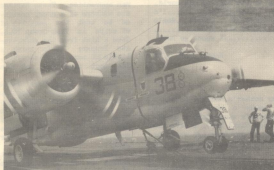


# CATCH 'EM and

# CAT 'EM



Bennington's ability to successfully carry out her mission of anti-submarine warfare depends in large on two major operations of one division, Air Department's V-2 Division. They are the two catapults and the arresting gear, the machinery necessary to launch the embarked squadron's anti-sub planes and to stop them safely once they return.

During a normal working day, 12 to 15 men man the arresting gear, with the wires catching approximately 30 to 45 planes a day. The amount of landings rise to 150 to 250 a day during carrier qualifications.

Six engines control the below decks pistons which in turn control the wires on the flight deck. The pistons, running athwartships, control the length of wire being let out. The ratio of the pistons is 1-14, so when the piston moves one

inch, the cable on the flight deck moves out 14 inches.

Average landings on our flight deck are with planes weighing approximately 24,000 pounds coming in at 70 knots. The wire stops the plane within 110 to 120 feet.

The catapults are hydraulically operated, each one requiring 8,000 gallons of oil, and can send a plane off the flight deck at a speed of 105 knots in two seconds. At the end of the two second run, the pilot is being subjected to four Gs.

The shuttles on the flight deck cat tracks have together made more than 2,000 trips to the bow since we left Long Beach, covering a distance on deck of more than 70 miles. Each one is connected to its below-decks machinery by cables that have a breaking strain of 144,000 pounds.

Each cat can be reset to fire again 35 seconds after it has launched a plane.

The machinery in each of the cat machinery rooms weighs a little more than 100 tons and consists in part of: two tow cables and two retract cables, each of which is as long as the flight deck, the tow cables being 1 1/2 inches in diameter and the retract cables being 1 3/4 inches in diameter; a huge hydraulic ram and piston that measure 18 inches in diameter; four small air bottles and one accumulator, plus smaller related machinery. The term "bottles" describing these containers is more-or-less a figure of speech, because the walls of these short, fat objects are seven inches thick and contain 4,000 pounds of air pressure per square inch and oil used for the cat shots.