



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

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Commanding

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Executive Officer

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## A Prayer of Thanks for America

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for America, our native land, for its vast stretch from sea to sea, for its great mountains, rivers, forests, plains and lakes and all the richness which they bear for our enjoyment and use.

We thank Thee for the men and women of the past and present who, with steadfast faith in Thee and brave and tireless energy, built homes and farms and industries and made our free and generous ways of life and work.

We thank thee for the long-continuing line of heroes who fight and toil and die for our beliefs in the high worth of common men, in liberty and brotherhood; for seers of visions, discoverers of truth, creators of beauty and abundance, prophets of hope, pioneers in justice, doers of good, and all renowned and humble folk who give of their best for others and add to our common treasury of life.

We thank Thee for families and homes where love and discipline are learned and close joys and sorrows shared; for schools where truth is taught and the whole world's wisdom opened up to us; for churches where we seek and find and honor God and come to understand and serve our neighbors of every class and race and creed.

For kindness, honor, tolerance, integrity, respect, and all the influences we feel and love, yet have no words to name, which are the spirit and the breath of our America, we thank Thee, Father-God, and pledge ourselves to keep, to protect, and to better by our noblest lives and deeds. Amen.

## Roosevelt and the U. S. Navy

News of the sudden death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt was received by the crew of the BENNINGTON with shock and sorrow, but with appreciation of what he has done for the Nation and the world. It was difficult to realize that the leadership of this Nation's civilians, and the Commander-in-Chief of its armed might had changed to any other individual, however capable his successor might be.

The former President's personality, character, and achievements had made too deep an impression for his departure to be taken casually. Hearts were saddened. As soon as operating conditions subsequently permitted, the heads of all the crew were bowed simultaneously for five minutes of prayer and meditation, and on the following Sunday special services were held.

His true place in history cannot be determined until sufficient time elapses to give perspective to his completed work, and until final victory comes to the forces he was so wisely leading. But, even now, we can point to at least one of his achievements. We refer to his part in making our Navy what it is today.

Behind his activity for a strong Navy lay a love for the sea which extensive voyages in early life probably produced. Later, he enjoyed many vacations at sea and kept modes of traditional men-of-war in his office.

As Assistant Secretary of the Navy in World War I, he came to know the Navy's war-time problems and needs. In his more than twelve years as President, he continually believed in and fought for an adequate Navy.

Prior to Pearl Harbor he sensed the danger and foresaw the need for sufficient ships and men for a global war. When we entered the war we found that a tremendous and swift expansion of seapower was necessary for survival.

By now, with his leadership, the co-operation of American industry, the patriotic response of American men, our Navy has grown to dwarf that of any other nation.

For all of us two tasks lie ahead. We must utilize to the fullest now the Naval facilities we have toward winning the war. After victory, we must do our part to see that this Nation maintains an adequate Navy as a guarantee of our national security. Franklin Delano Roosevelt envisioned and labored faithfully to achieve both of these; to us is entrusted their attainment.

## Church Call

CATHOLIC (R. W. Smith, Senior Chaplain)

|                               |                          |      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Daily Mass                    | Crew's Library           |      |
| Wednesday Forum               |                          |      |
| (Catechism)                   | Crew's Library           | 2000 |
| Saturday Confessions          |                          |      |
| Chaplain's Stateroom, No. 118 |                          | 1030 |
| Sunday Mass                   | Place and Time Announced |      |

PROTESTANT (L. A. Wood, Chaplain)

|                          |                          |      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Tuesday SACL             | Crew's Library           | 2000 |
| Thursday Choir Rehearsal |                          | 2000 |
| Sunday Service           | Place and Time Announced |      |

JEWISH

|                |                |      |
|----------------|----------------|------|
| Friday Service | Crew's Library | 2000 |
|----------------|----------------|------|