

Ed's Notes

Slowly, Bennington is taking on her new face as the yard period nears the halfway point. I noticed while coming aboard this morning that haze grey was being painted on the underside of elevator #2. And by the time this edition has reached the crew, the proud carrier will once again look more like war ship than a construction site.

I've seen several men wearing new crow's. It sure would look better in your hometown paper if your rate is carried right. You can show the hometown folks you are a third class and not a seaman by dropping by the Public Affairs Office. Just tell us you have been advanced, and we will insure your newspaper gets the word.

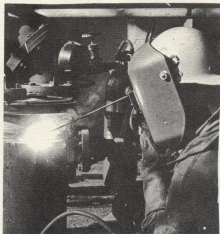
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During Benn's yard period there is a large turnover of men. Several of these men fail to check out of the Public Affairs Office, making it embarrassing for you and for us. Say you were discharged or transferred and we didn't know it. Then something happens on the ship, and we send out a master story to Fleet Hometown News Center. You are still in the file, so your name is printed as serving aboard Bennington.

Not very long ago the office received a letter from a distressed mother after a newspaper carried her son as being aboard Bennington. Her son had been discharged and subsequently had been fatally injured in an auto accident. A message was sent immediately to Fleet Hometown News Center to remove his name from the file, but it was too late. The damage had already been done.

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Bennington's history has a knack for bringing a little humor or, better yet, awe to light in the ship's tough schedule during World War II. The following is an excerpt taken from the April 6, 1945, entry; "A fighter strike had returned, and a number of P6Fs were in the landing circle. Very casually, almost leisurely, another fighter dropped out of the clouds astern and dove for the landing circle. He was about 1,500 yards distant, but several machine gun crews diagnosed the situation



Yardworker Benjamin F. Owens welds on a new fueling and sea station.