

# The Slaters Arrive For Launching

A HERO'S NAME



He was only a farm lad on Sand Mountain when he joined the Navy. He never went to high school. He had traveled little. When there are ten children, opportunities are limited.

But when this country needed him, he went. He didn't know much about totalitarianism and the New Order. He knew that his country was calling him, and he answered.

The call led him to a battle post on a cruiser in the Solomon Islands area. Far away was the Sand Mountain home when a Japanese torpedo plane plunged down toward the ship. But the lad from the hills of North Alabama stuck by his post, firing his gun. The shells went home. But the plane crashed into the ship, and the lad from Sand Mountain died.

The government is going to name a ship for that lad. It will be called the Frank O. Slater. Many persons around Fyffe, on Sand Mountain, know that name. But now they must share it with the nation.

Frank's mother will christen the ship. She has never seen the sea nor a ship. If she has her way, she will christen the ship with water from the family well which Frank helped to dig. The water from the well will mingle with waters in the sea that once was reddened with Frank's blood.

There is a lot of America in that story.—Birmingham News.



—Tribune Photos

Members of the James L. Slater family, of Crossville, Ala. (top), as they arrived in Tampa yesterday for the christening of the USS Frank O. Slater today. Mr. and Mrs. Slater are in the center. At bottom, the family and their kinfolk and a few neighbors register at the Edgewater hotel.

*Signed in the...  
...at the Edgewater hotel*