

Nevada, Veteran Of Nazi Attacks, Slugs It Out With Japs

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP)—A main battery turret. The seven marines who saved the ship's superstructure died at their stations, their guns barking until the second the plane struck.

Fires started by the kamikaze crash were extinguished in three minutes, but not before considerable material damage was done to the main battery turret and one 20 mm gun.

It was the Nevada's first damage since Pearl Harbor, although she was "straddled" by German shore batteries during the bombardment of Cherbourg.

At Pearl Harbor, she was the only capital ship to get underway during the attack. About 40 minutes after the Japanese hit, she cleared her berth unassisted and started down the south channel. Heavily damaged and drawing water, she was beached to prevent jamming the channel.

After permanent repairs and modernization at the Puget Sound, Wash., navy yard, she returned to the fleet in time to participate in the reconquest of the Aleutians in May, 1943. She later was refitted at the Norfolk, Va., navy yard, and arrived in European waters in April, 1944, to support the Normandy landings.

She returned to the Pacific late last year after reconditioning again at the Norfolk navy yard. Her first new assignment was at Iwo Jima.

Experienced gunners of the Nevada got off 71 rounds from her 14-inch main battery alone, and when the shooting was over, the navy said "the target area resembled a gravel quarry after a week's blasting."

The Nevada's damage was repaired overnight, and the next morning she was back on the firing line.

In the kamikaze attack, the Nevada's anti-aircraft guns assisted in splashing two of the attackers before a "Val" dive bomber streaked out of the haze apparently bent on striking the open bridge. Light machine-guns scored hits on the plane, but too late to stop her.

Hit at Pearl Harbor, Marine gunners of the 20 mm battery, however, managed to "saw off" the plane's right wing, which fluttered into the sea. Its course diverted, the plane crashed into the main deck aft beside

a main battery turret. The seven marines who saved the ship's superstructure died at their stations, their guns barking until the second the plane struck.

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