

CONFIDENTIAL
SERIAL PD 037526-W

DATE July 16, 1942

From: Commandant 6th Naval District.
(Port Director Wilmington, N.C.)

To : Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject ^{X68} ARMING OF MERCHANT VESSELS SS ABEL PARKER UPSHUR

7177 Gross Tons Flag U.S.

References: (a) Confidential ~~XXX~~ mailgram # 141900 July D.Wilm, NC
(b) Par. 6CNO ltr. #063338 of Nov. 29, 1941.

Enclosure: (A) Consolidated report of bureaus concerned as directed by reference (b).

1. Confirming reference (a) the attached enclosure submits information required by reference (b) relative to the armaments supplied the subject merchant vessel.

D.A. McPHERSON
D.A. McPHERSON
By direction.

77 Copies: Buships
Buord
~~Bunad (Sheets one and two only) Complies with C.L. 27-42~~
Com 6th
BuPers
PD6ND

RECEIVED S-C FILMS
Room 2155

JUL 20 1942

ROUTE TO: 23
Op File No. (SC) P16-5/651
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Copy No. 1 of 1
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CONFIDENTIAL

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NAME OF SHIP:

SS

ABEL PARKER UPSHUR

OWNER:

Maritime Commission

OPERATOR International Freighting or AGENT: Corp.

REGISTRY: 241780

CLASS (pass. Cargo or Tank Ship) Cargo

ITINERARY: Sailing Date: July 15, 1942 From: Wilm, NC To Newport News, Va.

Via:

SHIP'S CREW

Commissioned Rank

MASTER: Robert C. Houston

OFFICERS: Roger Gilman Ensign
(Edward Dolinsky)

Deck Department

Engineering Dept.

Steward's Department:

Table with 3 columns: Deck Department, Engineering Dept., Steward's Department. Lists crew members and counts for various roles like Chief Mate, Engineer, Steward, etc.

PASSENGERS--Number on Board None

U. S. NAVY PERSONNEL

Table with 5 columns: Armed Guard Unit, Name, Rating, Branch, Service #. Lists personnel including John McDonald SMYTH, Jr. and various enlisted men.

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LIST ALL GUNS (INCLUDING MACHINE GUNS) ABOARD VESSEL ON DEPARTURE

Nr. of Guns	Caliber & Type	Gun Mark & Mod.	Mount Mk. & Mod.	Gun Location	Ammunition
1	5"/50 cal.	VIII; #1350	IX/1; #2377	aft	100
2	.50 mchgun			bridge)	
2	.50 "			aft)	4000

BuOrd form Nr. 228 (rev. May 1942) submitted _____ 19____, in triplicate.

ITEM	INSTALLATIONS	DETAIL
1. Splinter Protection - Bridge		<u>Steel shielding; plastic armor</u>
Splinter Protection - AA Machine Guns		<u>Steel shielding; plastic armor</u>
2. Gun Foundations, Number and Location		<u>Six - 1 f'wd, 2 on bridge, 3 aft</u>
3. Magazines, Number and Location		<u>Two - 1 forward, 1 aft</u>
4. Painting		<u>Low visibility grey</u>
5. Darkening Ship Facilities		<u>Complete, curtains, special switches</u>
6. Reinforce Sea Chests		<u>Originally built of welded steel</u>
7. Fire Control Communication System-		<u>Visual and audible signal alarms; light telephone stations</u>
8. Sky Look Out Stations, Number and Location		<u>None, other than usual crow's nest</u>
9. Results Industrial Manager's Inspection		<u>Satisfactory</u>
10. Messing Facilities		<u>Ample</u>

ARMED GUARD UNIT	ACCOMMODATIONS NAVY PERSONNEL	LOCATION
	SPACE	
Officer in Charge	Room # <u>Jr. 3rd Asst. Engineer's Cabin</u>	<u>Boat deck; midships; starboardside; aft</u>
Petty Officer	<u>No special quarters;</u>	<u>with crew</u>
Seamen	<u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>Main deck; midships; Ship's crew quarters</u> <u>Main deck; after deck house</u>

COMMUNICATION GROUP

Enlisted Men	<u>None</u>
Standee	Bunks No. _____ Total _____

ITEM	EQUIPMENT	QUANTITY
1. Navy - Type Life Jackets		<u>13</u>
2. Life Rafts (Capacity <u>18</u> per raft)		<u>4</u>
3. Life Boat		<u>4</u>
4. Emergency Rations		<u>Sufficiently supplied</u>
5. Repair & Upkeep Equipment Armament		<u>Per allowances</u>

(200 - 3/18/42 - Revised 6/8/42) Supersedes all previous issues.

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ITEM NO.	QUANTITY NO.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	STOCK NUMBER	TITLE
			Metal Box perforated		
1.	1	Each	200cc vacuum, weighted #G&E-434791	24-B-600	C
2.	0	Coll	BATTERIES, Blinker Signal Gun	17-B-7040	C
3.	52	"	BATTERIES, Flashlight	17-B-7210	C
4.	8	"	BATTERIES, Dry, hand lantern	17-B-7600	C
5.	0	Each	BELTS, pistol, automatic	A-2-B-1490	B
6.	0	Pair	BINOCULARS, 6 x 30	18-B-1135	B
7.	0	"	BINOCULARS, 7 x 35	18-B-1138	B
8.	0	Each	BLINKER, Signal Gun, battery type	17-B-1600	B
9.	2	"	BOTTLES, vacuum, 1 quart	63-B-500	B
10.	1	"	CASE, first-aid (armed guard)	S2-510	
11.	Plenty	Misc	CLEANING, supplies (brushes, soap, buckets, rags, etc.)		
12.	0	Set	FLAGS, alphabet code # 4	5-F-255-80	C
13.	0	Set	FLAGS, numeral # 4	5-F-4375 to 4384	C
14.	0	Set	FLAGS, somaphore	5-F-5100 to 5110	C
15.	13	Each	FLASHLIGHTS, 2 cell pocket type	17-F-13452	C
16.	51	"	GAS MASKS 38 civilian, 13 Navy		B
17.	4	"	GLOBES, hand lantern	31-G-270	C
18.	0	Pair	GOGGLES, for lookout, light density	37-G-3555	C
19.	0	"	GOGGLES, for lookout, dark density	37-G-3450	C
20.	0	Each	HELMETS, steel standard	37-H-	B
21.	0	"	HELMETS, " to wear with headphone	37-H	B
22.	0	"	HOLSTERS, automatic pistol (colt)	A-2-H-1435	B
23.	0	"	LAMPS, blinker signal gun	17-L-6300	C
24.	26	"	LAMPS, flashlight	17-I-6320	C
25.	2	"	LANTERNS, hand, portable, type "J"	17-L-7760	B
26.	4	"	MEDICAL GUN BAG, equipment	S-2-03	
27.	1	"	MEGAPHONE, 18" small	37-M-330	C
28.	1	"	MEGAPHONE 32" large	37-M-335	C
29.	0	Pair	MITTENS, ammunition-handling asbes.	A(L)2-G-48116	C
30.	0	Each	PISTOLS, automatic, colt, 45, # 1911	A-2-P-3415	B
31.	2	Gal.	P. INT, dark gray, formula 5D	52-P	C
32.	0	Each	ROPE, 125 fath. 3" manila, for spar	21-R-413	C
33.	0	"	SEARCHLIGHT, signal 8" (Crouse-Hinds)	17-S	B
34.	0	"	SPAR, towing	23-S-180	B
35.	0	"	SPY GLASS, quartermaster, 16 power	18-S-2255	B
36.	Plenty	Lisc.	STATIONERY (#53 items) (not over \$30)		C
37.					
38.					
39.					
40.					
41.					
42.					
43.					
44.		Set	CONVOY LIGHTS, Colored		B
45.		Each	WAKE LIGHT, Screened Type # 2		B

DEGAUSSING OPERATION (See also below*)

Type of Coils M Compass Compensated _____
 (M only ; MF & Q; MF, Q & A)

If not Coiled -- Date Wiped _____ or Date Flashed _____

Date Calibrated _____ Range _____
 (Wolf Trap, Newport, etc.)

Degaussing Factor _____ *Installed and estimated factor assigned
 (From Range) at N.C. Shipbuilding Co., Wilmington, NC;

Date Depermed _____ will be checked and ca
 (If shown necessary by range) Newport News, Va.

CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO ARMED GUARD OFFICER-- SS ABEL PARKER UPSHUR

1. Ordnance and Gunnery Instructions for Armed Guards.....	1
2. General Instructions for Commanding Officer of Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, Nov. 15, 1941.....	1
3. Instructions for operating Naval Transports and Merchant Vessels in Time of War - Part I.....	1
4. Test Firing of Guns After Leaving Port -- (CNO ltr. No. 396123 of 1 December, 1941 -- <u>Attach to Orders</u>	1
5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS--(Condensed from Naval Regulations, for Armed Guard Officers).....	6 sheets
6. SILHOUETTES.....Surface Raiders.....	1
.....Aircraft.....	5
7. Signals for Control of Merchant Vessels by Aircraft.....	0
8. Publication of German Raider Tactics.....	1
9. Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Training Centers.....	1
10. Range & deflection computer charts	2
11. Articles for the Government of the U.S.Navy	1
12. United Nations/ Submarines, OI 220-B	1

MOVABLE EQUIPMENT ISSUED TO ARMED GUARD UNIT

	ITEM	QUANTITY	SPECIFICATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
SPECIAL	1		72-A	Arctics, 4 buckle, cashmerette
	2		37-C-4	Coats, balloon cloth) Special
WINTER	3	NONE	37-C-4	Trousers " ") Submarine
	4		37-C-5	Coats, woolen) Clothing
CLOTHING	5		37-C-5	Trousers, ")
	6		N.37-G-15	Gloves, leather, not lined
	7		N.72-C-1	Sou'westers, balloon cloth
	8			Coat, Sheepskin
	9		N.27-B-7 Spr-11	Blankets, Regular Navy
FOUL	10	13	N.72-C-1	Overalls (Type C) rain trousers
	11	12	N.72-C-1	Coats, short (Type B)
WEATHER	12	1	N.72-C-1	Coats, long (type A)
CLOTHING	13	13	N.72-C-1	Sou'westers, balloon cloth rain hats

WELFARE AND RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

None aboard

COMMENTS:

Guns are to be given structural test firing on leaving Wilmington, N.C

for next port.

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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF SUPPLIES and/or PERSONNEL
ISSUED BY PORT DIRECTOR, TO:

~~xxx~~

SS ABEL PARKER UPSHUR ~~ASSETS FROM~~ Armed Wilmington, N.C.

7177 GROSS TONS—CLASS (PASS. CARGO OR TANK SHIP) Cargo

ARMED GUARD PERSONNEL REMOVED

NAME	RATING	BRANCH	SERVICE
None			

ARMED GUARD PERSONNEL PUT ABOARD

See Page 2			

COMMUNICATION LIAISON PERSONNEL REMOVED

None			

COMMUNICATION LIAISON PERSONNEL PUT ABOARD

None			

MATERIAL FURNISHED: UNDER COGNIZANCE OF THE BUREAU OF ORDNANCE

Per allowances; deficiencies listed on attached copy of letter

UNDER COGNIZANCE OF THE BUREAU OF SHIPS

Per allowances, deficiencies listed on attached copy of letter

Abel Parker Upshur
Port Director.

- Copy to: Opnav
- Buord
- Buships
- BuPers
- ComSix
- PD6ND

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July 14, 1942

From: Commanding Officer, Armed Guard Unit,
S/S ABEL PARKER UPSHUR.

To : Port Director, NTS, Wilmington, N.C.

Subject: Deficiencies in supplies and equipment, Armed Guard
facilities, S/S ABEL PARKER UPSHUR.

1. The items listed below are not on board the S/S ABEL PARKER UPSHUR:

Rope, $\frac{1}{2}$ " , 100 feet
Gun tub
Lapping-out tool
Primer belt
Gun oil
Repriming tool
Alemite grease gun (for Browning .50 cal)
Alemite grease gun (for 5"/51 cal gun)
Muzzle bag for 5"/50 cal gun
Tool kits for .50 cal Brownings
Spare parts for .50 cal Brownings
Length of hose; Stock #33-H-1028
2 screwdrivers, 8"
2 brushes, foxtail
2 brushes, scrubbing
2 pair binoculars
6 pair goggles for lookout, light and dark density
1 roll of cheese cloth
4 automatic pistols, belts, holsters, and supply of ammunition.

2. It is requested that some change be made in the ventilation system for the magazines located forward and aft. Only the after magazine is now in use. Present system is entirely inadequate for keeping temperatures down. It is suggested that a powerful electric blower be installed.

3. Attention is called to the fact that there is no 3"/50 caliber dual purpose installed. It is requested that an effort be made to secure this gun for subject vessel.

4. Items listed are believed to be necessary for the proper functioning of the Armed Guard Unit and it is requested that the deficiencies be filled if practicable either at this port or at later ports of call.

CC: PD6ND, 6ND Ord. Off.

/s/ JOHN M. SMYTH, JR.
Ensign, D-V(S), USNR