

# The New York Navy Yard shipworker

THE MAN BEHIND THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN

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## Drydock Launching for Bennington

### Yard Passes Milestone Today—First Carrier Launched at Noon

Our nomination for 1944 Queen of the Flattops is launched today, exactly four weeks after the formidable *USS Missouri* hit the water for the first time.

She's our first aircraft carrier. Of the 27,000-ton Essex class, she's a mighty fine, functional bit of shipbuilding, carefully constructed to play a unique and essential role in modern naval warfare. We're as proud as Punch of her, and as pleased as can be to present Uncle Sam with still another type of warship.

#### Simple Ceremony

We built her in drydock, so today's ceremony will be more of a baptism than a launching of the traditional type, where the ship slides down ways into the water.

Shortly after noon, sixteen feet of water will be admitted to the huge building dock, through its gates.

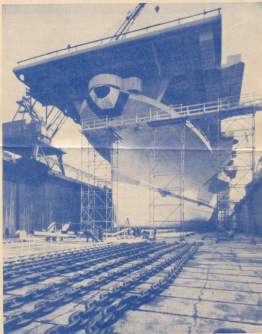
#### Mrs. Maas, Sponsor

As the water touches the keel of the ship, the sponsor—Mrs. Melvin J. Maas, wife of Representative Maas of Minnesota who is a member of the House Naval Affairs Committee and a Colonel in the USMCR—will swing into action.

Standing on a platform built out in the graving dock, high under the vessel's bow, Mrs. Maas will crack the traditional bottle of champagne over the bow and christen her "*USS Bennington*."

#### Gates Guest Speaker

Only Navy Yard employees and a small group of guests will witness the brief, simple ceremony. The yard is fortunate in having as guest speaker for the occasion Artemus L. Gates, assistant secretary of the Navy for air. Among the few distinguished guests will be Francis E. Morrissey, president of the Village of Bennington, Vermont. Our aircraft carrier is the second U. S. warship to bear the name of that historic town. The first *USS Bennington*, for which ours is named, was a gubboat notable chiefly for the fact that she took possession of Wake Island for the United States in January 1899 (see story, adjoining columns).



Official U. S. Navy Photo

### First Bennington Took Wake

Red-letter day in the career of the first *USS Bennington* was January 17, 1899, when she took possession of Wake Island. On that day the commanding officer of the little gubboat which had been christened *Bennington* in June 1890 was the late Commander Edward David

Tausig, USN, later Rear Admiral and father of the now Vice Admiral Joseph K. Tausig, USN, (ret.).

The stars and stripes were immediately hoisted over Wake and the following inscription scrawled near the base of the flagstaff:

(Continued on Page 2)