

ARMED GUARD UNIT  
S. S. ABBOT L. MILLS  
ARMED GUARD CENTER (ATLANTIC)  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

5 January 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: The Port Director, Oran, North Africa

Subject: Report of Voyage, S. S. ABBOT L. MILLS  
From Norfolk, Va. to Oran, North Africa.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of  
Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Vessels, Paragraph  
4301.

Enclosure: (A)

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

(a) Type of vessel: Steam screw Type of Cargo: ammunition  
Grenades, Smoke flares,  
Trucks, Mail.

Owner of vessel: U.S.A. War Shipping Administration.  
Chartered to: Coastwise Pacific Far East Lines. Ralph  
Leman Master.

(b) Port of Departure: Lynnhaven Roads, Chesapeake Bay,  
Norfolk, Va. 19 December 1944.

Port of Arrival: Oran, North Africa, 5 January 1945

Convoyed or Independent: Convoyed

Speed (Average) 8.9

Number of ships in convoy: 72

Number of escort vessels or aircraft:

Task Force 64

USS BALCH \* CAPT. H. S. BERDINE USCG.

COMCORDIV 80

USS O'TOOLE (F)

JOHN H. POWERS

MASON

JOHN M. BIRMINGHAM

ANDRES

EDGAR G. CHASE

LIBEL

COMDES Div 26

USS LIVERMORE (F)

EBERLE

GULFPORT

*lgm*

Received air coverage leaving Lynnhaven Roads by two blimps and one plane.

(c) Contacts and action with the enemy: None.

(d) General resume of the voyage: All Navy hands manned their Battle Stations at dawn and dusk during the entire voyage. Adequate General Drills were held aboard ship during the voyage. Ships in the convoy did not carry out Blackout Precautions, on several evenings light was visible from many ships in the convoy. Stern lights were shown in convoy from time to time during adverse weather conditions.

(e) This is the first port of call, therefore, no report of the port facilities.

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

(g) The following defects and deficiencies were brought to the attention of the port director Norfolk, but due to lack of time were not repaired.

*see end*  
Damaged splinter shield on bow 3"50 gun.

Smoke Float racks all damaged unable to carry floats.

(h) The master and officers of the ship carried out "Wartime Instructions for United States Merchant Vessels". Blackout regulations were strictly observed, bilges and waste materials were emptied at nightfall, routing instructions were obeyed, codes and signals were kept as classified, etc.

(i) Recommendations: Strict observance of Blackout Regulations.

(j) There was no improper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft approaching the convoy.

(k) Training at sea: Lectures were given on the following subjects: Orientation, Small Arms Instructions, Articles for the Government of the Navy, Abandon Ship, Liberty Instruction, Venereal (Health), Cargo Pilferage, Censorship, First Aid, Safety Precautions, Gas Masks, Life Jackets, Recognition. With a reduced gun crew there is very little time for studying if the guns and quarters are to be kept in first class condition.

(l) This report is forwarded from abroad.

*Carl E. Erickson*  
Carl E. Erickson  
Ensign, D-L USNR.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT.

U.S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE  
ORAN

8 January 1945.

From: U.S. Navy Port Officer, Oran, Algeria.  
To : The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.  
Via : Commander, U.S. EIGHTH Fleet.

1. Forwarded.
2. This ship did not enter harbor so no action was taken regarding deficiencies mentioned in paragraph 1 (g).

*JNO. G. MCGIEFFIN.*  
JNO. G. MCGIEFFIN.

JAN 15 1945

2nd ENDORSEMENT  
FROM: COMNAVNAW  
TO : CNO  
1. FORWARDED.  
*W. E. G. ERSKINE.*  
By Direction

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Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
FLEET MAINTENANCE  
25 JAN 1945  
RECEIVED  
NAVY DEPARTMENT