

CONFIDENTIAL

SS ABEL STEARNS  
14, AUGUST, 1945.

From: Lt. (jg) Richard L. LaGrange, Commanding  
Officer, Naval Armed Guard Unit.

To: Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: Port Director, San Francisco, California.

Subject: Report of Voyage, SS Abel Stearns. 7176

Ref: (a) General Instructions for Commanding  
Officers of Naval Armed Guards on  
Merchant Ships, Paragraph 4301. 67

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

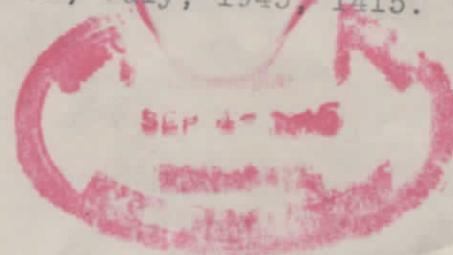
a. Type of Vessel-- Freighter, EC-2.  
Type of Cargo-- Construction equipment and materials consisting of rock crushers, road graders, bulldozers, cranes, cement, lumber, explosives and miscellaneous materials. One hundred jeeps were also in cargo.  
Owner of Vessel-- W S A .  
Chartered to-- A.H. Bull.  
Ship's Master-- Capt. John S. Swerbywas.  
Gross Tonnage-- 7176.

b. Port of Departure, San Francisco, California, 30, June, 1945, 1830.  
Proceeded independently.  
Speed, 9.9 knots  
Air Escort, none.

Arrived, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, 19, July, 1945, 1705.  
Departed Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, 22, July, 1945, 1200.  
Proceeded independently.  
Speed, 10 knots  
Air Escort, none.

Arrived Ulithi, Caroline Islands, 28, July, 1945, 0630.  
Departed Ulithi, Caroline Islands, 30, July, 1945, 1415.  
Convoyed.  
Number of Ships in convoy- 13.  
Number of Escorts- 3  
Speed of Convoy- 9 knots  
Air Escort, None

230



Arrived, Kagoshi, Okinawa, 5, August, 1945, 1030

- c. No contact was had with enemy during voyage.
- d. In general voyage was routine throughout with the exception of engine trouble between San Francisco and Eniwetok. This caused a reduction of speed during part of the voyage between the two mentioned ports and required laying up in Eniwetok to repair main engine. Speed of vessel for whole voyage averaged 9.5 knots. Lights were burned in accordance with orders at positions so indicated in said orders. Vessel did not zig-zag at any time.
- e. Vessel was not delayed in any port due to lack of port facilities nor was there any time lost in the reasonable turn around of vessel.
- f. The commercial radio operators appeared to carry out war time instructions for merchant vessels, particularly in regard to keeping intercepted messages confidential.
- g. No defects or deficiencies in location or arrangement of the battery, or in equipment as regards material, personnel or operation.
- h. Master and Officers of the ship were diligent about carrying out " War Time Instructions for Merchant Ships."
- i. No recommendations tending to the improvement or greater efficiency of the service.
- j. There was no improper procedure on the part of any friendly aircraft approaching vessel.
- k. Training given at sea included regular pointing, training, sight-setting and loading drills on all guns, tracking drills on Multiple Aim-off Trainer, Classes in first aid, and Gas warfare, Gas Mask drills and class with signalmen on Communications. Instructions given Petty Officers on Spotting Board.

*Richard L. LaGrange*  
RICHARD L. LaGRANGE, LT:(jg)  
D-(L), USNR.

TO : [illegible]  
FROM : [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL  
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[illegible]

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CREW LIST

Port Hagushi Okinawa  
Date 14 Aug 1945  
Flag AMERICAN

ARMED GUARD AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL

MS  
SS ABEL STEARNS Gross Tons 7176

The following list (TYPEWRITTEN and in TRIPLICATE) comprises the total Naval Armed Guard and Communications Liaison personnel at present aboard the above ship.

Surname	First	Middle	Rating	Branch	Service No.	AGC	Date
1. LaGrange	Richard	Lowell	Lt. (jg)	USNR	367594	Atl.	13, Oct44
2. Jacobson	Earl	George	Cox	USNR	615 42 98	do	do
3. Polcaro	Anthony	Ernest	Cox	V6USNR	203 01 99	Pac.	27 June45
4. Szelski	Frank	Anthony	GM3c	V-6	707 08 05	Pac.	13 June45
5. Allinder	Howard	Clifton	Slc	USNR (SV)	975 54 41	Atl.	13, Oct44
6. Birchfield	Largus	Forrest	Slc	USNR (SV)	975 55 61	do	do
7. Brown	Harold	Clinton	Slc	USNR (SV)	938 93 78	do	do
8. Costa	Ernest	Arthur	Slc	USNR	761 79 68	do	do
9. Crites	Ed V.	Vivian	Slc	USNR (SV)	939 45 38	do	do
10. D'Andrea	Antonio	(n)	Slc	USNR (SV)	801 41 56	do	do
11. Flores	Abel	Manuel	Slc	USNR (SV)	968 10 68	do	do
12. Garner	Bascom	Earl	Slc	USNR (SV)	939 19 04	do	do
13. Graves	Parker	Preston	Slc	USNR (SV)	931 27 04	do	do
14. Harmuth	Charles	Moore	Cox	USNR	704 45 19	do	do
15. Jedlicka	Harry	(n)	Slc	USNR (SV)	939 19 25	do	do
16. Kincaid	Claude	Logan	Slc	USNR (SV)	955 99 49	do	do
17. Lyons	Eugene	(n)	Slc	USNR (SV)	975 55 34	do	do
18. Mashburn	Theron	I V	Slc	USNR (SV)	932 73 23	do	do
19. McGinley	Robert	Joseph	Slc	USNR (SV)	962 02 96	do	do
20. McKee	John	D.	Slc	USNR (SV)	940 40 06	do	do
21. Pendergraft	George	Leonard	Slc	USNR (SV)	885 51 23	do	do
22. Phillips	Hershel	O'Neal	Slc	USNR (SV)	885 51 12	do	do
23. Prorok	Edward	Paul	Slc	USNR (SV)	945 02 72	do	do
24. Plote	Walter	Wilhelm	Slc	USNR (SV)	945 59 93	do	do
25. Werker	Peter	Gerard	Slc	USNR (SV)	860 86 26	do	9 Nov44
COMMUNICATION PERSONNEL							
27. Bolognese	Cherubino	(n)	Slc	USNR (SV)	907 38 91	do	13 Oct44
28.	(Seaman Signalman)						
29. Henegan	Robert	Charles	Slc	USNR (SV)	667 50 08	do	do
30.	(Seaman Signalman)						
31.							
32.							
33.							
34.							
35.							
36.							
37.							
38.							
39.							
40.							

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT  
*Richard L. LaGrange*  
Armed Guard Commander

Note: The above form is to be filled out before arrival and turned in to the Port Director upon arrival in port.

Ennl: "A"