

U. S. S. BENNINGTON (CV 20)

IN REPLY
REFER TO

- 12 August 1945
Operating in an area approximately 200 miles east of Honshu.
- 13 August 1945
Operating in an area approximately 150 miles east of Tokyo sending strikes against factories and airfields in the Mito area. Frequent enemy aircraft contacts.
- 14 August 1945
Operating in an area approximately 300 miles southeast of Tokyo for fueling and gunnery exercises.
- 15 August 1945
Underway approximately 150 miles of Tokyo launching strikes against airfields in the Mito area. The first strike, a fighter sweep, was launched at 0427 and went to the Ryakurigahara airfield and damaged planes on the ground, and a freight train. The second strike, with the Tokyo Shibaura Electric Plant as its target was launched, but recalled before reaching its target; AllNav 194-45 was received at 0640 stating that the Japanese had officially accepted our surrender terms. Strikes against the Empire of Japan were cancelled; launching of combat air patrols was continued as scheduled. CAP shot down a "Judy" over Task Group 38.4 at 1123. At 1301 Admiral Halsey broadcast Japanese surrender, which our Captain had rebroadcast over the ship's loud speakers. At 1315, a bogey was reported, distant 50 miles, and a few minutes later was splashed by CAP. At 1730 Bennington broke flag of ComCar Div Three (Rear Admiral T.L. Sprague).
- 16 August 1945
Operating approximately 200 miles southeast of Honshu, Japan.
- 17 August 1945
Underway approximately 300 miles southeast of Honshu, maneuvering with Task Force during Photographic exercises.
- 18 August 1945
Underway approximately 360 miles southeast of Tokyo, for refueling.
- 19 August 1945
Underway in an area approximately 260 miles southeast of Tokyo. Transferred Marine Detachment to USS Garrard (APA 84) for temporary duty in accordance secret despatch.
- 20 August 1945
Underway approximately 300 miles southeast of Tokyo.
- 21 August 1945
Underway approximately 300 miles southeast of Tokyo. Received ammunition.
- 22 August 1945
In an area approximately 300 miles southeast of Tokyo, participating in mass photographic flights over the entire Task Force, in formation.