

(B) NARRATIVE.

4 March.

- 0257-30 Commenced firing a full six torpedo salvo with all torpedoes set on 5 feet using a 1-3/4 knot spread with a range of 5,900 yards and an average torpedo run of 7,025 yards.
- 0258-28 Completed firing. Commenced swinging rudder full rudder and dropped down to periscope depth.
- 0304-10 Heard and observed one hit followed by another. The first hit the target appeared to catch on its stem to stern. The second hit caused an explosion that completely filled the field of the periscope with low power. This explosion and the result was so great that I could not believe the power. The light of the fire illuminated the sea as if by sunset. The whole face of the sky was as bright as day, and the lighthouse was as if illuminated by a searchlight with all details distinct. This ship was hit about 1,000 yards east of the lighthouse. One Chidori was boldly silhouetted against the fire at a range of about 4000 yards. Two other escorts were in view, two being less than 1,000 yards. The explosion was a terrifying, but beautifully satisfying sight with fire and flame all over the ocean and a least height of 600 feet. I gave all hands in the Conning Tower a look. No details of the target were observed due to the heavy fire. Just after the second hit when the hull was outlined the target was estimated to cover 1/2 of the field of view. This gives a target length of 530 feet. The range of the target picked up against a dark ground in comparison to the range at which a fully visible hospital ship was picked up. This leads to the belief that this tanker was a hospital ship.
- 0305-40 Heard one definite torpedo hit followed by another. Nothing could be seen by the periscope of the original target due to the enormous fire. It is believed that these were hits in the far ship and that these were correct and were impossible for the target to get into the beach. This is further borne out by the report of one of our planes of a bomber hit in the stern AK not previously reported. This same message reported the target was burning off Cape Varella.