

Grandson of Naval Hero Destitute Here As Naming of Destroyer Honors Family

Alderman Lambert Fairchild telegraphed yesterday to Secretary of the Navy Swanson protesting against the naming of a destroyer for the late Rear Admiral Worden while the latter's grandson, a wounded World War veteran, "is denied employment by every governmental work relief agency in New York."

"The naming of this destroyer, which under ordinary circumstances would be a highly fitting and appropriate tribute to one of the nation's heroes," Alderman Fairchild said, "becomes a hollow and vain gesture while his grandson and his family are in dire need of employment that a grateful government can and should supply."

In the Civil War John Lorimer Worden, who afterward became a rear admiral, commanded the iron-clad Monitor in her historic battle with the Merrimac in Hampton Roads. A shell that struck the lookout port of the Monitor's pilot house partly blinded him. But he remained in the navy throughout the war and took part in several other engagements.

His son, John Lorimer Worden Jr., commanded a company of Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War and was wounded in the charge at San Juan Hill. He is now in a Spanish-American War veterans' home in Ohio.

The grandson, John Franklin Worden, was just out of high school when the United States entered the World War. He enlisted in the army and was assigned to the 126th Machine Gun Battalion.

At Château Thierry he was wounded in one leg and remained in a hospital for some months afterward.

After being mustered out of the army, he worked for a time as an investigator for a brokerage firm. Subsequently, during the boom in Florida, he was superintendent of a real estate development there. Now he is almost destitute and living, with his wife, Florence, in a boarding house at 158 West Seventy-sixth Street. Although he has made repeated attempts to obtain government employment, he has not succeeded.

"I have been offered home relief several times," Worden explained last night. "But I won't take it. I feel that my service, and my family's service to our country, entitles me to a chance to earn a modest living. That is all I ask."

"I have passed the civil service examinations for a position in the customs service and I now stand No. 41 on the list. But I have been on the list for three years."

Worden said there had been a destroyer bearing the name of his family in the Navy almost since the Civil War. The new one recently was completed on Puget Sound. When the old Worden was in New York five years ago, he said, he had dinner aboard as guest of the officers' mess.

After the World War, he said, he received \$20 a month disability pay from the government, but this was reduced last year to \$9 a month. He hopes President Roosevelt will make use of an executive order to place him in the customs service.