

## U. S. S. Bennington



This is the second ship of the U. S. Navy to be so named.

The first vessel, a gunboat rigged as a three masted schooner, was launched June 3, 1890 and commissioned June 30, 1891. She was armed with 6—6" guns and her complement was 181 men; displacement 1700 tons; length 230 feet.

In 1899 her commander under orders took possession of Wake Island and surveyed the port of San Luis D'Apra on the Island of Guam. During the Philippine Insurrection she took part in operations conducted by General Arthur MacArthur and supported with gunfire landings of U. S. troops on the islands.

She was decommissioned September 16, 1910.



The present BENNINGTON is of the Essex class, among the largest aircraft carriers afloat. Her keel was laid December 15, 1942 and she was launched February 26, 1944.

At the precise moment the Commission Pennant, Union Jack, and National Ensign are unfurled the U. S. S. BENNINGTON becomes a unit of the United States Fleet—a command in herself. Through this simple but impressive ceremony another aircraft carrier officially takes her place to augment the largest Navy in the world.