



THE MANCHESTER LEADER

AND EVENING UNION



USS Frank Knox, N. H. Bond Buyers' Gift to Navy, Commissioned at Boston Ceremony



Scenes at the commissioning ceremonies at Boston Navy Yard when the new 2,200-ton destroyer Frank Knox was officially put in service as a potent part of the United States Navy, through the purchases of War Bonds by more than 300,000 New Hampshire citizens. One of the highlights of the ceremonies was presentation of portrait of the late Secretary of the Navy, for whom the ship was named, by his widow, Mrs. Frank Knox. AP photo on left shows Mrs. Knox presenting the photograph to Comdr. Joel C. Ford, Jr., USN, who had just accepted command of the new destroyer. At right is former Navy Secretary Charles Francis Adams. In the center photo, R. A. Soderlund, chairman of the N. H. War Finance committee, who presented microfilm of the names of all Granite State citizens who bought bonds to purchase the ship, is shown examining the plaque placed in the ship's wardroom commemorating the efforts of those bond purchasers. Inscription reads: "USS Frank Knox. Presented to the U. S. Navy by the citizens of New Hampshire through the purchase of War Bonds." AP photo on right shows official party as ship's colors were unfurled after Rear Admiral Felix Gyax, USN, Navy Yard and 1st Naval District commandant, declared the destroyer commissioned. From left to right, under guns, are Lt. Comdr. Edmond A. Hoggard, USN, executive officer; Mrs. Elizabeth H. Ford, wife of the commanding officer; Mrs. Frank Knox, Commander Ford, Admiral Gyax, former Secretary Adams and (right, in civilian clothes) R. A. Soderlund.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AT COMMISSIONING



Included in more than 500 persons who witnessed the commissioning of USS Frank Knox were two governors and two mayors. From left to right, seated, (starting just above Navy officer, standing), Mayor Josaphat T. Benoit of Manchester, Gov. Robert O. Blood of New Hampshire; third from right, Gov. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts and far right, Mayor Maurice F. Tobin of Boston, governor-elect of Massachusetts; Mrs. Benoit, wife of Manchester mayor, is seated to the left of her husband.

COMMAND DESTROYER KNOX



Commander Joel C. Ford, Jr., USN, 34, of Auburn, Ala., (left) commander of the USS Frank Knox, is shown with the vessel's executive officer, Lt. Comdr. Edmond A. Hoggard, USN, 27, of Wilmington, N. C. (Associated Press Photo from U. S. Navy.)

NAMES OF N. H. DONORS PRESENTED SHIP



Telling Comdr. Joel C. Ford, Jr., that he was speaking for the people of New Hampshire whose names were contained on a reel of microfilm, R. A. Soderlund, chairman of the N. H. War Finance committee, presented to the skipper of the new destroyer the film on which are names of more than 300,000 Granite State people who subscribed more than \$11,000,000 in War Bonds to build the ship at Bath, Me. Former Secretary of the Navy Charles Francis Adams, center, looks on.

Mrs. Knox Gives Portrait of Secretary in Presence of High Navy, Civic Officials

BY JOHN R. CLAREY

BOSTON, Dec. 11.—Before a crowd of more than 500 persons, including governors of two states, a former Navy secretary and the mayors of two cities in addition to high Navy officers, the USS Frank Knox, new 2,200-ton destroyer named in honor of the late secretary of the Navy and purchased by the people of New Hampshire who subscribed \$11,000,000 in war bonds, for its building, was commissioned at the Boston Navy Yard here Monday afternoon at colorful ceremonies.

The program included the presentation of a microfilm bearing the names of all Granite States who bought bonds, made by R. A. Soderlund, state chairman of the N. H. War Finance Committee.

Witnessing the ceremonies from the guest stand were Gov. Robert O. Blood of New Hampshire and Gov. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, together with Mayor Josaphat T. Benoit of Manchester, and Boston's mayor who is also Gov.-elect Maurice T. Tobin of the Bay State. Charles Francis Adams of Boston, former secretary of the Navy, took an active part in the ceremonies, speaking briefly at the conclusion of the commissioning program.

Mrs. Knox occupied a place of honor on the after deck of the new destroyer with Mrs. Elizabeth Hawkins Ford, wife of the new ship's commander. Promptly at 3 o'clock Rear Ad-

miral Felix Gyax, USN, Navy Yard commandant and commandant of the 1st Naval District, ordered the new destroyer placed in commission and as the Navy Yard band played the National Anthem, the colors were raised and the commissioning pennant was unfurled. Following his introduction of the ship's chaplain, who delivered the invocation, Admiral Gyax delivered a short speech in which he welcomed the visitors and expressed admiration for the new destroyer and also expressed his appreciation to the people of New Hampshire for their War Bond subscriptions which made the USS Frank Knox possible.

At the conclusion of his address, the commandant turned over the command to Comdr. Joel C. Ford, Jr., USN, 34-year-old Auburn, Ala., skipper who read his orders assigning him to the new command. The young commanding officer is an Annapolis graduate and has served for 10 years on destroyers and two on battleships. He was at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and took part in the North African, Sicilian and Salerno campaigns. His last previous duty was as commanding officer of the destroyer Knight.

His first duty upon assuming command of the USS Frank Knox was to assign the first watch. He then read a congratulatory message from the secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, who served as undersecretary to the man for whom the destroyer is named. Mrs. Frank Knox, widow of the

Navy secretary, was then introduced by Commander Ford. In presenting the ship a large portrait of her husband she said, "Frank Knox would be proud of this great ship and would wish Godspeed to all who serve on her. He had a passionate pride in the achievements of our great Navy. He had a passionate loyalty to the Navy personnel and delighted in repeating stories of their individual valor and courage."

"I would like to think," Mrs. Knox said, "that those officers and men who have the honor to serve their country on board this ship, will undertake their duties here with the spirit of the man for whom this great ship is named. He would congratulate you officers and men, for your opportunity for such service, and he would look to you for a noble record of courage and achievement in the test of battle. He would welcome you into the mystic brotherhood of courage."

"As for me, I will follow the course of this ship with the keenest interest. Wherever this ship goes, whatever valiant task it undertakes, my heart and my prayers go with you. Thank you for the opportunity to give you a photograph of my husband which I gladly give to the ship with my fondest greetings."

R. A. Soderlund, chairman of the Granite State War Finance Committee, upon being introduced by Commander Ford, said, "In presenting this microfilm of names of New Hampshire men, women and children who bought War Bonds to honor the late secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, I have the privilege of representing more than the New Hampshire War Finance committee. In this happy duty, I may speak for the people of New Hampshire."

"These men and women whose names appear here, from Keene to Portsmouth, from Colebrook to Nashua, from the White Mountains

to the sea, were stirred by thoughts and memories of Frank Knox. They wished to share some of his belief in strong ships. In buying over 11 million dollars worth of war bonds to finance the building of this destroyer, they took, in true Yankee fashion, a very realistic way to participate in the late secretary's vision of a proud and powerful Navy."

Reminding his listeners that the achievement of New Hampshire people has been marked by a plaque in the wardroom of the destroyer, Mr. Soderlund said it would not be enough if the relationship stopped with the plaque. He then presented the reel of microfilm to the ship's commander, a reel on which is photographed the names of every purchaser of E bonds in New Hampshire during the Fifth War Loan drive.

In concluding Mr. Soderlund said, "Let me assure you, in behalf of New Hampshire people, that our eyes will be upon the career of this ship of which we have some part. You, who will carry our hopes for it to far horizons—to distant shores—will remember, we trust, that some 300,000 people, people of the white hills, have turned their eyes to the sea with your sailing. Our bonds have testified to our belief in this ship and the great man for whom it was named."

Former Secretary Adams was then called upon and paid tribute to the memory of Secretary Knox and lauded the men who will man the ship which bears his name. As a fitting conclusion to the exercises, the chaplain presented the skipper a Bible for the ship.

At the conclusion of the services, guests were taken on a tour of inspection of the new destroyer which was constructed at the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Me., and was

launched Sept. 17, 1944, amid tributes to the late Secretary Knox by Undersecretary of the Navy Ralph A. Bard, Admiral Ernest J. King, USN, commander-in-chief of the U. S. fleet and chief of naval operations, and other former military and civilian associates of the prominent cabinet member and newspaper publisher.

The governors, mayors and other distinguished visitors were guests of the ceremonies at the Navy Yard Officers' club. Among the New Hampshire guests at the commissioning ceremony were Mrs. Knox's sister, Miss Adelia Reid; Capt. and Mrs. Edmund F. Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur T. Brush, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Blood, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Dekker and Mrs. Margaret K. Callahan, all associates of the late Secretary Knox on the Manchester Union-Leader. Captain Jewell, now on active duty with the Navy, is editor and publisher of the newspapers.

Attending with Mr. Soderlund and Mrs. Soderlund were Mr. and Mrs. Carroll F. Degler of the N. H. War Finance committee, former Asst. Sec. of the Treasury and Mrs. John L. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Norwin S. Bean, Mrs. Helen Richards of the N. H. War Finance committee and Commander and Mrs. Patrick Hinchey, representing the Granite State department of the American Legion.

Executive officer of the Knox is Comdr. Edmond A. Hoggard, USN, of Wilmington, N. C. He is a graduate of the Naval academy and served aboard the USS Ranger, the USS Reuben James and the USS Gleaves, a major part of his service being in North Atlantic convoys and the Sicilian and first Italian invasions.

Forrestal Hails Destroyer Purchase

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(A P)—Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal, emphasizing that a long, tough fight is ahead in the Pacific, called on individual bond-buyers today to meet their five billion dollar quota in the

Sixth War Loan.

In a statement he said the destroyer Frank Knox, paid for by New Hampshire bond-buyers and commissioned in Boston today, is "symbolic of what the sale of War Bonds means to your Navy."

Before our combined operations on sea, in the air, and on land can bring the war lords of Japan to their knees, much additional money and material will be needed," Forrestal said.

As the last week of the four-week drive got under way, the Treasury announced individual sales of \$3,345,000,000.

Total sales—already beyond the 14-billion-dollar goal—were announced as \$14,930,000,000.

The E-bond figures inching daily into a better position compared with the schedule mapped out in advance but still lagging behind expectations, is \$1,319,000,000. The E-bond quota is \$2,500,000,000.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE U. S. S. FRANK KNOX

The Union-Leader Publishing Co., of which the late Secretary Knox was founder and president, takes pleasure in presenting you this Souvenir Edition, offers its congratulations to you who are to serve on the ship which bears his name, and extends its wishes for a fair wind and a happy voyage to "the finest destroyer in the United States Navy."

MRS. FRANK KNOX,
President.

CAPT. EDMUND F. JEWELL, USNR,
Editor and Publisher.

The Pictures and Story on This Page Are from the Tuesday, December 12, 1944, Editions of the Manchester Union and Manchester Leader.