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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

CL90/A16-3
(090)U.S.S. ASTORIA (CL90)
Care of Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

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SECRET
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31 May 1945

Subject: Action Report - Period 14 March to 27 May 1945,
Operations in Support of the Campaign for the
Capture of Okinawa Gunto.PART VI(E)(5) - Special Comments (Cont'd)

picked up. Plane was shot down by planes which were covering me. Both planes landed under fire of enemy shore installations and ships batteries. We were fired upon by heavy AA upon retirement between the HAYSUI Strait. Firing originated from Cape Sadami. We were recovered at 1425 by U.S.S. ASTORIA, Task Group 58.3."

F. No comment.

PART VII Personnel performance and casualtiesA. Performance

- (1) Throughout all the air attacks the Gunnery, Lookout, and Combat Information Center personnel worked as a highly integrated team and produced an accurate and heavy volume of fire. They picked up the targets early, got the guns on them quickly, and opened fire smartly, staying with NIPS whenever the range was not fouled, until the planes were destroyed or out of range. Their determination to stick with the enemy paid one hundred percent dividends on at least two occasions, when ASTORIA gunfire splashed the plane after all other ships had ceased fire.
- (2) All topside personnel showed guaption and determination during the frequent showers of shrapnel from friendly ship's AA fire. Numerous officers and men were saved from shrapnel wounds by the flashproof (kapok lined) suits provided, or by kapok life jackets (as well as by helmets). These flashproof suits, regarding which a special report was submitted by the ASTORIA on 4 January 1945 in its CL90/433 serial 7, are considered a most desirable addition to the ship's equipment.
- (3) Performance of personnel with regard to material upkeep has been such as to merit high praise. Routine tests and inspections were rigidly adhered to. Numerous repairs have been effected, including many which would normally be classified as "jobs for the tender." When a ship conducts high speed operations in an active combat zone for a period of approximately

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