

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

50/Fe

U. S. S. CROUTER (DE-11)

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF MAY 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

5-4-45

Z. D. Minus 9

Position:	0800	:	1200	:	2000
Lat. 26°	25°N	:	26°	25°N:	26° 25°N
Long. 128°	04°E	:	128°	04°E:	128° 04°E

Underway as before. Went to general quarters several times during the day due to enemy planes in area, twenty seven separate raids reported before 1200. Observed large explosion 200°(T), four and one half (4½) miles at 0335. Sighted what appeared to be silvery kite at 270°(T), five (5) miles, 1,000 feet altitude. Raid #9 was reported at 080°(T), nine miles at 0840, closed to 125°(T), seven (7) miles and was picked up on surface search radar at 0850. Observed single pip to break away from Raid and close this vessel at high speed, being at 110°(R) four (4) miles at 0851. Sighted plane one minute later as it broke thru clouds in line with the sun, and opened fire when range was two (2) miles, 110°(R), position angle 30°, elevation 2,000 feet, speed three-hundred (300) knots, course 290°(T). Plane banked overhead and opened range to six miles at 0853, then turned and headed straight for ship coming in at 500 feet at 0854. He continued to lose altitude and splashed bearing 240°(T), four (4) miles. After being rescued, the pilot; Lt. (jg), F. S. SIDDALL, USNR, VF-85 from U.S.S. SHANGRI-LA, identified his plane as F4U, Corsair. Reported that he was previously attacked by Jap fighters, who destroyed his IFF, shot away part of stabilizer and hydraulic gear. Oil covering on windshild had blinded pilot to fact that he was making run over friendly ship. Ammunition expended: 3"/50 cal. - 20 rounds; 20mm - 560 rounds; 1.10/75 - 120 rounds; 50 Cal. - 80 rounds. At 2000 U.S.S. FAIR (DE-35) assumed duties of examination vessel in B-153. We were assigned radar identification guard ship for the FAIR and took station two (2) miles east of her.

5-5-45

Z. D. Minus 9

Position:	0800	:	1200	:	2000
Lat. 26°	20°N	:	26°	10°N:	26° 27°N
Long. 127°	43°E	:	127°	13°E:	127° 2715°E

Underway as before. Went to general quarters several times during the day due to enemy planes in the area. Relieved by U.S.S. FAIR (DE-35) from station B-153 at 0300 in accordance with orders from Commander Task Group 51.5.