



THE USS BENNINGTON - 56 years ago this month, Commander Edward E. Taussig, USN, commanding the Gunboat, USS Bennington, raised the flag of the United States over tiny Wake Island in the Pacific Ocean. The sleek vessel was on a Far Eastern Cruise and visited many foreign ports including Singapore, China.

#### BABY BENN (cont.)

ing information attached to each entry:

- a. name of the baby
- b. name, rate, and division of the man submitting the picture
- c. the baby's relationship to the man
- d. parents and home address of the baby

All contestants will be under three years of age (as of March 1) and must be the child, brother or sister of the man submitting the entry.

The contest officially begins today and will close on February 25 with the winner scheduled to be announced in the March 2 issue of the JET BLAST. As yet, the exact prizes the winning baby will receive have not been determined but they will be announced in the next issue of the JET BLAST.

The judges will consist of the following:

Captain Paul Foley, Jr., commanding officer  
Commander R.E. Handran, CHC, senior chaplain  
Paul A. Lazzaro, J02, Editor, JET BLAST

The winning baby will be adjudged "Baby Benn" and will receive appropriate Navy and National publicity in addition to prizes which will be determined by the Recreation Council.

## Cruise Book Sales Near Closing Date

The beauty of Hawaii, the mysteries of Japan, the bleakness of Okinawa, and the outstanding features of every port visited by Bennington will all be featured in her Far East Cruise Book. No wonder over 1800 copies have already been sold and only 200 remain. Due to the original contract agreement with the publishers, the ship will not be able to reorder any books once the remaining 200 are sold.

LTJG J. Rosen, officer in charge of sales, has stated that the remaining books will probably be sold within the next week if the present rate of sales continues. So this is probably the last payday you'll have before sales are closed. Be one of the fortunate men who ordered his book on time and drop in to the Ship's Store Office tomorrow for your reservation. The Welfare and Recreation Fund is paying the larger share of the bill so it will only cost you \$2.00.

Photographs will be snapshots only. Black and white photos are preferred since color photographs cannot be reproduced in the JET BLAST. All photos will be returned upon request.

#### A Reminder

## Valentine's Day February 14

With Valentines Day just around the corner, a young man's (old men too) fancy turns to thoughts of love. Whether the thoughts concern a sweetheart, wife or mother, your ship's store has just the gift to let them know you didn't forget.

World-famous perfume by Caron heads the list with a saving of almost 50% on each bottle. A wide assortment of jewelry is available; necklaces, earrings, bracelets, wristwatches, etc. And one of the better buys is a simulated alligator handbag with a Helbrox watch inside along with several pieces of beautiful jewelry. Remember, all of these items are offered at reduced prices, prices anyone can afford.

Ship's stores are open from 1300 - 1500 and 1800 - 2000 six days a week.

#### 750 Bennington Men

#### Will Take PO Exams

Over 750 men from ship's company will take their advancement in rate tests when the Service Wide Examinations are given in February, according to LCDR L.F. Davis, Education Officer.

In making the announcement LCDR Davis added, "Certain changes have been made with the introduction of a BuPers instruction released in August." In brief the instruction stated that all personnel who have been recommended for advancement by their division officers and have met all requirements, must first pass a performance test before taking the professional test in February.

The performance tests will be given aboard Bennington during the latter part of January. If an individual fails to pass the test he will be given an opportunity to take a similar one before the Service Wide Exams are held.

The dates of the Service Wide Exams are as follows: CPO - 7 Feb., PO3 - 14 Feb., PO2 - 21 Feb., and PO1 - 28 Feb.