

# Benn's Band On Tour

People To People

Men aboard "Big Benn" have appreciated the music of Flag Band's 15 musicians but few understand the mission of such a band embarked with a "hunter killer Task Group. Being ambassadors, fostering good will and understanding between U.S. and foreign countries, is an important role of Navy men and Commander, Antisubmarine Warfare Group FIVE band provides our force with the international language.....music.

Headed by Chief Musician A. E. Beck, Flag Band has provided BENNINGTON sailors with many entertaining moments at sea as well as bolstering the nation's People-to-People program ashore.

During the ship's recent stopover in Hawaii, our sea-going troubadours played arrangements ranging from modern jazz to renditions of the "Beetles" latest hits while performing at four Hawaiian hospitals.

An average day at sea for the musicians begins with the playing of the Nat'l Anthem at morning colors followed by hours of practice and classroom theory. At sea, concerts consist of daily performances in the hangar bay for the crew



It's...it's...the B. Beatles! Cops, take another look, it's a couple of musicians from Flag Band imitating the famous Beatles from Britain. It is only one of many acts they put on when entertaining at hospitals and orphanages.

and musical selections during refueling of our accompanying destroyers.

In port periods find liberty at a minimum for the band. Daily schedules usually sends them hopping buses from one place to the next performing before high country officials, various hospitals, orphanages,

and official shipboard ceremonies. While many sailors are enjoying the splendor of oriental night life, some may find themselves listening to and enjoying the music of Flag Band at one of the base clubs or division parties.

During the Band's recent WestPac cruise aboard the CORAL SEA they played 235 engagements before audiences of an estimated 20,000 while over a million people heard and saw the "musical ambassadors" on television.

The band is one of six attached to Commander, Naval Air Pacific, who are deployed with various carriers on cruises to the Far East. COMNAVGRU FIVE Band was formed at the Naval School of Music, Washington, D. C. in early 1963. Their tour aboard ship generally works out at two six-month cruises with three month rotations ashore between deployments.

A musician's day is long and tiresome but the result of the role they play in promoting harmonious good will and understanding to the tune of music cannot be measured.



Under the direction of band leader, Chief Musician A. Beck, the band performed an out door concert in Oahu, Hawaii for a group of students from Pohukaina Grammar School.