



# The Invasion Is On Buy More War Bonds



## The North Carolina Shipbuilder

June, 1944

PUBLISHED FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SHIPBUILDING COMPANY

Vol. 2, No. 10

### U.S.S. TORRANCE, OUR FIRST AKA, LAUNCHED



**MARITIME DAY SPEAKERS** — Observance of Maritime Day here was marked by a short program at which three men, each well qualified to discuss some phase of the American Merchant Marine, spoke briefly at the lunch period. Shown above at the microphone is Captain W. C. Renaut, of the Grace Line, and seated, left to right are H. V. Mason, Principal Hull inspector of the Maritime commission here, who reviewed the shipyards' role in the war; Storer P. Ware, Secretary, who introduced the speakers; Lieut. N. W. Brooker, of Naval Intelligence, and Commander Ralph E. Mills, who talked of the importance of the Merchant Marine to the armed forces.

### Merchant Marine's War Role Reviewed By Three Speakers

#### Yard Pauses To Observe National Maritime Day May 22

We, like many of the other 600,000 shipbuilders in scores of Maritime commission yards, paused a few minutes to observe Maritime Day on May 22 and receive a brief but comprehensive review of the achievements of the Merchant Marine in helping win the war.

In addition, we were commended for our part in building the largest Merchant fleet any nation has ever boasted.

Three well-qualified men — H. V. Mason, Principal Hull Inspector of the commission here; Captain W. C. Renaut, of the Grace Line, and Commander Ralph Mills, USN — spoke briefly during the lunch period. Each dealt with an important phase of shipping in this global conflict and showed how the teamwork of the men and women providing the ships and those sailing them to our far-flung fronts is defeating the Axis.

"We are proud of your work — proud of the job you are doing — proud of the record you have established and I am proud to be one of you," Mr. Mason said.

"Each and every one of us can feel justly honored and privileged to play such an important role in the task of winning the war. Today there is but one thought, one purpose and that is Victory. As this day commemorates Maritime Day let us hope it will not be long to Invasion Day and ultimate victory so that our loved ones can be returning home," he continued.

Explaining the purpose of the day was to honor the patriotism, courage and sacrifice and labor of "you men and women who have toiled long hours to build these ships" and also the men who have given their lives or are risking them today to (Continued on page 4)

### Brooks Goes To War On Vessel He Helped Build In N. C. Yard

Norwood O. Brooks, of Seaside, in Brunswick county, made the voyage overseas to the Italian front aboard one of the Liberty ships he helped build while employed here.

Brooks, who worked in the Shipwrights department for about two years before entering the Army, recently wrote friends about the trip. Because of security reasons, the name of the North Carolina built vessel cannot be disclosed.

At the time the letter was written, he was stationed on the Anzio beachhead. He says a foxhole is worth more than a king's palace at times but is not finding the life of an Infantryman as tough as many believe it to be.

### Fifth Bond Drive To Start June 12

#### Prominent Speaker Will Address Employees; Army Band Plays

With arrangements being made for one of the best opening programs of its type ever presented here, the Fifth War Loan drive will get under way in the yard on June 12 and will continue through July 8.

A prominent speaker will address the employees and music will be furnished by a band from one of the Army posts in this section.

The program will have some other interesting features and should attract the largest crowd since Actress Constance Bennett awarded us the Bond "T" flag at the launching of the 100th ship on May 25, 1943.

Early indications are this will be the biggest and best bond drive we've staged.

Because of our good records as bond buyers, the Treasury has asked us to purchase a million and a quarter dollars worth, maturity value, during the campaign. This will include those bought through payroll deductions. The Treasurer's office has made arrangements to see that (Continued on page 8)

### Launching Honors Senior Class

The second annual New Hanover High school launching honoring the Senior class was staged on May 26 with Miss Charlene Register, who was selected for the honor of sponsor by her classmates, christening the S. S. Game Cock, 162nd vessel to near completion here.

Miss Register is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Register, of 1012 South Fourth St. Her attendants were Miss Byah Thomason, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

B. H. Thomason, of 313 Colonial Drive, and Miss Betty Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Evans, of Wrightsville Beach.

Many members of the Senior class attended the ceremonies.

Appreciation to the yard for making a launching a part of the annual graduation exercises of the school was expressed by Principal T. T. Hamilton. The custom was started in 1943 and is expected to be continued with the Seniors selecting the sponsor and her attendants.

### Miss DeKay Sponsor Of Naval Vessel

#### We Must Complete Schedule By End Of The Year

Our participation in the war effort reached new heights on the morning of June 6 as we launched the U. S. S. Torrance, first of several AKA's (Cargo ships, attack) we will build for the United States Navy as it expands its offensive operations.

Because of the urgent need for these vessels, the launching was comparable in importance to that of our first Liberty ship, the S. S. Zebulon B. Vance, and the first C-2, the S. S. Storm King.

With Rear Admiral Jules James, of Charleston, S. C., Commandant of the Sixth Naval district, representing the Navy, and W. H. Blakeman, of Philadelphia, assistant regional director of the Maritime commission, representing that organization, the U. S. S. Torrance was christened by Miss Marlene DeKay, of Pinehurst, grandniece of Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman of the Maritime commission. Her attendants were her mother, Mrs. Emory DeKay, her sister, Miss Carol DeKay, also of Pinehurst, and Miss Eleanor G. James, of Charleston.

#### Others Underway

We received the AKA assignment, in recognition of splendid past performances, several months ago. Several more of the craft are in various stages of completion on the ways and all under the contract must be delivered to the Navy by the end of the year. Some of them, including the U. S. S. Torrance, will be completed by the Navy while all work on the others will be done here.

The dimensions of the AKA's are similar to those of the C-2's but considerable changes will be made to meet the requirements of the Navy and their tonnage will be somewhat greater.

Explaining that the AKA's will have an "indispensable role in the United Nations' plans for victory," Rear Admiral H. L. Vickery, Vice Chairman of the Maritime commission, recently declared that they must be ready on time. Because these ships will "carry the attack" their good and fast construction is even more important to the war than our Liberty and C-2 programs. The order gives the yard a greater part in helping knock out the Japanese and the Germans and achieve final victory. Because our tasks have taken on new importance, the individual patriotic effort of all in making the AKA's ready for the Navy as soon as humanly possible has been asked.

We are, as Admiral Vickery (Continued on page 4)

### Typical Mother



MRS. LUCY C. JOHNSON

### Mothers Honored At Yard Service

#### Mrs. Johnson Presented Lily In Remembrance Of Annual Day

Many of us noted Mother's Day at the weekly religious program on May 14 with a program highlighted with presentation of a beautiful potted lily to Mrs. Lucy C. Johnson, selected as the yard's "typical mother" of 1944.

Mrs. Johnson graciously accepted the flower from her fellow employees for, and in behalf of, the many mothers employed here as a token of our remembrance and honor of the day.

She is employed in the Steam Engineers department and has two sons in the service. She lives on Wilmington route No. 3.

The sermon was by the Rev. Russell H. Caudill, Boys' Work Secretary of the Wilmington Y. M. C. A., and he preached on the topic of "Motherhood." Ralph Richards, of the Industrial USO, sang a solo, "Dear Little Mother of Mine." He was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Richards.

### AKA Type Vessels Are Being Named For U. S. Counties

The AKA type ships we're building are being named for counties of the United States.

The first, the U. S. S. Torrance, bears the name of a county in New Mexico. Others to go down the ways here soon and the states whose counties they will honor are the U. S. S. Towner, North Dakota; U. S. S. Trego, Kansas, and U. S. S. Tolland, Connecticut.

A proposal to have some of them named for North Carolina counties is under consideration. Already, an AKA launched in another yard has been named for Bladen county.