

# LANDING PLATFORM DOCK INTREPID







# INTREPID



## INTRODUCTION

To provide the Royal Marines with greater capacity two ships were designed and ordered in the early sixties. In an era when it was still a political assumption that Great Britain would retain her responsibilities to fulfil NATO obligations to operate on the Northern or Southern flank of the alliance. The provision of only two ships of Fearless class was adequate to ensure one in full running order at any time but when commissioned they were a valuable addition to the amphibious capability of the Royal Navy with a principal advantage over the older LST's in seaworthiness, range and capacity.

## Ships type

A landing platform dock (LPD) is an amphibious warfare ship, a warship that embarks, transports, and lands elements of a landing force for expeditionary warfare missions.

Amphibious transport docks perform the mission of amphibious transports, amphibious cargo ships, and the older dock landing ships (LSD) by incorporating both a flight deck and a well deck that can be ballasted and deballasted to support landing craft or amphibious vehicles. The main difference between LSDs and LPDs is that while both have helicopter landing decks, the LPD also has hangar facilities for protection and maintenance.

The landing ship had been developed in the US Navy from original British designs of World War II and the concept had been advanced in the 15 Landing Ship Dock (LSD) of the *Casa Grande* class. This class was appreciably smaller (9,375 tons) than the *Fearless* class (12,120 tons) although the four succeeding American designs which were completed between 1954 and 1972 eventually raised this to 17,300 tons. The advantages of large-scale production can be seen in the capital costs of the ships of the two countries (*Intrepid*: GBP 11,250,000 with the larger and later US *Anchorage* class less than GBP 5,000,000).

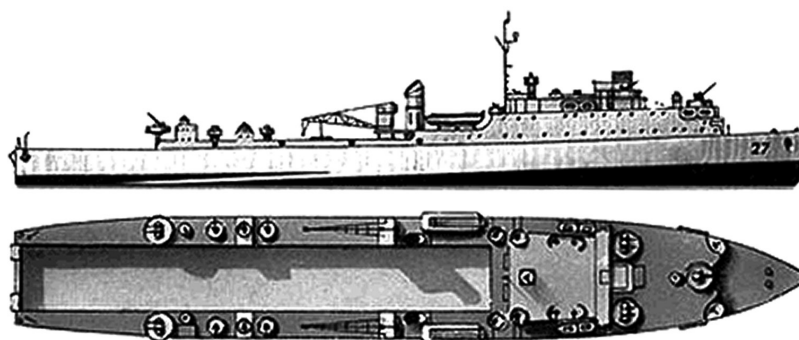


*HMS Oceanway (Casa Grande class) dock landing ship of the Royal Navy. The vessel was formally transferred to the United Kingdom on 29 March 1944.*

## CASA GRANDE CLASS

The 'Landing Ship Dock' or LSD developed from a British staff requirement for a type of self-propelled drydock to transport beaching craft over long distances, that would in turn deliver trucks and supplies onto the beach. A flooding deck aft capable of holding either two of the larger British Landing craft tanks (LCTs) or three of the new US LCTs was included in the designs. With the option of fitting extra decks, large numbers of vehicles could be transported, and loaded into landing craft via ramps.

The *Casa Grande* class was a class of dock landing ships used by the Royal Navy and the United States Navy during the Second World War. Nineteen ships were planned, but two, *USS Fort Snelling* and *USS Point Defiance* were cancelled before being completed.



Technical data	
Displacement:	4,032 tons (light) / 7,930 tons (seagoing)
Length:	139.52 m (457 ft 9 in) oa
Beam:	22.00 m (72 ft 2 in)
Draught:	4.83 m (15 ft 10 in)
Machinery:	7,000 shp (LSD13-21 and 25-27) 9,000 shp (LSD22-24)
Speed:	15.6 knots
Range:	7,400 nm (13,700 km) at 15 kts
Complement:	17 officers and 237 men
Armament:	1× 5"/38 guns 12× 40 mm Bofors guns (2 × 2), (2 × 4) 16× 20mm guns
Capacity:	1,500 tons of cargo (if not carrying boats)

The Royal Navy initially ordered seven of the class, numbered LSD-9 to 15 but only four were delivered. Serving in the Royal Navy as: *Eastway* (F130), *Highway* (F141), *Northway* (F142) and *Oceanway* (F143). Decommissioned in 1946/47.

After World War II the Royal Navy amphibious force shrank considerably in the late 1940s. Many of its landing ships and smaller craft were on Lend-Lease from the United States and had to be returned and with the overall cuts in British forces there was no funding for new ships that could only be used in wartime.

Nonetheless, the Royal Navy's 1947 plans called for having a new LSD and nine LST's capable of lifting a full brigade. It would take till July 1956 when the decision to invade Suez forced the Royal Navy to improve its amphibious assault capabilities.



HMS Intrepid



*HMS Intrepid  
visiting Amsterdam.*