

ARMED GUARD UNIT
S. S. ABBOT L. MILLS
ARMED GUARD CENTER (ATLANTIC)
C/O FLEET P.O. N.Y.



CONFIDENTIAL

5 July 1945

From: ERICKSON, Carl Edward, 317348, D-L USNR.
Commanding Officer, Naval Armed Guard.
(c/o Armed Guard Center Atlantic).
S. S. ABBOT L. MILLS Gross tons: 7176
Flag or Registry U.S.A.

To: Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: Port Director Calcutta, India.

Subject: Report of Voyage S.S. ABBOT L. MILLS
From New York, U.S.A. to Calcutta, India.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of
Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, 1944 Fourth
Edition, paragraph 4301.

Enclosure: (A)

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following information is submitted:

- (a) Type of vessel E-62 Liberty Type of Cargo-General.
Owner of vessel: U. S. A. War Shipping Administration.
Chartered to: Coastwise Pacific Far East Lines.
Ingvald Halvarson Master.
- (b) 1. Port of Departure: New York, U.S.A. 22 May 1945
Convoys or Independent: Convoys.
Speed (aver.) 9.5
No. of ships in convoy: 56 Convoy No. UCS 94
No. of escort vessels: 5
Convoy Commodore: Captain Pillsbury USN.
Convoy Vice Commodore: Commander Troutman USN.
Port of Arrival Oran, No. Africa, 7 June 1945
2. Port of Departure: Oran, No. Africa 7 June 1945
Convoys or Independent: Independent
Speed Aver. 11 knots
No. of escort vessels: None
Port of Arrival: Port Said, Egypt, 14 June 1945

3. Port of Departure: Port Said, Egypt 15 June 1945
 Convoyed or Independent: Independent
 Speed Aver. 7.5
 No. of escort vessels: None
 Port of Arrival: Suez, Egypt 15 June 1945
4. Port of Departure: Suez, Egypt 15 June 1945
 Convoyed or Independent: Independent
 Speed Aver. 11.1
 No. of escort vessels: None
 Port of Arrival: Aden, Arabia 20 June 1945
5. Port of Departure: Aden, Arabia 20 June 1945
 Convoyed or Independent: Independent
 Speed Aver. 10.9
 No. of escort vessels: None
 Port of Arrival: Colombo, Ceylon 29 June 1945
6. Port of Departure: Colombo, Ceylon 29 June 1945
 Convoyed or Independent: Independent
 Speed Aver. 10.7
 No. of escort vessels: None
 Port of Arrival: Calcutta, India 4 July 1945

(c) Contacts and action with the enemy:

27 June 1945 0825 Radio Message SSSS SSSS SSSS DE CG 5 DO
 1305N 8030E SUBMARINE SUBMERGING BT 270310z TOR 27038Z - Acknowledged
 by Madras Radio.

28 June 1945 above radio message cancelled by Admiral Madras.

28 June 1945 2155 Stern watch sighted submarine which
 surfaced twice for a very short time at position 79E 7 13N. The General
 alarm was immediately sounded all men manned their guns-no shots
 were fired. General Quarters secured at 2300. The men who sighted the
 submarine were J. DYKSTRA GM3/c, and A. KLEISS S1/c. There was no
 radio message sent out at the time as the master felt it was nothing.

29 June Radio Message SSSS SSSS SSSS DE WA380 BT
 SUBMARINE SIGHTED ON SURFACE POSITION 6N and 81 27 E. 291725Z DEGRITOR
 1730Z.

30 June Above submarine message cancelled.

(d) General resume of the voyage:

22 May 1945 Departed from New York with 15 ships and 3
 escorts sailing as Convoy Commodore. From New York to meeting point
 of Norfolk convoy burned running lights, fore steaming light and white
 stern light.

23 May 1945 at 1540 joined main body of convoy from Norfolk
 and then became Vice Commodore. Convoy totalled 56 ships and 5 escorts.

Leaving the states the convoy received aircraft coverage. While in convoy in the Atlantic during adverse weather conditions, ships burned blue stern light.

29 May 1945 Non Combat Areas announced by radio BAMS message.

31 May 1945 BT Commencing at once provisions of BAMS 84 will be carried out as follows. Navigational lights will be turned on full brilliancy. Port holes need not be covered but no lights will be shown on deck. Guns will not be manned, but proper upkeep of guns and blackout equipment will be continued. G.Q. need not be held. Radio silence will not be broken. Convoy discipline must be maintained and station must be kept for safety against collision.

6 June received aircraft coverage entering Gibraltar.

7 June convoy dispersed ships sailing independently to destination. V. Commodore and staff ashore at Oran, No. Africa.

In the Mediterranean Sea burned Navigational lights and running lights at full brilliancy.

10 June at 2150 received blinker from Malta: You are in dangerous waters steer 7 miles north and then resume course.

20 June 1800 arrived at Aden, Arabia entering combat area again. From Aden, Arabia to Colombo, Ceylon burned Navigational and running lights at full brilliancy.

29 June at 0715 arrived at Colombo, Ceylon. From Colombo to Calcutta, India burned dim Navigational lights.

General Quarters was held during the entire voyage in the required areas.

(e) This is the first port of call for discharge therefore, no report on turn around facilities.

(f) The commercial radio operators appeared to carry out wartime radio instructions for merchant vessels and kept all intercepted messages confidential.

(g) There are no defects or deficiencies to report.

(h) The officers of the ship carried out Wartime Instructions for Merchant Vessels. According to the Second and Third Mates the Master did not follow the routing route as prescribed in his routing instructions.

(i) Recommendations: None.

(j) There was no improper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft approaching the vessel either when sailing independently or in convoy.

(k) Training at sea: Lectures have been given on the following subjects: Orientation, Small Arms Instructions, Articles of the Government of the Navy, Abandon Ship, Liberty Instruction, Venereal (Health) Cargo Pilferage, Censorship, First Aid, Safety Precautions, Gas Mask Drill, Life Jackets and Voting. At the present time there are fifteen men studying for advancement in rating.

(1) This report is forwarded from abroad.

Carl E. Erickson

Carl E. Erickson
Lt. (jg) D-L USNR.

EN3-11(CT)/A4-3(2)
Serial: 0975

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

JTC/wjs

7 July 1945.

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From: The U. S. Naval Liaison Officer, Calcutta, India.
To : The Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Report of Voyage - SS ABBOT L. MILLS, dated 5 July 1945.

1. Forwarded.
2. The incident related in paragraph 1(c), concerning the sighting of a submarine, has been reported by this office to the Commodore, Bay of Bengal, Royal Navy, Calcutta, India.

GEORGE C. MILES