

to own private property and to think and express your thoughts independently.

These are but a few of the freedoms BENNINGTON is protecting. Think of these privileges and attempt a reverie of life without them. It would be very difficult and bitter life to say the least.

As a floating embassy, BENNINGTON will visit ports such as Yokosuka, Kobe, Iwakuni, Sasebo, and Hong Kong. The crew will participate in the President's People to People program as they visit these places and their people. We hope they are comforted by our presence and strength. These families of foreign lands, our allies, look to the United States as their protector of freedom.



By our specialty, anti-submarine warfare, we are prepared to defend them should any international crisis arise. Each man aboard "Big BENN" realizes his responsibility and BENNINGTON's success depends upon each individual. He knows the importance of the job to be done, and appreciates the "insurance value" derived from such cruises for they help to protect his family, home and country. Although he will be miles away, his happiness and well-being, his thoughts and prayers will be directed to the family and home he never ceases to love. May I encourage you to keep his morale high by writing frequently. Mail call aboard ship is one of the

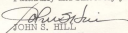
most eagerly anticipated calls in our existence at sea.

Presently, we are completing operations in the Hawaiian area, and by the time you receive this letter, BENNINGTON will be enroute to Japan to join the Seventh Fleet. Be proud of your BENNINGTON man, and write him often.



Liberty is good aboard "Big BENN."
All hands hit the beach in Hawaii while the ship was moored at Pearl Harbor.

Faithfully and Sincerely yours,


JOHN S. HILL
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer