

ARMED GUARD UNIT
S/S ABEL PARKER UPSHUR
ARMED GUARD CENTER (ATLANTIC)
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

30 September 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

From: LARSON, Berger C. 347971, Lieutenant (jg), D-V(S) USNR
S/S ABEL PARKER UPSHUR GROSS TONS 7177

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Via:

Subject: Report of Voyage, S/S ABEL PARKER UPSHUR
From Norfolk, Virginia, to Bari, Italy

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

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

(a) Type of vessel: Liberty Type of cargo: Explosives (Ammunition,
Bombs, Fuses) Other:
Belly tanks, rafts,
auto lights, paddles and
life jackets.

Owner of vessel: U.S.A. War Shipping Administration.

Chartered to: International Freighting Corporation, Inc.

(b) Port of Departure: Norfolk, Virginia, Date: 2 September 1944

Convoyed or independent: Convoyed Norfolk to Brindisi, Italy
Independent Brindisi to Bari, Italy

Speed (AVER): 8.87 knots in convoy.

10.5 knots when voyaging independently.

No. of ships in convoy: Norfolk to Augusta, approximately --- 64
Augusta to Brindisi --- 30
Brindisi to Bari (none)

The number of ships in the convoy varied
as ships broke away bound for ports along
route while others joined up along route.

No. of escort vessels or aircraft:

Norfolk to Bizerte 13 D.E.'s
Bizerte to Augusta 3 Corvettes
Augusta to Brindisi 4 Italian
Escorts

From Norfolk, Va. to Bizerte, Tunisia the convoy had thirteen American
Escort ships. At this point three corvettes replaced the American
escort. Considering the dangerous waters in this area, I felt this was
an inadequate number of escort vessels for this size convoy. The convoy
proceeded however without mishap. Friendly aircraft was seen on several
occasions during the trip circling the convoy.

Port of arrival: Bari, Italy

Date 29 September 1944

- 138
- (c) There were no contacts or action with the enemy.
 - (d) General resume of voyage: All hands manned their battle stations at dawn and dusk during the entire voyage. One general alarm was sounded by the second mate at 0135 on 18 September, 1944, when one of the escorts dropped several depth charges. No contact was made with the enemy. Adequate general drills were held aboard ship during the voyage. Lights were shown during convoy, but only during adverse weather conditions thereby averting possible collision. The weather on the whole was very good and the sea was never very rough.
 - (e) This ship was anchored at Brindisi for three days awaiting further orders. We were then ordered to proceed to Bari on 29 September, 1944.
 - (f) The commercial radio operators appeared to carry out wartime radio instructions for merchant vessels and kept all intercepted messages confidential.
 - (g) There were no defects or deficiencies to report to the Port Director, Bari, Italy.
 - (h) The master and officers of the ship carried out "Wartime Instructions for United States Merchant Vessels". Blackout regulations were strictly adhered to, bilges and waste materials were emptied at nightfall, routing instructions were obeyed, codes and signals were kept as classified, etc.
 - (i) No recommendations
 - (j) There was no improper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft approaching this vessel either when sailing independently or in convoy.
 - (k) Instruction was given at sea in plane recognition, fuse setting, eyeshooting principles and the use of gas masks.

Berger C. Larson

Lt. (jg) BERGER C. LARSON
 Commanding Officer U.S. Naval Armed Guard Unit

TO : COMNAVFOR, BREVIA, BREVIA
 FROM : BREVIA, BREVIA, BREVIA, BREVIA, BREVIA
 DATE: 29 September 1944
 SUBJECT: BREVIA, BREVIA, BREVIA, BREVIA, BREVIA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

**FIRST ENDORSEMENT
USNAVPOBARI**

**U. S. NAVY PORT OFFICE, BARI, ITALY
10 October 1944.**

**From: U. S. Navy Port Officer, Bari, Italy.
To : COMEIGHTH, USNAVPOMED.**

Subj: Voyage Report SS ABEL PARKER UPSHUR.

1. Forwarded.
2. Inspection of rough log indicates daily setting of Condition 1 watches as prescribed in paragraph 3102 General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, 1944. Fourth Edition.
3. It will be noted in paragraph 1 (e) that this vessel was held at Brindisi for three days awaiting berth at Bari.

J. N. LILLY

OCT 16 1944

2nd ENDORSEMENT
FROM: COMNAVNAV
TO : CNO
1. FORWARDED.
W.W. TELLER
 By Direction

RECEIVED S-C FILES

23 Room 2056

NOTE TO: 26 OCT 1944
Op File No. (Su) 14-31abel Parker Upshur
Doc. No. _____
Copy No. 2 of 2
Fig. No. _____