

DESTROYER NAMED FOR LATE NEWPORTER

S. S. Kirwin To Be
Launched in Philadelphia

Other of Navy Lieutenant Killed
In Action at Salerno Will
Christen Craft

The U. S. S. Kirwin, a destroy-
er-escort named in honor of
Lieutenant John Joseph Kirwin,
S. N. of this city, son of Mr.
and Mrs. Andrew J. Kirwin of
Atlantic street, will be christ-
ened by his mother when it is
launched at the Philadelphia
Navy Yard June 15, the Associa-
ted Press reports.

Lieutenant Kirwin was killed
in action September 11, 1943, on
board the U. S. S. Savannah dur-
ing the amphibious landings at
Salerno, Italy. He was awarded
the Navy Cross, Purple Heart,
and a citation for heroic action.
The late Secretary of the Navy
Knox said that the Newporter
showed heroism in complete dis-
regard of his own life by re-
sponding to save the crew of a
turret that had been hit by a
bomb.

"When the detonation of an
enemy bomb inflicted heavy
casualties, set off numerous
fires and filled the turret with
dense smoke and toxic gases,
Lieutenant Kirwin promptly
ordered the area abandoned and,
despite the imminent danger of
magazine explosion, stood by his
station in the turret booth," the
citation said. With full knowl-
edge of the serious hazards in-
volved and with complete dis-
regard for his own personal
safety he calmly supervised the
evacuation and deliberately re-
mained behind to aid in saving
the lives of as many of his com-
mand as possible when he might
easily have escaped."

Lieutenant Kirwin was gradu-
ated from Rogers High School
and attended Columbian Prepa-
ratory School before entering
the Naval Academy at Annapo-
lis. He was graduated in 1941.

Newport Mercury (Newport, Rhode Island)
Friday, June 16, 1944, page 7

