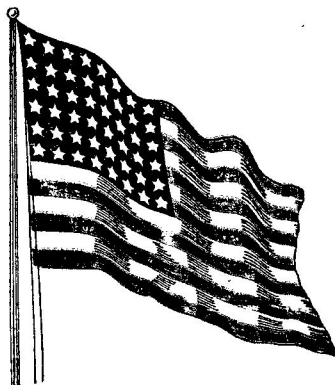


U. S. S. FRANK KNOX

(DD742)

First of the Navy's Improved New-
Type 2200 Ton Destroyers



COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

NAVY YARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

11 DECEMBER 1944

ORDER OF EVENTS



The Commandant of the First Naval District and the Boston Navy Yard, Rear Admiral Felix Gygax, U. S. Navy goes aboard for commissioning.

The Commandant directs that the ship be placed in commission.

All hands face in the direction that the colors are to be hoisted.

The band plays the National Anthem. Colors and commission pennant are hoisted.

The commission pennant is lowered and the Admiral's flag is broken. (Honors by the band).

The Commandant introduces the Chaplain.

Invocation by Chaplain.

Address by the Commandant.

The Commandant turns the ship over to the Prospective Commanding Officer, Commander J. C. Ford, U. S. Navy.

The Prospective Commanding Officer reads his orders and assumes command.

The first watch is set.

The Commanding Officer reads a letter from the Secretary of the Navy.

The Commanding Officer addresses the Ship's Company.

The Commanding Officer introduces the Sponsor.

The Commanding Officer introduces New Hampshire War Bond Representative.

Presentation of Bible by Chaplain.

The ceremony is completed.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX

William Franklin Knox, who was more widely known as Frank Knox, was born in Boston on January 1, 1874. He attended public schools in Grand Rapids and graduated from Alma College with an A.B. degree in 1898. He was still a senior at Alma College when he, and 15 other men he had recruited, enlisted in the Michigan Militia at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. As a "Rough Rider" he took part in the charge of San Juan Hill, as a buck private.

Secretary Knox later served as a Major on the staffs of Michigan and New Hampshire. On May 15, 1917, he entered the Officers' Training Course at Madison Barracks, New York, as a private and was commissioned Captain of Cavalry on August 15. He served in France during World War I, advancing to the rank of Major. Mr. Knox was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve in 1923 and was promoted to Colonel in 1937, holding the latter commission on the inactive list until his death.

Colonel Knox began his newspaper career upon his discharge from the Army in 1898, as a political writer for the Grand Rapids Herald. He remained in the newspaper editing and publishing profession throughout his life and at the time of his death was publisher of the Chicago Daily News and the Manchester (N.H.) Union-Leader. Among his other journalistic activities Mr. Knox was general manager of the Hearst newspapers and publisher of the three Boston journals of that chain from 1927 to 1930.

Colonel Knox became active in national politics in 1912, when, as a member of the Michigan Republican Committee, he cast his lot with his old Commander, Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, and followed "Teddy" in his bolt from the convention that renominated President William Howard Taft.

A delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1936, Colonel Knox left immediately after the nomination of Alfred M. Landon and was driving home the next day when he was astonished to hear the announcement of his nomination for vice president on the radio during a news broadcast. He frequently referred to himself as "the most reluctant candidate there ever was".

Colonel Knox divested himself of active direction of his newspaper properties when he took the oath of office as Secretary of the Navy on July 11, 1940, succeeding Charles Edison, who resigned to become the successful candidate for the governorship of New Jersey. President Roosevelt sent the Colonel's nomination to the Senate on June 20, which confirmed it on July 10. Colonel Knox was sworn in by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Felix Frankfurter, in the President's White House office.

In the less than four years of Secretary Knox's administration, including the first 29 months of World War II, the United States Navy grew from third place to by far the most powerful aggregation of fighting ships and trained men in all history. Secretary Knox also was on the directorate of the War Production Board and other Government agencies in Washington. His brilliant leadership of the Navy Department ended with his sudden death in Washington on April 28, 1944.

The late Secretary of the Navy resided at Green Woods, Manchester, New Hampshire, and it was his widow, Mrs. Annie Reid Knox, whom he married at Alma, Michigan, in 1898, who christened this destroyer named in his honor. The U. S. S. FRANK KNOX was launched at the Bath Iron Works Corporation, Bath, Maine, September 17, 1944.