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The North Carolina Shipbuilder

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YARD'S ACHIEVEMENTS SET GOAL FOR 1943



North Carolina school children who participated in the scrap metal campaign are shown as guests of honor at the launching of the Liberty ship Richard Caswell here last month. The youngsters were given the privilege of naming the ship because of their fine work in the salvage effort. Left to right: Allen Parish, Sanford High school; Miss Jean Hart, of Kinston, maid of honor at the launching; Mrs. Tolbert Midyette, of Kinston, matron of honor; Dr. Clyde A. Erwin, of Raleigh, state superintendent of public instruction; S. P. Ware; Miss Ann Midyette, of Kinston, sponsor; David S. Weaver, chairman of the N. C. Iron and Steel committee, Willie E. Sessoms, of Rocky Point school, and Jack Summerlin, of the Laurinburg school.

Fifty-Four Liberty Ships Launched In 13 Months; Facilities Are Improved

The North Carolina Shipbuilding company marches into its second year of Liberty ship production after a successful 1942 whose achievements should be an inspiration for every one of us to seek greater goals this year.

Let's pause a while and review our work of pushing good ships down the ways since we launched the first, the Zebulon B. Vance, a few hours before the Japanese hit Pearl Harbor.

Here are some of the highlights:

Fifty-four Liberty ships have been launched and 51 delivered from December 6, 1941, to January 1. This represents more than half the original contracts with the Maritime commission.

Yard Congratulated By Admiral Vickery

"Congratulations!" That's the word the yard received from Rear Admiral H. L. Vickery early this month for the delivery of nine Liberty ships to the commission during December.

The nine deliveries set a new monthly yard record. We also launched nine vessels during the 31-day period.

In his telegram, Rear Admiral Vickery said:

"On behalf of the commission, I wish to extend to the workers and management of the North Carolina Shipbuilding company my congratulations and sincere appreciation for the delivery during December of nine vessels. I realize fully the extra effort put forth by all to bring this about."

Numerous improvements and additions have been made in the plant, including completion of the North yard, where fabricated shops were built. A new mold loft and different storage facilities have been installed. In addition, many of the shops on the South side have been enlarged and improved. All this has been done with one aim always in view—increase ship production — with the result that during the year the average time of construction of each ship was reduced from more than 200 to less than 50 days.

Our fine record has won three Maritime Commission awards.

The "M" pennant for outstanding achievement in ship production was presented by Admiral Emory S. Land, chairman of the commission, at appropriate ceremonies on August 30. The first Gold Star was placed on it Nov. 15 and the second added on December 13. In December, we launched nine ships for a new yard record.

During this time, the organization has grown from 6,000 workers to 18,500, banded together in one of the leading ship building companies in the nation.

The yard qualified on Dec. 7, 1942, for the Treasury department's Minute Man flag with 90 per cent of the employees buying War bonds on a systematic basis. The new goal is the "T" given for conversion of 10 per cent of the total payroll into bonds.

We were first in the industrial division of the North Carolina scrap metal campaign. During the period Oct. 1-21, the company turned in 4,558,800 pounds of scrap to win the \$300 War bond prize, which has been divided and given to the Brigade Boys' club and the Cape Fear council of Boy Scouts of America. During the past month, the yard was host to school children from four states, who attended launchings of vessels they had named as reward for their scrap collecting work.

We led the list of contributors to Wilmington's first annual United War and Community Chest campaign. Contributing \$41,546.26, we exceeded the stated quota by more than \$20,000. It was the largest single donation to a campaign of this type in the community's history. The company, following the drive, (Continued on page 2)

War Bond Minute Man Flag Joins Pennant Over Yard

The Treasury department's Minute Man flag has joined the Maritime Commission's M pennant and its stars above our yard.

Awarded in recognition of the purchase of War Bonds through regular payroll deductions by our employees, the flag was presented by Allison James, of Greensboro, deputy state administrator of the War Savings staff, at the launching of the Walter Raleigh on the morning of January 5. It was accepted by Captain Roger Williams, president.

The program, at which Governor Broughton was represented by Mayor Graham A. Andrews, of Raleigh, was broadcast through the Raleigh radio station.

The yard reached the 90 per cent qualification figure and goal on December 7—one year to a day after Pearl Harbor—with 16,654 of the 18,499 employees making regular payroll deductions for the purchase of bonds.

That's the story in a nutshell. But back of it are many stories, all of determination of men and women, in every department, to do more than asked or required of them to help bring victory. To build the ships to carry supplies to our fighting forces is not enough; we are also helping buy the cargoes of guns and food and even the ships themselves.

The bond buying campaign started on April 27, the first deduction date, and jumped into high gear on May 4 with 6,000 of the 10,315 persons then on the payroll purchasing bonds on a systematic basis to produce a percentage of 63.9. At the end of the first week in December, 16,654 of the 18,499 persons on the rolls were buying bonds to produce a percentage of 90.02.

Several factors have contributed (Continued on page 4)

School Salvage Leaders Attend Four Launchings

North Carolina's industrial scrap collecting champion—our yard — entertained the leaders among the school children salvage collectors from four states during the past month as a reward for their outstanding efforts in the recent nation-wide scrap campaign.

The youngsters — from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia — attended launchings of four ships they had named.

Each occasion gave us the opportunity to show the industrious young Americans how we are building a part of the mighty span in the "bridge of ships." Some of the scrap they collected, essential in the manufacture of steel, is probably in the hulls of Liberty ships on our ways today. The children were offered the opportunity to see the importance of their contribution to the war effort and that their work is appreciated by the men shaping the steel into ships.

We also received \$300 in War bonds from the State Salvage committee, through the New Hanover county unit, during the month for leading all industries in the state in the total amount of scrap turned in during the period October 1-21. The shipyard's contribution amounted to 4,558,800 pounds and went a long way to make this county one of the leaders in the state. One (Continued on page 2)

Second Star Added To 'M' Pennant

We've hitched our production wagon to another Gold star—the second—and we're out to put many more of them in our crown.

Continued outstanding achievement in production of Liberty ships brought us the second star for our Maritime commission "M" pennant at the launching of the Pocahontas on December 13. The nine vessels on which the honor was won averaged 63.3 days each from keel laying to delivery. The previous award was on an average time of 76 days each.

"When you go through the gates of the yard and look at the "M" pennant, I want all of you to know that it was your untiring efforts that put this star there," Morales G. Vendig, resident plant engineer of the Maritime commission, said in making the presentation.

In expressing his appreciation for the star, Captain Roger Williams said "we shall continue to bend every effort to keep up the good work at the yard."

HOW WE WON MINUTE MAN FLAG

Deduction Date	No. on Roll	No. Buying Bonds	Percentage Buying Bonds
May 4, 1942	10,315	6,600	63.9
June 1	11,445	7,855	68.6
July 6	13,157	9,743	74.0
August 3	14,497	11,511	79.4
Sept. 7	14,968	11,859	79.2
Oct. 5	16,170	13,726	84.8
Nov. 2	17,571	15,061	85.7
Dec. 7	18,499	16,654	90.2

1,738 Enter Armed Forces During Year

Transfer from the production front to the firing line has been made by 1,738 employees of our yard during the 12 months ending last December 7.

The majority of these men have entered the armed forces via the Selective Service route but a large number volunteered. The result is that today the yard is well represented not only in the Army but the Navy, Army or Navy Air corps, Coast Guard and Marines.

In addition, many North Carolina shipbuilders have entered the Merchant Marine and are helping sail the Liberty ships they built to the far corners of the nation's many fighting fronts.

We have every reason to be proud of these men, from every department of the yard, who have laid down their tools to take up guns. The least we can do is to see that they never want for the vital materials of war and the best way to do this is to build more ships as fast as we possibly can. Also, it should not be forgotten that the money that goes into War Bonds not only pays for these ships but all supplies and equipment.

These men filled important (Continued on page 4)