

Naturally, our officers and men did not restrict their activities only to official business. A good deal of liberty time ashore was spent shopping at A-33, one of the three base exchanges. Souvenirs have been brought aboard BENNINGTON, and I'm confident that these gifts (called "presentos" in Japan) will be happily received upon our return home.

Five days from Yokosuka, en route from Pearl Harbor, we had an anxious time. One of our Chief Petty Officers, Charles W. Howard, suffered a severe heart attack. His condition was considered critical and prognosis was extremely grave. He was immediately diagnosed via electrocardiogram and promptly treated with narcotics, oxygen, digitalis and given constant nursing care. When we arrive at Yokosuka, he was transferred to the Naval Hospital, much improved. His recovery will be slow and arduous and our prayers go out to him and his wife for a complete and speedy recovery.

As has been mentioned before, Medical Department facilities aboard BENNINGTON are equivalent to a modern 50-bed hospital -- excellently equipped and staffed. X-Ray and laboratory services assist our four doctors in definitive diagnosis. The pharmacy carries the latest drugs necessary to combat disease. Our operating suite is equipped to handle any major surgical procedure. Other services available include eye refractions, an audiometer, electrocardiograph, and oxygen therapy. Be confident that no finer medical care is available anywhere than that which is available to your loved ones aboard BENNINGTON.



Recently, BENNINGTON's officers and men competed in the annual physical Fitness Contest. There were separate divisions for the officers and enlisted men and each group was tested in six areas -- pull ups, push ups, jump and reach, standing broad jump, sit ups and a 300-yard shuttle run. The first five places in both divisions were closely contested but in the end, Private First Class Wilton Barrett from the Marine Detachment and Lieutenant (jg) Tom Gunlock, our Public Information Officer, finished first in their respective competitions and were awarded beautiful trophies.

