Eight Department Heads Assume Duties At Recommissioning Ceremonies Today

Eight Officers will assume their duties as Department Heads when the Bennington goes back into the Atlantic tomorrow. Four men in uniform have been distinguished; the other four, still in their uniforms, will join the party at the Bennington's new home, the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Florida.

Commander Joseph T. Lawler, who will head the Operations Department, will come from the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, D.C. He served in the South Pacific for 18 months during World War II. He wears the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, two gold stars, and the Air Medal with six gold stars.

Cdr. Lawler entered the Navy in July of 1937 and received his commission in 1938. He is married to the former Cora Elaine Hool, Virginia. Cdr. Mrs. Lawler now resides in Dekalb, Illinois.

In charge of the Air Department will be Captain Frederick W. Hool. He attended the Distinguished Flying Cross, two gold stars, the Air Medal with ten gold stars, the Purple Heart, and a Presidential Unit Citation. He is also a graduate of Harvard University.

Cdr. Hool was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross while serving in the South Pacific during World War II. He was married to the former Adelle Wilcox. They have two children—Cael Elaine and Michael Edward.

Commander Claude E. Adams, Jr., of St. Paul, Minnesota, will head the ship's Dental Department. He comes to the Bennington from the naval Air Station at Memphis, Tennessee.

Launched in Drydock

The Bennington rests in drydock in the New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, New York shortly after her launching on February 28, 1944. Unlike the usual ceremony, the ship was launched by admiring sixteen-year-olds from a nearby drydock gate. As the water reached the keel, Mrs. Melvin J. Mass, wife of Representative Mass of Minnesota, cracked the traditional bottle of champagne over the bow and christened her "U.S.S. Bennington."