

JET BLAST

CAPTAIN D. B. YOUNG COMMANDING OFFICER
 COMMANDER H. W. McDONALD..... EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 LIEUTENANT R. H. CLEMMONS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

EDITOR
 ENSIGN JOHN J. SHUMAKER

EDITORIAL BOARD

ENSIGN WILLIAM B. LUPFER PHOT G. M. BEMISS
 BUSBY, J. M., YN3

STAFF

HONOMICHAL, J. J., AN JACOBS, M., ABI
 WILSON, R.B., AN MCKAY, T. J., AN
 HUMMEL, H. J., AN

DISTRIBUTION:

This paper is published in accordance with NavExos P-35 November 1945 & SecNav Letter 49-50, for the officers and crew of the U.S.S. Bennington at no expense to the Government. This paper is for free distribution and may be mailed home. Photos may be official Navy photographs or contributions from the crew.

The Captain's Message To The Crew

This is the day that we have all been waiting for. It is the culmination of weeks and months, and in some cases, even years of hard work and skillful planning. It is the day in which we can all be justifiably proud, for now our ship joins the fleet and becomes a part of the greatest navy in the world. From now on our duties and responsibilities will be many. The free world looks to us for comfort and support and it will be a part of our job not to let her down.

Now, as we look back on the days before recommissioning, we can see that the important work that we did then was really only the beginning of our job. The real task lies ahead of us. Out of this mass of machinery a smoothly efficient fighting ship is going to emerge. We are going to build an organization, a combination of men and machines, which not only we and the Navy can be proud, but the whole free world as well.

It will take initiative, constant drill and exercise, and long hours of hard work to accomplish this. I feel confident that every man will not only do his part, but will do it in an exemplary fashion. In the months to come there may be inconvenience and there may be some small disappointment at times. These will all pass as we learn to do our jobs and grow into our new responsibilities.

Before long we will be taking our place among the first line fighting ships of the fleet. We will have to share the duties and responsibilities of a great navy. The long months of training and preparation will have made us ready and equal to the task. We will be doing our part and earning the satisfaction of performing a job well.

D. B. YOUNG,
 Captain, U.S. Navy
 Commanding

Chief MAA



Chief Boatswain's Mate John J. Donnelly will be Chief of the Master At Arms Force aboard the Bennington when the ship is recommissioned today. Donnelly served in both Europe and the South Pacific during World War II, participating in six major engagements. Prior to reporting to the Bennington, he completed a tour of duty at the Naval Recruiting Station, New York. A native of Brooklyn, Chief Donnelly and his wife, the former Eleanor Sherman of Brooklyn, now reside in West Palm Beach, Florida.

CVA-20 Named For Revolutionary Battle

(Continued from page 1)

British morale was shaken. Large numbers of the English forces in New England deserted and added to the heavy manpower losses in battle. Conversely, enlistments in the Colonial Army were greatly stimulated by the victory and the strengthened Americans were able to overwhelm the vital British stronghold of Saratoga. August 16th—is now "Bennington Day", a state holiday in Vermont.

Name Used for Gunboat

As early as 1891 our Navy chose to commemorate the battle by designating a gunboat the USS Bennington. The taut three mast schooner made history when her Captain, E. D. Taussig, raised the stars and strips over Wake Island and took possession for the United States on January 17, 1899. The first Bennington served with both the Pacific and Atlantic fleets until 1905 when she was

CDR McDonald Assumes Duty As Executive Officer

Commander Harold W. McDonald, of Annapolis, Maryland, will become Executive Officer of the U.S.S. Bennington when the ship returns to commission today. CDR McDonald's tour of duty prior to reporting aboard the Bennington was at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C.



Cdr. McDonald

CDR McDonald served overseas for 17 months during World War II, participating in the Marianas Campaign, the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea, and the invasion of Iwo Jima and the Philippines.

Born on April 8, 1911 in Columbia, Alabama, he attended Wetumpka High School, Wetumpka, Alabama and the Marion Military Institute, Marion, Alabama before entering the Naval Academy in 1931. Following his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1935, CDR McDonald served aboard the U.S.S. New York, the U.S.S. Claxton, the U.S.S. Childs, and the U.S.S. Enterprise before reporting to Pensacola for flight training in 1941.

After winning his wings, he joined VP-43, and served on the staff of Fleet Air Wing 14 in 1942 and 1943. Later duty stations were Executive Officer, and Commanding Officer of VPB-117, Commander Group One, Fleet Air Wing 17, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and Commanding Officer of VP-51. He was graduated from the Armed Forces Staff College in 1950 before reporting to the Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel.

CDR McDonald wears the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross with one gold star, the Air Medal with one gold star, the American Defense Ribbon with star, the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon with three stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with two stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

CDR and Mrs. McDonald, the former Jane Maxwell Hall, now reside at 11 Monroe Road, Annapolis, Maryland. They have two children, Judith Wood and Harold Wood, jr.

SecNav Kimball To Give Recom. Address

(Continued from page 1)

After his World War I pilot training, Mr. Kimball never lost interest in aviation. He holds a private pilot's license and until he entered the Navy Department, piloted his own plane.

placed out of commission at Mare Island Navy Yard.

The heritage and name returned to action in 1944 when the Navy designated the newly built CVA-20, the USS Bennington. Today, as alive and significant as ever, the proud name again belongs to the fleet.

Congratulations On Recommissioning Received by C.O.

Congratulatory messages from many prominent citizens and Naval personnel who had been invited to today's recommissioning ceremonies, but who will be unable to attend, have been received by the Captain's Office of the U.S.S. Bennington during the past week.

The following excerpts are taken from some of these messages:

"I wish you, your officers and men a happy and successful cruise aboard the Bennington." Francis P. Whitehair, Under Secretary of the Navy.

"Unfortunately I will be absent from New York on that afternoon, and will not be able to be among your guests . . . Both Mrs. Badger and I, extend to you and the Ship's company our best wishes for future success and good fortune wherever your duties may call." Admiral Oscar C. Badger.

"Best wishes for a most successful cruise." Rear Admiral M. R. Greer, Chief of Naval Air Technical Training.

"Every Good wish." Rear Admiral E. E. Yeomans, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations.

"Many thanks for your invitation and all good wishes for the Bennington." A. H. Dunnington, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy.

"All good wishes for a very successful ceremony on the 13th and a happy cruise." C. J. McCarthy, Vice President of United Aircraft Corporation.

"Our very best wishes to the officers and men of the good ship U.S.S. Bennington." Mr. Kent Chandler, A. B. Dick Company.

"Best wishes and smooth sailing to the Captain, Officers and crew of the Bennington, from the Captain, Officers and crew of the Lake Champlain, which will be at sea on 13 November. Good luck and many happy landings." Captain George Mundorff, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Lake Champlain.

"My thoughts will be with you on November 13th at 1400 and you and your ship's company have my best wishes for a happy cruise. I envy each and every one of you." Captain Percy H. Lyon, Commanding Officer of NAS Anacostia.

"Wish you, the Officers and crew good luck, happy steering and happy landings." Captain A. W. McKechnie, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations.

"Good luck and all good wishes to you and the Officers and crew of the U.S.S. Bennington." Hon. John Cashmore,

In Appreciation

The Captain, Officers, and crew wish to send a special note of appreciation to Miss Francis W. Schwab for the many services and most valuable assistance rendered the personnel of the Bennington during their pre-commissioning period.

In addition, the staff of the Jet Blast would like to thank the following activities for the aid given in the publication of this paper:

New York Naval Shipyard
 ComThree Public Information Office
 Staff of the "Shipworker"

LCDR Cunningham Is Ship's Chaplain

Lieutenant Commander B. V. Cunningham, from Manhasset, Long Island, New York, will be the Bennington's Senior Chaplain when the carrier goes back into commission this afternoon.

A graduate of Cathedral College, New York, N. Y., LCDR Cunningham was ordained after attending St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, New York.

A World War II veteran, Chaplain Cunningham entered the Naval Service in November of 1942.

F6F Pilot Survives Odd Crash Landing

Weirdest crash landing of the war on the Bennington occurred during the operations against Okinawa in April of 1945. Ensign J. B. Hoag, a photo plane pilot of VF-82, was the principal. He was jumped by enemy fighters over Kyushu, his wingman shot down and his own Hellcat badly damaged. He made it back, and landed without the use of his flaps. His tail-hook failed to catch any arresting wire, he sailed through two barriers, and his F6F broke up. The engine stayed aboard, but Hoag and the rest of the plane slid on over the side. He was rescued uninjured by the destroyer U.S.S. Schroeder.

President of the Borough of Brooklyn.

"I wish the best of luck to all hands." Captain C. J. Stuart, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations.

"Plenty good wishes for a successful cruise." Captain Robert Foley, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Wisconsin.

"Here's a wish for good cruising for you and the ship." Captain Paul Foley, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Mindoro.

"Best wishes for a happy and successful cruise." Captain W. N. Christenson, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

