

NAVY TO LAUNCH FIRST BATTLESHIP IN REARM DRIVE

35,000-Ton U. S. S. Washington to Hit Water Tomorrow; 68 More Building

By Edward E. Bomar
Washington, May 31.—(P)—The first new American battleship in 19 years slides into the water tomorrow at the start of a drive to speed warship construction unmatched in intensity since world war days.

The 35,000-ton U.S.S. Washington will be launched at the Philadelphia navy yard. It is the first of 68 warships still under the riveting hammer which the navy, by day and night work, intends to complete months ahead of their original schedules.

To Start Others
The record appropriation for the sea forces now before congress includes more than \$100,000,000 to be expended solely to speed the transformation of steel into battleship at a rate never even contemplated until the latest emergency arose.

As fast as the fleet reinforcements slide down the ways at more than a dozen crowded shipyards, keels for other craft will take their place.

Two weeks hence the Washington's twin-sister, the U.S.S. North Carolina, under construction at the New York navy yard

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Race Driver Hurt in Wreck



Raul Reganti, South American driver, was injured when his car (No. 29) hit a wall in the 500-mile race in Indianapolis.

for two and a half years, is to be launched. Other vessels to be launched or completed this year are destroyers and auxiliaries.

Despite the new pressure for speed, the two battleships will not be ready to take their places with the fleet for more than a year. Nevertheless, day and night work will save months in their completion and in the building of the six additional battleships already laid down or soon to be under construction.

Four Well Along
Work is well under way on the four other 35,000-ton battleships, and materials are being assembled for the 45,000-ton U.S.S. Iowa and U.S.S. New Jersey whose keels are to be laid this fall or earlier at New York and Philadelphia, respectively.

The navy opens bids tomorrow on four new destroyers and before July 1 expects to have preliminaries out of the way for all the 24 new ships to be undertaken at the next stage of expanding American seapower. These 24 are to be followed by three score new vessels contemplated in the 11 percent expansion of fleet tonnage awaiting final congressional action.

The Dead sea is 47 miles long. Ireland produces about 4,000,000 tons of peat yearly.

WAR, POOR WEATHER HOLD RETAIL BUYING TO SLIGHT INCREASE

New York, May 31.—(P)—War and adverse weather were blamed by merchants for generally disappointing retail trade during the past week, Dun & Bradstreet said today in its weekly survey.

Retail volume for the nation was estimated 2 to 5 percent higher than last year. "The only region to maintain its year-to-year increase," asserted the review, "was the middle west where industrial centers recorded gains averaging 5 to 11 percent. Sales in the east were a little under a year ago, the total decrease being no more than 3 percent."

"Retailers continued to buy as close to the vest as possible. For the most part the only orders placed during the week were to round out summer stocks or promotional lines."

"Wholesalers pointed out, however, that the slowing down in trading by no means signifies a disruption of markets. Although retailer sentiment is said to have been quite deeply affected by recent developments abroad, few attempts have been made to withdraw orders or put pressure on prices."

BRITAIN REPORTS LOSS OF CRUISER

London, May 31.—(P)—The admiralty today announced the loss of the British anti-aircraft cruiser Curlew.

The 4,290-ton ship was sunk as a result "of a bombing attack some days ago off the north coast of Norway," the announcement said. Four officers and five sailors lost their lives.

A list of casualties in the sinking of the destroyer Glowworm in a battle off Norway April 8 disclosed today that 7 officers, 105 British seamen and three Maltese seamen were missing and presumed to be dead.

Dry air consists of 78 per cent nitrogen, 21 per cent oxygen and 1 per cent other gases.

VIVIEN LEIGH GOING HOME TO AID COUNTRY

New York, May 31.—(P)—Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier give a final Broadway performance of "Romeo and Juliet" June 8 and leave for war service in Great Britain.

The British film and stage players were advised several days ago by cable, Olivier said, to return to England. Neither could say what kind of service they might be called upon to perform.

Both had volunteered their services to the British ministry of information sometime ago.

FORMER HOCKEY STAR DIES IN AUTO CRASH

Nelson, B. C., May 31.—(CP)—Mickey McKay, one of hockey's greatest centers, was fatally injured last night when his automobile crashed into a pole. He was dead when taken to a hospital.

McKay, known to hockey fans as the "Wee Scot", jumped from the Ontario amateur ranks to stardom with the Vancouver Millionaires in the old Pacific coast hockey league in 1914. He retired several years ago to engage in the mining business in British Columbia.

Preservation of fresh olives by freezing is the subject of experiments at the University of California. Federal tables show that a white baby boy at birth can expect to live 69 years. If he gets through the first year he can look forward to 62 years. For girls it's longer: 68 years at birth and 65 after the first year. The Australian Red Cross has mobile "blood tanks" to provide soldiers with transfusions on the battlefield.

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