

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE USS TURNER?

ON A FREEZING MORNING OFF NEW YORK, A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS
RIPPED A NEAR-NEW DESTROYER APART
BY ROBERT WINSLOW



USS *Turner* was powered by Westinghouse Geared Turbines producing 50,000-shp through two screws.



The cause of the destruction of the USS *Turner* remains a mystery. The ship is seen in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.



Button worn to the mass launching of four destroyers including *Turner*.

The eastern sky had begun to take on a bit of light during the freezing morning of 3 January 1944 as the massive city of New York and the surrounding area started to come to life. Residents along the shoreline of lower New York Bay were preparing for the start of the work day, many still recovering from the effects of New Year's Eve. The war was finally beginning to show a glimmer of hope as America and its Allies had taken a firm foothold against the Axis powers and, after two years of suffering, progress was

being made as the war began to move closer to Tokyo and Berlin.

The morning routine for thousands of citizens was suddenly jarred as a series of booming, thunderous explosions echoed across the water. War nerves were still very prevalent and numerous citizens panicked — fearing perhaps an attack by some of Hitler's long-threatened "wonder weapons." However, the explosions were not coming from an attack on the New York shore but rather from the death-throes of an American

destroyer that was anchored off Ambrose Light.

Named after Capt. Daniel Turner, a hero of the naval war of 1812, the USS *Turner* (DD-648) was a *Gleaves*-class destroyer that had been commissioned on 15 April 1943 after being built at the Federal Shipbuilding & Drydock Company located at Kearny, New Jersey.

The *Gleaves*-class comprised some 66 destroyers that were designed by Gibbs & Cox and was the class of destroyer in production when the USA entered the Second

THIS CARD IS YOUR ADMISSION

TO THE *Launching* OF THE
DESTROYERS

U.S.S. THORN U.S.S. TURNER
U.S.S. BULLARD U.S.S. KIDD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1943 . 4:00 P. M.
THE SHIPYARD, KEARNY, NEW JERSEY

FEDERAL SHIPBUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY
UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION SUBSIDIARY

GUARD THIS TICKET CAMERAS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

Admission ticket to the launching of the four destroyers.