



Good Old Somebody

By Chaplain Rittenhouse

One of the most curious manifestations of the religious impulse is the worship of that wonderful, wonderful god "Somebody." Perhaps man has always been prone to seek a chummy sort of a god, a god who provides a bit of comfort from time to time but who never prods man's conscience, never challenges man's good opinion of himself, never judges man's actions. It has been suggested that this approach is an attempt to sugarcoat the pill of religion. More accurately this seems to be an effort to make the pill entirely of sugar.

Religion is, of course, quite fashionable in polite society, and nearly everyone feels that he must do at least some little something about it. Naturally, one must not overdo it. These things have explosive qualities, and one can't be too careful. One must try to keep one's religion vague and innocuous. This is where good old "somebody" comes in. He's a very convenient faith-object for the person who wants a nice safe god.

But, while we rationalize away our human shortcomings and spiritual dwarfism and use up the 'time of our lives', that all knowing, all-powerful, ever-present SOMEBODY, who created the very air in which we strut around, is awaiting the day we see beyond these self-indulging smoke screens and know him as the 'Author and Finisher of Our Faith'.

"It is He that hath made us.....and not we ourselves."



Chief Wives

Hold Cake Sale

CPO wives of Sasebo, Japan were well received aboard BENNINGTON on June 17 with 75 cakes for their traditional sale. All the wives were astounded by the crowd of BENNINGTON sailors feverishly pitching out their MPC for the cakes. Within five minutes the cakes were gone and the wives left the BENNINGTON with astonished but smiling faces.

Sea of Japan

Tension was high as BENNINGTON steamed through the Tsugaru Straits into the Sea of Japan. Knowledge that USS WALKER had been rammed twice by Soviet ship's during a prior "Exercise Power Pack", BENNINGTON and her force of Japanese and American destroyers were prepared to be harassed by Soviet ships and aircraft. The Soviets kept their distance, but remained within view throughout the exercise.

"Power Pack" found Antisubmarine Warfare Group Three combining with six to eight destroyers of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) as well as two American exercise submarines for a week-long integrated antisubmarine warfare, anti-air warfare and air intercept exercise. The exercise provided invaluable training for all units involved and further cemented Japanese-American relationships.

As the task force steamed north along the eastern side of the Japanese Islands, it encountered "end-of-the-flightdeck" visibility conditions which slowed the carrier and its screening ships to as little as five knots and kept the ASW designed aircraft grounded on BENN. Shortly after navigating through treacherous Tsugaru Straits, the weather cleared, and "Exercise Power Pack" commenced.

During the exercise BENNINGTON was honored by visits from numerous high-ranking members of the Japanese Naval and Air Forces whose time aboard was spent exchanging procedures and concepts of antisubmarine warfare as employed by naval forces of the U.S. and Japan. VIP's were welcomed aboard by RADM William J. Moran and given an opportunity to tour the ship's spaces and actually participate in some of the air controlling exercises which utilized Japanese fighter aircraft.

Was the exercise valuable? The general consensus of all concerned indicated that transit exercise Power Pack provided much vital and otherwise unobtainable information for the refinement of antisubmarine warfare techniques.