Beresford boats as well: **ST 844**, one of the last WW2 tugs; and **ST 1978**, the first of the 65 footers and one that was 100% completed at Lake Beresford. How lucky is this? A photo that shows 3 tugboats with DeLand connections in the same shot. **ST 1978** ended up in Vietnam; the fate of **ST 844** is unknown; **ST 1987** came back from Vietnam and was alive and well in Canada in 2007.

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