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27 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)(4) - Special Comments (Cont'd)

I rendezvoused immediately with four fighters from the U.S.S. BUNKER HILL. Other planes were circling the pilot so the BUNKER HILL vectored me out.

I had to spend no time searching, for the BUNKER HILL fighter director put me right on top of him. I landed immediately in a moderate swell and no wind. Rescue was easily effected and I took off immediately.

When we rejoined the force it was dark. A night Charlie was in order. The ship was rigged and recovery was effected easily. The pilots name was: First Lieut. Goeggel, USMC." Statement of 1st Lt. Goeggel, USMC.

"I was on a fighter sweep to Takuno Island, South of Kyushu, was hit by light AA fire when on second pass over airfield.

Plane flew about 175 miles, finally had to land in water after Prop Governor went out of control, also oil pressure, the last time I looked, read 30 pounds.

I landed in water at 1745, about 20 miles east of Kikai Island when the planes circled me. At 1830 four Hellcats and the Kingfisher arrived, flown by Lt. Tanner, flew right to the scene of crash, circled over once, came in and picked me up. Lt. Tanner climbed out of the cockpit to throw me a ladder and assisted me into the plane. We took off at 1840 and flew back to Task Group.

Rescue was very quick and effective."

- (5) Statements of Lieut. Tanner and Lt.(jg) Comb of 14 May 1945.

"At 0931 May 14 we were ordered to launch two Kingfishers and proceed to a point 205 miles north of the Task Force's position and in the Inland Sea of Japan. We were furnished 20 VF as escorts. Rendezvous was made immediately after launching and we got on course.