

Double Three



Double Talk

As AIR ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON THIRTY-THREE completes its third Western Pacific deployment aboard the USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20), the achievements of the Squadron and its personnel cannot go unmentioned as we look back over the cruise. The Squadron celebrated its fourth anniversary on 1 April 1964 and added much to its short history.

On 22 June 1964, Vice Admiral Roy L. Johnson, Commander U. S. Seventh Fleet, presented the COMNAVJRPAC Battle Readiness Efficiency Pennant and the Arnold Jay Labell Award to the Squadron on board BENNINGTON while the ship was moored at Sasebo, Japan. Of the forty-six months that VS-33 has been in competition for these awards, they have managed to maintain them thirty-two of these months over the other VS squadrons based on the West Coast.

While deployed aboard BENNINGTON, VS-33 flew approximately 3,500 hours with high flight time going to LT R. Simia with some 260 hours as top pilot and LTJG C. R. Bubeck with 200 odd hours as top co-pilot. A total of 900 carrier arrested landings were made aboard, of which 375 were night landings. This brings 33's total-to-date to some 25,000 hours and 6,900 carrier arrested landings. The missions of the Squadron could hardly be accomplished without the dedication of the aircrews who have been riding the back seat of the Squadron's birds, both on tactical situations and in recognition of missions well accomplished.

Top man in the aircrew for flight time this cruise goes to R. E. Seale, AX1, with a total of approximately 250 hours. Our hat is off to the Squadron's Maintenance Department for its 986 record of making the launches with the required amount of aircraft, and to Chief Richardson for his undying hustle on the flight deck in getting out the launches.

On the cruise, THIRTY-THREE rated fourteen men, promoted five officers, and had seven pilots join the ranks of BENNINGTON CENTURIONS. The new CENTURIONS are LCDR O'Brien, LCDR Carroll, LT Hunt, LT Lauer, LT Cheston, LT Stevenson and, last but not least, the Squadron's LEO, LTJG Partington.

The social highlight of the cruise was a Squadron party in Hong Kong, and those who remember it well really enjoyed themselves, and those who don't have their imagination to trust. A good time was had by all.

To Captain Hill and the BENNINGTON, we say many thanks for an enjoyable and entertaining cruise, but before departing we wish to submit the following request:

From: Officers and Men, Air Anti-Submarine Squadron THIRTY-THREE
To: Captain M. E. Barnett, USN
Via: Captain John S. Hill, USN

Subj: 1965 WestPac deployment Leave and Liberty; request of

Ref: (a) Morale Manual

1. In anticipation of the 1965 WestPac cruise and as a civic duty to the officers and men of the USS BENNINGTON, the below listed ports of call are requested in accordance with reference (a).

- Hong Kong, B. C. C.
- Sydney, Australia
- Christchurch, New Zealand
- Papeete, Tahiti

I. M. DREAMING
By direction



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A few weeks ago the Marines on BENNINGTON were quite surprised to hear from the Director of the United States Navy Savings Bond Program. Besides an announcement sent to all Naval establishments citing our 100% participation in buying Savings Bonds by payroll allotment, 1st Sgt. R. A. Mahood received the highly prized Treasury Department Minute Man Citation commending him on his tireless effort and zeal in spearheading the unit effort. The Minute Man Citation is posted in the Marine area.

Sgt. Henry Milon and LCpl. Don B. Camp were the recipients of BabyGrams this month. Sgt. Milon is the proud father of a baby boy, while LCpl. Camp now has a new baby girl. We're waiting for the cigars!!!

Sgt. R. D. Patton put the Marines through their paces a few weeks ago when BENNINGTON held an openhouse for the people of Kobe. Hundreds of Japanese visitors watched from the flight deck and many gathered around the squad of Marines as they performed precision drill on the pier. Under "Gunny" Patton's guidance, the drill team has come a long way.

BENNINGTON's Marines went through their quarterly Physical Readiness Test last month. We turned out with an overall detachment average of excellent during the two days of testing. To make the test more challenging, we did it in the rain.

BEN's Marines are shooting for another record! After computing our Correspondence Course results for fiscal year 1964, Captain Senik, our C. O. noted that the 249 course completions averaged nearly four per man, a feat that we believe is unchallengeable. Fiscal year 1965 will see that record broken by BEN's Marines as they limber up the gray cells by tackling an even heavier correspondence course agenda.