



The History of U. S. S. WASP

“THE MIGHTY STINGER”



THE LAYING of the keel on 18 March 1943, at the Bethlehem Steel Company yards in Quincy, Massachusetts was the first step in the rearing of what was to be the seventh mighty sea fighter to carry the name USS WASP. This newest of Aircraft Carriers was originally assigned the name ORISKANY, but shortly after the sinking of the sixth WASP in the Pacific in September 1942, the name was

changed making this new ship the seventh American warship to carry the name of WASP.

The first WASP was a schooner carrying eight guns obtained for the Continental Navy before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The second WASP was a ship of eighteen guns built at the Washington Navy Yard in 1806.

In 1813, a third WASP with eighteen guns was built at Newburyport, Massachusetts.

The fourth WASP was an iron side-wheel steamer formerly named EMMA HENRY purchased in January 1865.

The fifth WASP was the steel steam yacht COLUMBIA, purchased new in 1898.

The sixth and last previous WASP was the one whose keel was laid at the Fore River Yard on 1 April 1936, and which was placed in commission on 25 April 1940. Her short career was abruptly terminated on 15 September 1942, when she was hit in quick succession by three torpedoes from a Japanese submarine which had gotten within range without being detected. About ninety percent of the Ship's crew were rescued after which she was sunk by American torpedoes. The violent

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1. *Hoisting Commissioning Pennant*
2. *Bos'uns Setting Watch*
3. *Snow on Flight Deck*