

FIGHTING OFF OKINAWA

Aboard a Heavy Cruiser Off Okinawa (Delayed).—Rodney Constance, boatswain's mate, second class, USN, and Jack E. Constance, gunner's mate, first class, USN, brothers living at Columbus, N. C., are serving on this veteran fighting ship now standing off Okinawa with all batteries pounding away at the crumbling enemy stronghold and its dwindling Jap defenders.

This cruiser has harried the Japs for three years of Pacific warfare. She won her reputation as a top fighting unit in the memorial slugging match against the Japs off Save Island in Nov. 1942.

She added to her reputation at all the major Pacific stops—Bougainville, Salamaua, Guadalcanal, the Aleutians, the Gilberts and Marshalls, Carolines and Marianas, Iwo Jima and the Ryukyus.

Now deep in the Western Pacific she is gunning for more glory. In a week of softening Okinawa

before invasion, it was estimated this ship destroyed or knocked out 19 heavy and light anti-aircraft emplacements, eight heavy and light gun batteries, a number of automatic weapon revetments.

In addition it is estimated she killed 2,000 Jap troops, and demolished 10 trucks, five tanks, a supply dump, one hangar, a light-house, three road junctions and four attacking aircraft.

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