



Commissioned in 1891, the first BENNINGTON was a sister ship to the gunboats LEXINGTON and CONCORD.

Task Group 58.1 on 8 February. Operating out of Ulithi, she took part in the strikes against the Japanese home islands (16-17 and 25 February), Volcano Islands (18 February-4 March), Okinawa (1 March), and the raids in support of the Okinawa campaign (18 March-11 June. On 7 April, BENNINGTON's planes participated in the attacks on the Japanese task force moving through the East China Sea toward Okinawa, which resulted in the sinking of the Japanese battleship YAMATO and four destroyers.

On 5 June, the carrier was damaged by a typhoon off Okinawa and returned to Leyte for repairs, arriving on 12 June. Her repairs completed, BENNINGTON left Leyte 1 July and during 12 July-15 August took part in the final raids off the Japanese home islands. She continued operations in the Western Pacific, supporting the occupation of Japan until 21 October. On 2 September, she launched 78 aircraft which participated in the mass flight over the USS MISSOURI (BB-61) and Tokyo during the ceremonies. BENNINGTON arrived at San Francisco on 7 November 1945, and early in March 1946, transited

(Continued overleaf)

