

JET BLAST

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Christmas Prayer

Our Lord Jesus, Babe of Bethlehem, be born again, we beseech Thee, into our lonely hearts this Christmas. Teach us again, we pray, the lesson of love, one for another, which Thou taught first in a lonely manger. Give to us and our loved ones that peace which the world cannot give, and make us and our shipmates truly men of good will in Thy Sight.

AMEN
R. E. HANDRAN



Captain's Greetings

As the season of 'Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Man' arrives, it is fitting that each of us in BENNINGTON pauses for a few moments to reflect upon the deeper significance of this joyous season.

Perhaps to a greater degree than any other time of the year Christmas brings to us all a close personal awareness of the Freedoms which we of the West are so determined to preserve. Here, in Hong Kong, as this lovely season surrounds us, our awareness and determination should be even more acute.

Let me take this opportunity to wish every man in BENNINGTON a 'Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones. May your New Year be happy and prosperous. May God bless you and keep you and this ship...safe'.

PAUL FOLEY, JR.
Captain, USN
Commanding

Night Before

(Bennington)

(With assistance
and Marc Whetstone)

'T was the night before Christmas
Not a swab was a' stirring, so
The stockings were hung in the
In hopes they'd dry before morn'
The men were tangled all up
While visions of Yokosuka danced
The Captain in his nightshirt
Had just left the Bridge as the
When out on the flight deck,
To avoid the landing of an FJ
Away up the ladders and through
Then I cracked my shins on a
When, what to my bloodshot eyes
But a hot rod pilot rigged in
And then, in a jet blast, I heard
The bellowing roar of that air
He was dressed all in fur, from
It looked like he was wearing
Six cases of beer, he had flung
I knew at a glance it was the
His eyes - how they twinkled!
And I wondered if he had perm
He had a cigarette dangling fr
He didn't care if the smoking
He was chubby and plump, he l
But, I had to laugh, in spite
He spoke not a word, but went
And filled all the stockings;
What he put in each one, I co
Late sleeper's chits plus this
A year's supply of P.O.D.'s,
Which granted nothing but ear
Them, pulling the life ring o
He said he'd give the 'cats'
With a shout of 'launch aircr
And took off, for where, I kn
But I heard him exclaim, befo
'Happy Christmas, Big Benn, a