

U.S.S. Glennon (DD-620)

Commissioning Address
by Rear Admiral E. J. Marquart, USN

Navy Yard, New York
October 8, 1942

Captain Officers and men of the U.S.S. GLENNON:

It is a real pleasure for me to be here and to bid you welcome on behalf of our Navy, as your good ship starts her active service with our battle fleet. The Navy is happy to have this splendid new destroyer join its ever-growing numbers, and I know that you are proud to have been chosen as the first crew to take the GLENNON into fighting warfare against our arrogant enemies.

Your ship, as it is delivered into your hands today, symbolizes the will and determination of the American people to fight to the finish, and to win this war which has been forced upon us. It is all American - design, material and workmanship - put together with a prayer and confident hope of every citizen that, in your hands, it will bring our ultimate victory much closer. The engineers and workmen responsible for its planning and building have worked into your ship all the deadly power that is known about modern naval warfare. None better ever was built - none ever built in such record time. American workmen have driven themselves day and night with all their strength and intelligence in order to speed this ship to completion. What still remains to be done, in order to fit you out for sea, will be rushed through with the same speed and efficiency by the Navy Yard shipworkers during the next few days.

Now it is up to you officers and men to take hold and carry on. It is your ship. You must give it life, spirit, character, - - and make its reputation. You must make yourselves into an offensive-minded fighting team, real man-of-war-men. You must make your fine ship a real man-of-war, a tough fighting unit, fully able and eager to deliver all that great battle punch built into her, and make her measure up to her enormous powers for destruction.

The concerted effort to a common goal shown by all those who have had a hand in building the GLENNON must now characterize you officers and men as you turn to, with selfless devotion, on your great task - your big responsibility. The record in building this powerful ship must be matched by you in making her into a hard-hitting fighter. The time allowed you for doing that is short, desperately short; for every available ship is needed on the battle line and is needed now. You must spare no effort in mastering the tasks assigned you, so that when the moment of trial confronts you, as it surely will in the near future, you will be able to deliver decisive blows. It will be your high duty as the crew of this vessel to seek out and destroy the enemy. Your nation expects you to fulfill this purpose in a way that will strike terror into the hearts of our enemies everywhere. And I know that you will richly justify the hopes and prayers of your countrymen, for I see in your faces the firm resolve to conduct yourselves in accordance with the noblest traditions of the U.S. Navy and be worthy of our great country which it serves.

Your ship is named to honor the memory of Rear Admiral James Henry Glennon, U.S. Navy. In active service throughout many years, his career was marked with outstanding achievement, and his name stands out in bold type on the list of

our Navy's distinguished officers.

I am confident that you officers and men are fully determined to make the U.S.S. GLENNON have a record of glorious deeds in our Navy's history of its ships.

Welcome to the Fleet, best o'luck and God bless you!

E. J. MARQUART,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commandant, Navy Yard, New York
and Third Naval District.

(Courtesy of Gustavus R. Ide, Jr., in October 1998)