

U.S.S. Bennington CVS-20



WELCOME ON BOARD

Since her commissioning, the BENNINGTON has been host to many thousands of people. Today we are pleased to add your name to our distinguished list.

It is our wish that this short visit will give you a better insight into

the workings of one of your country's fighting ships, as well as an understanding of the many and varied jobs of Navymen.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy your visit to our ship. All of us, as a team, are happy to welcome you on board.

Bennington's Story

- 16 Aug 1777 - An American victory at Bennington, Vermont, made possible the British defeat at Saratoga, New York.
- 1891 - The first BENNINGTON, a 1700-ton gunboat, was commissioned as a tribute to the victory.
- 15 Dec 1942 - The keel of the second BENNINGTON was laid at the Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York, where the aircraft carrier was commissioned two years later.
- 8 Jan 1945 - BENNINGTON joined Task Group 58.1 at Pearl Harbor and steamed off to war in the Pacific.
- 7 Nov 1945 - BENNINGTON returned safely to San Francisco after participating in the attacks on Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Japanese home islands.
- 8 Nov 1946 - BENNINGTON was decommissioned and placed in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at Norfolk, Virginia.
- 30 Oct 1950 - BENNINGTON entered the New York Naval Shipyard to undergo a modernization period. She emerged two years later as a jet attack carrier, CVA-20.
- 27 Apr 1953 - A boiler explosion claimed the lives of 11 men while the ship was on a shakedown cruise in Caribbean waters.
- 26 May 1954 - Again violent explosions rocked BENNINGTON, this time claiming the lives of 103 officers and men in one of the worst disasters in naval history.
- 8 Sep 1955 - BENNINGTON set forth from the East Coast on a 14,000-mile journey around Cape Horn to her new home port at San Diego, Calif., arriving 20 October.
- 12 Oct 1956 - In her second Far East cruise in two years, BENNINGTON visited Sydney, Australia, where she took part in the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.
- 21 Aug 1958 - BENNINGTON joined the 7th Fleet during the Quemoy crisis on less than a week's notice, and steamed for 43 consecutive days during the period of watchfulness.
- Jun 1959 - BENNINGTON was re-designated "anti-submarine warfare carrier, CVS-20," following an overhaul at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco.
- 1 Oct 1960 - BENNINGTON was dispatched to Laos, where she was again deployed with the 7th Fleet during the period of tensions.
- 6 Jan 1962 - BENNINGTON left San Diego for the Western Pacific on the seventh extended deployment in 12 years of service.
- 14 Sep 1962 - BENNINGTON arrived at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Wash., to undergo her third period of rehabilitation and modernization since 1950.

Capt. C. E. Healy Commanding Officer



Captain Charles E. Healy, commanding officer of USS BENNINGTON, has had over 20 years experience in naval aviation and carrier operations. A naval aviator since 1938, Capt. Healy has held many posts directly related to the anti-submarine warfare mission of BENNINGTON. Capt. Healy served as Assistant Anti-submarine Warfare Officer for Commander Fleet Air West Coast, and later as Force Anti-submarine Warfare Officer for Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet. In addition, Capt. Healy has served on the carriers, CAPE GLOUCESTER, BATAAN, BADOENG STRAIT, TARAWA and LAKE CHAMPLAIN. Before assuming command of BENNINGTON on Sept. 28, 1962, Capt. Healy was commanding officer of USS SIRIUS

Captain Healy is married to the former Miss Jean Fick, daughter of retired Rear Admiral and Mrs. H. F. Fick of Coronado, California. The Healys have three daughters.

Capt. W. B. Tracy Executive Officer



Captain W. B. Tracy, Executive Officer of USS BENNINGTON, entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1941, and was commissioned and designated a naval aviator in 1942. During 1942, Captain Tracy participated in the air strikes against Rabaul and the Okinawa campaign. In later tours of duty, Captain Tracy served as Executive Officer of Air Antisubmarine Squadron 20, and as Air Operations Officer of the USS BOXER. Captain Tracy was appointed Commanding Officer of HU-1 in November 1960, where he served before reporting on board BENNINGTON as Executive Officer.

Captain Tracy and his wife Audrey have three children.

ASW Concept

The importance of BENNINGTON's role as an anti-submarine warfare carrier increases proportionately to the build-up of submarine forces by potential aggressors. At the present time Russia has in excess of 600 submarines, and is building more at an alarming rate. World War II brought the U.S. Navy face to face with the problem of defending sea lanes under attack by vast numbers of submarines. In 1941 the ratio of ships lost to submarines was 16 to 1, and in 1942, more than 1,000 ships were sunk between the U.S. and Europe by German submarines.

BENNINGTON fulfills her anti-submarine warfare mission by acting as command ship of the Hunter-Killer Group. The "Huk Group" is composed of BENNINGTON, her fixed and rotary wing aircraft squadrons, six to eight destroyers and one or two killer submarines. Welded together as an integrated unit, the ships and



BENNINGTON rarely travels alone. In her primary mission of anti-submarine warfare she acts as flagship of the Hunter Killer group.



The SH-3A helicopter is equipped with dipping sonar which may be lowered into the water while the helicopter hovers above.



The S-2D Tracker is equipped with Magnetic Anomaly Detection gear which detects variations in the earth's magnetic fields induced by the presence of submarines.

The first BENNINGTON was commissioned in 1891. She served in the Atlantic and Pacific until permanently decommissioned on January 17, 1899.

