

Assembly Line Production In Bennington Print Shop

'Production by Bennington Print Shop' reads the small type at the bottom of a form. Just what does this production consist of? How is this production accomplished? Who is behind it all? And where in the world does all this production take place?

Starting with the last question first, the Bennington Print Shop is found on the fourth deck directly below the Warrant Officer's Mess.

It is a large shop full of complicated appearing machinery, and it is in this space where your JET BLAST comes to life. Let's take a look at how the ship's newspaper is made up.

First, all copy has to go through the vari-type machine; this machine works on the same order as the typewriter, except that it types different sizes of letters, and composes the columns in an even line of type.

All of the headlines of the ship's paper are set by hand. The type is placed on a thin metal tray called a galley, and from the galley the type is slid onto a composing table, or stone. Here the type is locked in a metal frame, known as the chase, and the chase is clamped on the bed of the press. The headlines are then ready to be printed.

Art work and photographs are shot by a large engraving camera which reduces them to newspaper size. It also converts the photos into halftones, which



LET EM' ROLL - Tracey displays the correct form in the method of printing by Letterpress.

is a pattern of dots varying in size according to the intensity of the tone they will reproduce in the paper. In other words large dots for dark spaces and small dots for light spaces. These dots are obtained by photographing through a screen with the engraving camera.

The engraving camera again goes to work; this time it makes a photographic reproduction of drawings, headlines, and stories, all mounted on layout sheets. The negatives are then developed, and through the aid of some necessary chemicals the negatives magically turn into plates.

The offset press uses two sets of rollers which pass over the plate, ink rollers to keep the printing area inked and water rollers to keep the non-printing areas damp. The plate then presses against a rubber blanket which accepts the inked portions, and transfers them to the paper. It is then ready to go to press, and the next day the word 'All P.P.O.'s lay down to the Administration Office and pick up JET BLAST' is passed.

Adding everything up, it takes the print shop four days, working fourteen hours a day to put out a ship's paper. Of course, printing the JET BLAST is just one of the numerous chores of Print Shop No. 1.

They also have the unending job of printing forms, instructions, charts, pamphlets, and chits. Once every month all other necessary jobs are dropped to do the Roster of Officers. The big job, believe it or not, is the printing of Special Request chits. Hundreds upon hundreds are printed every month.

Naturally, to complete all these jobs, a great deal of machinery is needed, and the print shop is adequately equipped with the latest.

So our tour of Print Shop No. 1 ends, and the next time you're filling out a Special Request chit or overnight pass, remember the inked fingered men who keep the presses rolling.... the Bennington Print Shop.

TEAMWORK - F. Fricks, LI3, (foreground) prepares copy while B. Tracey, SN, sets type for headings and R. Laurita, LI3, prepares the Off-Set Press.



SNAPSHOT - M. Desrosiers, SN, changes filters on the giant camera while G. Boxwell, SN, adjusts the arc light.

