

NAVY DEPARTMENT

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about

DESTROYER NAMED FOR FIVE BROTHERS
MISSING FROM U.S.S. JUNEAU

The President of the United States has approved the naming of a new destroyer the USS THE SULLIVANS, in honor of the five sons of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan of Waterloo, Iowa, all listed as missing from the USS JUNEAU, cruiser sunk by enemy action near the Solomons during the Battle of Guadalcanal, November 13 to 15, 1942. Mrs. Sullivan, mother of the missing boys, has been invited to sponsor the new destroyer, which is being constructed in the San Francisco yard of the Bethlehem Steel Company. No date has been set for the launching.

Aboard the JUNEAU when she was sunk were George Thomas, Francis Henry, Joseph Eugene, Madison Abel, and Albert Leo Sullivan. All were assigned to this ship in compliance with their request to the Navy Department that they be permitted to serve together.

The destroyer to bear the name THE SULLIVANS formerly was assigned the name USS PUTNAM, after a naval hero who perished in 1882 in the Arctic when an ice floe, upon which he was traveling after an expedition to rescue officers and men of a burning cruiser, broke loose. Another destroyer under construction for the Navy will be assigned the name, USS PUTNAM.

The Sullivan brothers enlisted simultaneously on January 3, 1942, at Des Moines, Iowa; went to the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois, together, and subsequently were ordered to duty in the JUNEAU. All five were born in Waterloo, Iowa. The youngest was the only one married. Two had served previous four-year enlistments.

George Thomas Sullivan was born December 14, 1914. Together with his next oldest brother, Francis Henry Sullivan, he was accepted for first enlistment on May 11, 1937. Both served at the same time on the USS HOVEY until their honorable discharge in May, 1941, at the expiration of their enlistments. George Thomas Sullivan was a Gunner's Mate, 2nd Class.

Francis Henry Sullivan was born February 18, 1916. During his second enlistment he became a Coxswain.

Joseph Eugene Sullivan was born August 28, 1918. He was a Seaman, 2nd Class.

Madison Abel Sullivan, born November 8, 1919, was a Seaman, 2nd Class.

Albert Leo Sullivan, born July 8, 1922, was a Seaman, 2nd Class. His

wife, Mrs. Katherine Mary Sullivan, resides at 2228 Hawthorne Street, Waterloo, Iowa. He is the only one of the five brothers who did not list the parental home, 98 Adams Street, Waterloo, as his home address.

President Roosevelt sent a letter to Mrs. Sullivan when her sons were reported missing, offering the condolence and gratitude of the country. Mrs. Sullivan has since visited war production plants urging employees to work harder to produce weapons for the Navy so that the war may come to an end sooner.

One other vessel of the United States Navy was named after five brothers who served their country. The USS O'BRIEN, a destroyer launched several years ago, was named after Captain Jeremiah O'Brien and four of his brothers who, in the first naval engagement of the Revolutionary War, slipped out of a Maine harbor on a lumber sloop, attacked a British sloop and emerged victorious.

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