

“A FIGHTING NAME FOR A FIGHTING SHIP”

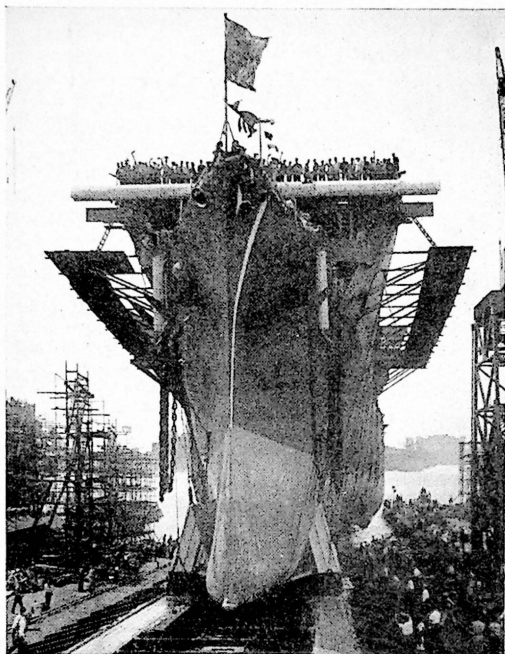
THIS IS the *U. S. S. Bataan*, one of the newest aircraft carriers to be launched by the Navy, and the first to be named in honor of an American campaign of the present war. “A fighting name for a fighting ship,” the *Bataan* is, in the words of President Quezon, “a symbol of the inevitable defeat of Japan”.

Aside from justly immortalizing the gallant stand of Filipinos and Americans in Bataan, the naming of the ship *Bataan* points to the great pride the United States bears for the heroism displayed by Americans and Filipinos in the Battle of the Philippines.

“No ship bears a more illustrious name,” said the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox in his message to President Quezon informing him of the new warship’s launching at the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Corporation in Camden, New Jersey. “The *U. S. S. Bataan* commemorates a campaign that has become a symbol of the fortitude and endurance of free men in the face of overwhelming odds. It has a rendezvous with destiny that shall not be denied. I know that you and your brave people will join with all Americans in wishing the *Bataan* and the men who will sail in her Godspeed and good hunting.”

At the time of the launching, on the afternoon of August 1st, President Quezon was resting in a vacation resort in the Adirondacks. Although unable to attend the ceremonies, his reply to Secretary Knox was released simultaneously with the launching. He wrote:

“I am delighted to learn of the launching of the United States aircraft carrier *Bataan*. The valor of the American and Filipino fighting men who battled through the long months on Bataan will serve as an inspiration to the men of this fine new ship. To the people of the Philippines, who live only for the day of victory and liberation, the *Bataan* will be a symbol of the inevitable defeat of Japan. Our fighting comradeship was sealed in the foxholes of Bataan, and hallowed forever in the shallow graves of that blood-stained bit of land. Today our hearts go with the men who built this ship, with the sailors who will man her, and with the aviators who will take off from her flight



deck. In the name of the Filipino people, I extend to all of them my most fervent wishes for good fortune and speedy victory.”

Owing to wartime restrictions, the ceremony of the launching of the aircraft carrier was witnessed by a small group of Navy officers and shipyard officials in addition to the honor guests, Vice-President Sergio Osmeña and Colonel Manuel Nieto, military aide to President Quezon, and Miss Maria Osmeña, the Vice-President’s daughter. The sponsor was Mrs. George D. Murray, wife of the rear admiral commanding the Naval Air Training Center at Pensacola, Florida.

be cashed by the depositor for the duration, except in extreme cases of emergency.

It is clear that the Philippine government aims, through this plan, to enable Filipinos to invest their savings in the new Philippine Republic. After the war, great opportunities for agricultural and industrial development will be open to all, especially to those who had taken advantage of these days of high wages and profitable labor, and had invested their savings in war bonds, deposited with the Philippine Government. The Filipinos here and in Hawaii can well use to advantage their experience and training in profitable investments in the Philippines and with the encouragement and cooperation of the Philippine government, the needed capital for such future investments is assured.

The plan is very timely and fills a vital need in Filipino communities. Filipinos are now receiving high wages. Through this plan the Philippine Government takes upon itself the responsibility of guiding them in conserving their earnings.

The plan not only affords the Filipinos the opportunity of helping the United States in the successful prosecution of the war by buying U. S. War Bonds, but also encourages them to lay the foundation of their economic security in the Philippines after the war.

Details of the plan are being arranged with Philippine Government authorities in Washington, and it is expected that the plan will be in full operation sometime in September this year.

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