

NAVY PLANT RUSHES NEW MYSTERY GUN

**Rapid-Fire 5-Inch Cannon for
Destroyers Being Produced
in Quantity at Capital.**

ALSO FORGING OTHER ARMS

**Factory Working on 24-Hour
Basis to Keep Pace With
Treaty Quota Building.**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—A new "mystery" rapid-fire gun of 5-inch bore, with a range of about 20,000 yards, for use on destroyers has been placed in quantity production at the naval gun factory of the Washington Navy Yard.

The weapon has been developed secretly by naval ordnance officers and complete details of its ballistics and other particulars are being withheld by the naval high command because of the importance of the new design.

The weapon is about fifteen feet long, and therefore shorter than the 5-inch guns introduced in five American destroyers of the Brooks class in 1919. All the other older destroyers mount 4-inch guns.

All new destroyers now being built for the navy will carry the so-called "mystery" 5-inch gun. The first of these vessels to be commissioned, the Dewey and Farragut, the latter now serving as escort ship for President Roosevelt in Florida waters, carry this new weapon. The destroyers Worden, MacDonough, Hull and Aylwin, recently commissioned, as well as forty other new destroyers being constructed for the navy, are each designed to mount four of the mystery guns.

Two hundred and fifty of the 5-inch guns are being made at the gun factory, where 8,400 men are engaged in the production of these and other naval guns, working day and night shifts, from midnight Sunday until midnight Friday on a five-day-week schedule.

These gun-making activities are necessary to keep pace with the building of warships in the naval program to bring the fleet to treaty strength. To provide guns for ships now building the gun factory must continue operations on a 24-hour basis until Jan. 1, 1937.

Besides the 5-inch guns for destroyers, the gun factory is making nine 8-inch guns for the heavy cruiser Vincennes, will also build a similar group for the heavy cruiser Wichita, and is making one hundred and five 6-inch guns for use

on the new light cruisers Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Savannah, Nashville, Phoenix, Boise and Honolulu, now under construction.

The War Department awarded today a contract for fifteen additional Martin bombing airplanes, to cost \$653,279.20. A contract, let on June 29 provided for eighty-one of these planes.