

## INTRODUCING . . .

## The First Lieutenant

The transfer of Commander Alcorn Gustav Beckmann, USN, First Lieutenant and Damage Control Officer of the USS BENNINGTON, to duty involving even more responsibility, has called the attention of all hands to his important contribution to the record made by this ship.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1907. Graduation from the Naval Academy came in 1931. Since that time all but two years have been spent at sea, the ships on which he served being the USS OKLAHOMA, USS ZANE (DD-337), USS ALLEN (DD-211), USS PORTLAND, USS VEGA, USS LIVERMORE (DD-429), and the USS FAHRENHOLT (DD-491). On the latter he was first Exec and then Skipper.

Before Pearl Harbor, he had destroyer duty in the North Atlantic. In 1942, a new destroyer took him to the South Pacific. He participated there in many major naval engagements, particularly the support of the landing made on Guadalcanal. In one battle his ship was severely damaged and he was wounded, receiving the Purple Heart. He and his ship returned to the forward area and fought on for 19 months through the various stages of the naval war. Then he reported to the BENNINGTON, where he says his "real troubles began."

He is a colorful, deep-water character, and the crew of the BENNINGTON will carry with them pleasant memories of their first First Lieutenant and Damage Control Officer. As he goes to become Executive Officer of one of the Navy's finest cruisers they wish him good sailing and continued good luck.



**Commander A. G. Beckmann**

And . . .

## His Successor

The BENNINGTON'S new First Lieutenant and Damage Control Officer, Lt. Comdr. John K. Hyatt, was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1900. Graduated from the Naval Academy in 1924, he served for six years on the USS NEW MEXICO, USS STEUBERT, and the USS BAINBRIDGE. He was successively Turret Officer, Torpedo Officer, and on the latter ship served as Chief Engineer.

In 1930 he resigned from the regular Navy to enter the Harvard Law School, from which he was graduated in 1931. Returning to New York, where his family has long been prominent, Comdr. Hyatt became associated with Rockefeller Center, Inc. During the construction period of the great uptown Manhattan Radio City project, he served in various capacities, including that of managing director of the Center Theatre.

During this ten-year period in civilian life he maintained his interest in and contacts with the Navy. His hobby is ship models.

Called back to active duty in April of 1943, he was assigned to the Industrial Incentive Division of the Navy Department in Washington. This was followed by duty as Aide to the Senior Member of the Navy Manpower Survey Board. During these Washington assignments he had unusual opportunity to inspect Naval and civilian industrial plants in all parts of the country.

Orders came in May, 1944, to the BENNINGTON, where he was assigned as Assistant First Lieutenant and Assistant Damage Control Officer. Before reporting, Comdr. Hyatt received training at the Damage Control School, Philadelphia.



**Lt. Commander J. K. Hyatt**