



The Ship's Paper of the U.S.S. BENNINGTON, published monthly on board for all hands in compliance with Section directive 45-505, net at government expense.

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Admiral King Hails Victory

To the men and women of the U. S. Navy, U. S. Marine Corps, and the U. S. Coast Guard:

"The day of final victory has at last arrived. Japan has surrendered. Her fleet which once boasted that it would drive us from the seas has been destroyed. The U. S. Naval services played a major role in this mighty triumph, therefore we observe this hour with a special pride and satisfaction in our achievements.

Especially do we remember the debt we owe the thousands of our comrades of the Navy, the Marine Corps and Coast Guard who are absent today because they gave their lives to reestablish a world in which free peoples might live. Our sympathies go out to their relatives and friends.

At the same time we extend thanks and appreciation to our companion services of the Army and to the gallant Allies who fought beside us and to the millions of people on the home front who supported us with their labors and their prayers. It is as a team that we have worked and fought to the victorious conclusion of the war.

As we turn now from the vital tasks of war I call upon all members of the Naval services to rededicate their efforts with the same courage, devotion to duty and united spirit to the work of solving the great problems of peace. Only by so doing can we fulfill our obligations in preserving the freedom which has been gained at such great cost and effort.

I am proud to have served with every one of you."

..Ernest King, Fleet Admiral, USN

Air Group Gets "Well Done"

Skipper Harden Says Still Much to Do

On the day following the announcement of the Jap surrender, Air Group One pilots, crewmen and administrative personnel met in the wardroom to receive well-earned praise from their Skipper, Commander H. D. Harden. Although the Japs have surrendered there is still much work ahead, said the Commander. Working with the Army, we must put a large well-armed occupation force ashore. All phases of the landing operation must be given air coverage. Not until the entire Jap military machine is completely disarmed can we consider our job done.

The BENNINGTON'S second combat air team since commissioning a year ago, Air Group One has chalked up a record few if any fighting groups have equaled. In the last crucial six weeks of the war they flew 11,800 hours on a total of 1,526 missions. Operating and weather conditions allowed only 12 strike days, but into those few days they packed 8,382 flying hours on 1,952 combat missions. Launched from a pitching deck, often in semi-darkness and storm, they pounded Jap targets with 453 tons of bombs and rockets. Strafing shipping, planes and hangars, transportation and industrial targets they expended 750,000 rounds of ammunition.

The primary target, as in previous months, was airborne planes. However, in these last six weeks of war few Jap pilots were willing to tangle with our fast fighters. Consequently, only three Jap planes were destroyed in the air. While grounded planes were hard to find also, by careful search 135 were found and destroyed and at least 321 were damaged.

The biggest two days came when four major strikes were launched against the Jap fleet at Kure Naval Base on the Inland Sea. Direct hits were made on two BB-CV ISE class, 2 CVs, a large transport and numerous smaller ships. All were severely damaged. One strike put eleven 500-pound and two 1,600-pound bombs directly on the CA AGRA. The BB-CV ISE took eight 1,600-pound bomb hits. Several IIs were sunk. The total Group score against Jap shipping is: 40,000 tons sunk, 16,000 tons probably sunk, and 200,800 tons damaged.

Church Call

CATHOLIC (M. W. Smith, Senior Chaplain)

Daily Mass	Crew's Library	
Wednesday Forum		
(Catechism)	Crew's Library	2000
Saturday Confessions		
Chaplain's Stateroom, No. 118		1930
Sunday Mass	Place and Time Announced	

PROTESTANT (L. A. Wood, Chaplain)

Tuesday SML	Crew's Library	2000
Thursday Choir Rehearsal		2000
Sunday Service	Place and Time Announced	

JEWISH

Friday Service	Crew's Library	2000
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