

# The Staff

The Ship's Paper of the U.S.S. BENNINGTON

James B. Sykes, Captain, U.S.N.

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## Blue Network Correspondent Prefers Bennington

We've been on the BENNINGTON ever since she arrived in "Indian country." We could have come by plane in a matter of hours instead of days. At first we wondered why we hadn't done just that. It's always been the way we've travelled previously and is pretty good. And then we began to realize why it would have been a bad idea.

This virgin lady was quite a dish. We began to fall for her, to like travelling around with her. And we figured she had a story cooing up. Well, we'll soon know. Our lady is about to make her debut and many of you three thousand boys will then become veterans--veterans of the hardest punching outfit in this arena.

So before you step in there to slug it out, we want to pass along a word. We correspondents are sort of like warts on the war pickle. We're there all right, but the actual need is debatable.

We've been watching you most of the time since we sailed. We've met many of you, feel like we know all of you, because we've watched you work, when you didn't know we were watching sometimes. And we've bullfested with you, and come to feel like we're a part of the ship, even though we are warts, and that's principally because you've all gone out of your way to be damned nice to us.

Commander Beckmann has been the lead man in taking us over the ship from stem to stern, and enroute he stopped to introduce us. We decided he was a great guy. He is. And so are the other officers. Be damned if they all aren't. But it doesn't stop there. From the skipper down, we've yet to meet one of you birds we haven't liked. That isn't salve, because it shows up in the teamwork you've developed, like the way you went after that fire on the flight deck the other night--guts, willingness, friendship. We know it is going to show up when the cards go down soon, and right on through all the fighting days of the BENNINGTON.

What we're really trying to say is we're glad to be aboard. Thanks to every one of you. Good luck, and see you in the States when the show is over.

## Gen. Eisenhower's Favorite Prayer

Almighty God, we are about to be committed to a task which some of us will not return.

We go willingly to this hazardous adventure because we believe that those concepts of human dignity, right and justice that Your Son expounded to the world, and which are respected in the government of our beloved country, are in peril of extinction from the earth.

We are ready to sacrifice ourselves to our country and our God. We do not ask, individually for our safe return. But we earnestly pray that You will help each of us to do his full duty, permit none of us to fail a comrade in the fight.

Above all, sustain us in our conviction of the justice and righteousness of our cause so that we may rise above all terror of the enemy and come to You, if called, in the humble pride of the good soldier and in the certainty of Your infinite mercy. Amen.

## Church Call

<b>CATHOLIC</b> (M. W. Smith, Senior Chaplain)			
Daily Mass	Crew's Library		
Wednesday Forum (Catechism)	Crew's Library	2000	
Saturday Confessions			
Chaplain's Stateroom, No. 118		1930	
Sunday Mass	Place and Time Announced		
<b>PROTESTANT</b> (L. A. Weed, Chaplain)			
Daily Devotions	Crew's Library		
Tuesday SMCL	Crew's Library	2000	
Sunday Service	Place and Time Announced		
<b>JEWISH</b>			
Friday Service	Crew's Library	2000	

