



beaches of Waikiki, Hanauna and Makaha, touring the Blow Hole, Diamond Head, Punch Bowl Cemetery or enjoying the fine array of night spots in the world's tourist capital; Waikiki.

The five days passed swiftly and again Bennington was making her way toward the Asian continent. Nine days after leaving Pearl, the new crewmembers joined the ranks of the Golden Dragon and the day, May 24, 1968, was lost forever.

Yokosuka, the gateway to the East, brought Benn men their first view of Japan. Arriving for a three-day stay on May 29, many found Japan different than expected. Customs are being abandoned as dress, housing and working conditions are molding with Japan's burgeoning industry. But small quaint shops with unbelievable bargains still line many streets. Paintings, china, camera equipment, stereo sets, etc., kept shoppers engrossed as they sharpened up on their bargaining skills. Others, not inclined to spend their day shopping, took tours of Tokyo, the Buddha at Kanakura, and enjoyed the lavishly decorated temples of Yokosuka.

On June 1, Bennington again was underway. This time, seven Japanese destroyers joined her as she steamed north along the eastern Japanese coastline. Transiting the Tsugaru straits, Benn became the command ship of the joint Japanese/American exercise "Power Pack." The exercise, taking place in the Sea of Japan, separating the Soviet Union from Japan, provided an opportunity for Japanese and Americans to observe each other's anti-submarine warfare techniques.

A third element was thrown into the exercise as inquisitive Soviet ships and planes tailed the task group. Whenever a Russian ship or plane was spotted, camera shutters clicked and