



# The North Carolina Shipbuilder

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## SUGGESTION SYSTEM COMPLETES FINE YEAR



**PREPARES BOTTLES** — The dressing of champagne bottles for the christenings here has become an art with Mrs. Mary K. Hanson, of the Purchasing department. In addition to her regular work, she has fitted 140 of them into the attractive coverings, which she crochets, and attaches the colorful lettered ribbons.

### Mrs. Mary Hanson Prepares Yard's Christening Bottles

Attractive Mrs. Mary K. Hanson, of the Purchasing department, has a most interesting as well as unusual hobby — the dressing of the champagne bottles used at the christening of the ships built here.

Along with her duties as a war-time housewife, mother and a full day's work as an efficient stenographer, she finds time to

prepare the bottles, in a most flattering style, for the launching ceremonies. Since joining the organization two and a half years ago, she had dressed 140 christening bottles. This is the entire number used in the yard, with the exception of the first three.

Mrs. Hanson crochets the  
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### Many War Vets Help Build Ships

#### 100 Ex-Servicemen Are Employed In Recent Months

Approximately 100 veterans of World War II have entered the employment of the yard in recent months and are now doing their part in vital production as well as they did their duties while in uniform.

Of the number, more than a score are former shipbuilders who left the company to enter the armed forces and later returned.

Many of the men have seen the horrors of this global conflict and all know the great importance of producing more ships and other weapons of good quality as fast as possible so that the war will be won more quickly. Their periods of service range from a few weeks to nine years and all were discharged from the Army, Navy or Marines because of medical or other honorable reasons. Some have served in the most active war theaters, such as the Southwest Pacific and North Africa, and are carrying the scars of battle.

The technical training a number of the ex-servicemen received in the armed forces has aided them materially in their work in the yard. Almost 20 departments have one or more of these men on their rolls.

Because of their fine attitude, based on their realization of the seriousness of the great struggle we are going through, and their ability to "do the job," these veterans have made a good impression and have prepared the way for a warm welcome.  
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### Operation Successful With Many War Bonds, Stamps Awarded Here

#### Newport News Ships Given Unit Citations

With the pardonable pride that a youngster takes in his "old man", we were pleased to learn recently that three of the warcraft built at the yards of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company had received the Presidential Unit Citation in this war.

They are the U. S. S. Houston, the U. S. S. Enterprise and the U. S. S. Dallas.

It is the highest honor that may be presented a Navy ship and her crew. Presidential Citations are awarded by the Secretary of Navy in the name of the President of the United States to Navy and Marine Corps units for service in combat "above and beyond the high standard expected of our forces" which is outstanding as compared to services of other comparable units.

#### Fulfills All Aims; Gains Permanent Place In Yard

The Suggestion System completes its first year of operation in the yard this month and as we review its accomplishments we find it has done much to increase production, better working conditions, reduce man-hours, cut waste, save material and promote safety.

Made possible through the cooperation of the U. S. Maritime Commission, the system was well received when it was established last February. It has provided an orderly method of submitting and considering ideas and recommendations of employees and has furnished means of recognizing and rewarding individual ingenuity.

#### Interest High

Interest in the program has been most gratifying and it has won a permanent place here. All employees of the yard, up to and including quartermen, are eligible to make suggestions and receive awards.

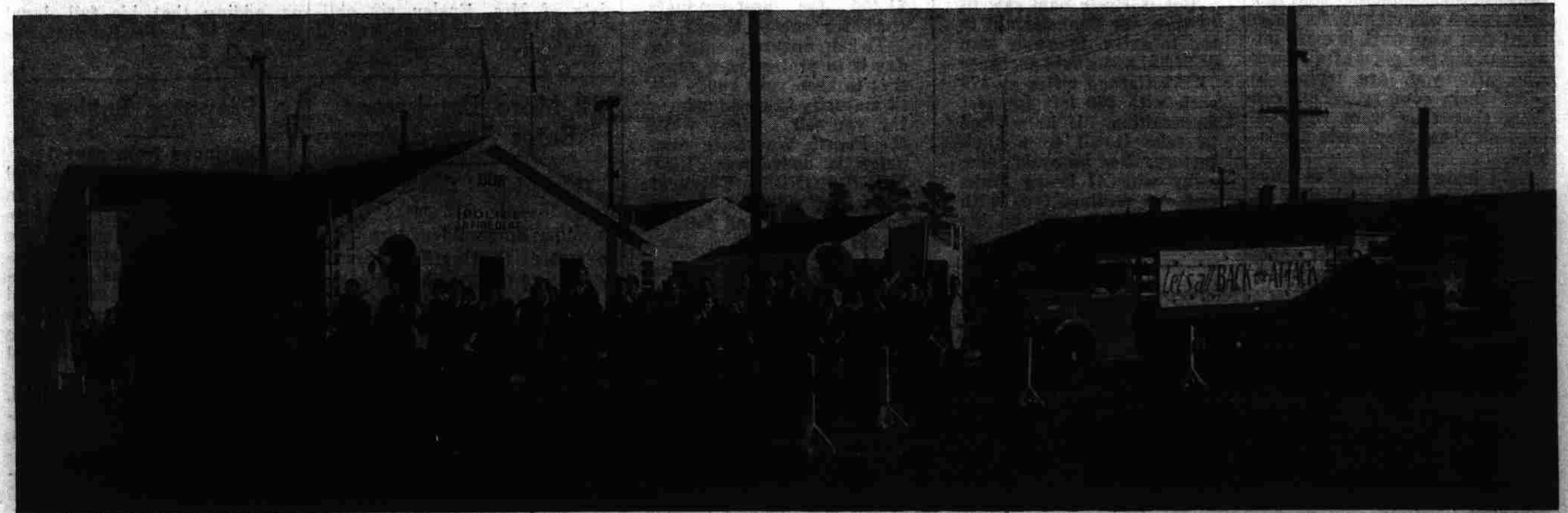
At this writing, consideration of the January suggestions has not been completed but during the first 11 months of operation 169 proposals have received awards ranging from \$5 in War Savings stamps to \$100 in War bonds. The total issue value of the awards is \$2,117.50 and the maturity value, \$2,825. These ideas have extended from minor suggestions for improvement of yard housekeeping to proposals regarding ship construction that have saved many thousands of dollars and numerous man-hours.  
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### Recreation Plan Well Under Way

#### Programs Arranged For Sections In Which Employees Live

Because recreation is so important to our well-being, it is most gratifying to know that Wilmington's broad recreational program includes many planned and supervised activities for the communities in which hundreds of shipbuilders live.

The program, under the direction of...  
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**PARADE MARKS FOURTH WAR LOAN DRIVE** — The 143rd Army band from Camp Davis, under leadership of Staff Sergeant Leo Eisermann, is shown as it moved into the yard to lead an impressive parade of military and shipyard equipment at the lunch hour on Jan. 21 in the interest of the War bond campaign. The Army equipment was made available by Lieut. Col. William J. Sutton, of the Carolina Beach combat team. During the first three days of the drive, employees purchased bonds with maturity value of \$27,925. This included 15 of \$1,000 denomination and a dozen \$500 ones. Such a good start presages a highly successful campaign and every Shipbuilder is urged to buy an extra Bond during the drive.