and out their knees and elbows when they landed.

The climax of this period was the sinking of the Jap Battleship Yamato on 7th April 1945. In all, over three hundred carrier planes took part in the sinking of this monster, the last of Japan's big modern battlewagons known still to be afloat. Bennington pilots played a major role in her destruction. On 6 April, Army B-29s had spotted a Jap force moving in the Inland sea. Navy search planes and submarines kept track of the force as it moved out and around the tip of Kyushu, presumably to attack our amphibious forces off Okinawa. The composition of the Japanese forcewas reported to be one BB, and CL, and from eight to ten DDs. Task Force 58 struck the next morning Task Group 58.1 was assigned the first wave, and Bennington planes were first in the air at 1017. We launched 27 planes; 7 fighters, 11 bombers, and 9 torpedo planes. They carried 26 1000 lb. bombs, one 500 lb. bomb, and nine torpedoes. Target coordinator for the first wave was to be Commander C.L. Heap, Commander Air Group 82, but he was unfortunately forced back by engine trouble. The Japs were located after a 273 mile flight. VT 82 led the attack, going in throught intense AA fire, after an Agano class cruiser. When the Bennington's Avengers retired a few minutes later, the toll was one destroyer sunk, another damaged, and two telling torpedoes scored on the Agano - all Bennington planes. Almost immediately, our Helldivers began the attack on the BB Yamato. It was one of our 1000 lb. armor-piercing bombs which hit the Yamato first, near her bow. An instant later other bombs from our squadron were observed to hit amidships and aft; still other bombers scored near-misses which did some damage. Bomb-carrying fighters scored hits on the cruiser and destroyers. By 1235 our planes were headed home, leaving the completion of the job to the waves of planes from other carriers. One of our SB2Cs was shot down both pilot and gunner being seen parachuting into the sea. One TBM was so badly damaged by AA fire that it had to be jettisoned after landing. When all the facts were tabulated