

Los Angeles Herald, October 9, 1909

Training Ship Intrepid Successfully Launched



MISS HELEN DE YOUNG, WHO CHRISTENED THE NEW TRAINING SHIP INTREPID

Great Crowd Witnesses Event at Mare Island Navy Yard—Miss DeYoung of San Francisco Christens New Vessel

By Associated Press.

VALLEJO, Cal., Oct. 8.—The new training ship Intrepid was successfully launched today at the Mare Island navy yard in the presence of a large crowd which, despite a heavy rain, came from San Francisco and other places to witness the ceremony. On the stand provided for the launching party were Miss Helen de Young, daughter of M. H. de Young, proprietor of the San Francisco Chronicle, who had been chosen by Secretary of the Navy Morton to act as sponsor to the vessel; United States Senator Perkins, the mayors of San Francisco, Oakland and Vallejo, Rear Admiral McCalla, commandant, and the heads of various departments of the navy yard. The gunboat Annapolis was provided for other invited guests.

Launched Without Hitch

After a prayer by Chaplain McAllister, Rear Admiral McCalla introduced Senator Perkins, who made a brief address. He spoke of the splendid equipment of Mare Island for the building of vessels and referred to the importance of favorable legislation.

The launching then proceeded without a hitch under the supervision of Naval Constructor Zahn. As Miss de Young broke a bottle of champagne across the vessel's bows she exclaimed: "I christen thee Intrepid."

When the vessel touched the water guns boomed, whistles tooted, bells rang and the band played "The Star Spangled Banner." After the launching the distinguished visitors were the guests of Rear Admiral McCalla at lunch.

The Intrepid will be a steel bark rigged training ship of the following general dimensions: Length on load water line, 176 feet 5 inches; length between perpendiculars, 176 feet; length over all, 210 feet 6 inches; breadth, 45 feet 6 inches; displacement, about 1800 tons; mean draught, 16 feet 5 1/4 inches.

Her battery will be as follows: Six four-inch forty-caliber rapid-fire guns, four six-pounder rapid-fire guns, two one-pounder rapid-fire guns, two automatic Colt's guns, .30 caliber.

The four-inch guns will be on the

gun deck and the remainder of her battery will be carried on the main and berth decks.

The ship will be used for training apprentices and landsmen on this coast.

The ship has a double bottom, three masts and a bowsprit, the lower masts of steel.

She will be entirely propelled by sail, but will have an auxiliary steam plant for operating the electrical plant, steam heating and other interior arrangements. Her crew consists of 229 men, a captain, nine wardroom officers and six warrant officers.

Third of Her Name in Navy

The Intrepid is the third ship to be built at this yard, besides a number of tugs and smaller craft. The monitor Monadnock, now in China waters, and the wooden training ship Mohican, now in the Philippines, were also built at the Mare Island navy yard, the monitor Monadnock being partially built on the Vallejo side.

The Intrepid is the third ship of the American navy to bear the name, the first having been with Admiral Decatur at Tripoli during the war with the pirates there. The second was rather an experimental vessel and was afterward broken up. This, the third, has been constructed in accordance with advanced ideas of training men for the navy, it being a generally conceded principle that men trained in sailing ships are much better fitted as seamen than are those who have never had experience aboard a vessel using wind for power.

Little Over Half Completed

The Intrepid is a little over half completed. The keel was laid early this year, two months after the keel of a similar ship being constructed in the east, and is now only a few points behind her, having been delayed on account of non-receipt of steel.

The Intrepid is one of the new steel training ships provided for by act of congress approved March 5, 1893, and for which an appropriation of \$379,600 each was made. The keel of the Intrepid was laid at Mare Island January 2 last.