

THOMAS H. BOGARD AMSC-USN RT'D
836 WILER DRIVE
CHULA VISTA, CA, 91910
619-482-3029
0415-3-12-93.

Dear Shipmate, Ken Wilson

I just received a letter from
Van Wisnir, and he asked
me to send you some history
of the U.S.S. De Haven - DD 469.
Commissioned 9-21-42 - sunk
by "VAL" dive bombers at Guadal-
canal 2-1-43. The 1st of the
Fletcher class to go down.
133 days in commission.

Enclosed please find the official
Ship's History. There is a better
version out - USNAVY - DURING WARTH
By SMITH. It gives an eye witness,
from the U.S.S. Nicholas, and it
pretty well tells the story. The
only thing not in either history
is, there was a dispute between
the bridge (captain) and gunnery
officer as to the ID of the
aircraft. Friend or foe!

2.

Was a 17 year old Seaman 2nd
and was a 5" gun Trainer. We
could see the aircraft in the
gun scopes and we tracked
them til they started making
runs. We in the Pointer and
myself all the time telling the
gun captain they were Japs!
The lead plane rolled over
and I saw the bomb separate
from the plane. I told the gun
captain to stand by for a
bomb. The bomb hit the bridge.
We (the gun crew) then started
firing in self defense - my
gun #5 on the port side fired 4
rounds 3 were the new experimental
AA shells. Variable time fuse.
3 Vals were downed. As near as I
know we are the only 5" to
fire. Two other bombs hit
forward - 1 between the stacks
the other on 5" 1- it also got

3.

the fed 5th magazine - When I climbed out of gun 5 there wasn't much left fed of the aft stack - The work very rapidly, the rest is history.

I went on and became an Air Crewman - then in TBM's (torpedo bomber) as a gunner. Did OK - graduated in July 1942 and retired Sept 1963. Made chief in 1957. Hope I've helped you guys a wee bit - I don't think I'll make the reunion this year as I'm supposed to meet a Shipmate from the 469 in either late Aug or early Sept at Baker, Ore. I did make the one last year and 4 other old Shipmates also were there. We had a nice get together. Thanks for including us with the 727 Gunners.

Sincerely,

Tom Boyard

(OVER)