

4, MAY, 1945. *7176*  
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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: LT.(JG) RICHARD L. LAGRANGE, USNR,  
OFFICER IN CHARGE NAVAL ARMED GUARD  
SS ABEL STEARNS.

TO: CNO  
VIA: PORT DIRECTOR, TACLOBAN, LEYTE, P.I.

SUBJECT: REPORT OF VOYAGE, SS ABEL STEARNS

REFERENCE: (a) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMANDING  
OFFICERS OF NAVAL ARMED GUARDS ON MERCHANT  
SHIPS, PARAGRAPH 4301

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE (a) THE FOLLOWING  
INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED:

- (a) TYPE OF VESSEL: FREIGHTER (LIBERTY)  
TYPE OF CARGO: OFFICERS AND MEN AND ALL  
EQUIPMENT CONSISTING OF ROLLING STOCK, QUONSI  
HUTS, TENTS, FOOD, AMMUNITION AND MISCELLANEOUS  
ITEMS OF M.T.B. NUMBERS 7 AND 16. Base # 7 being  
TAKEN ON AT GREEN ISLAND AND BASE # 16 BEING  
TAKEN ON AT EMIRAU ISLAND.  
OWNER OF VESSEL: W S A  
CHARTERED TO A.H.BULL  
GROSS TONNAGE: 7176
- (b) PORT OF DEPARTURE: TACLOBAN, LEYTE, 16 FEB.  
1945, AT1345. CONVOYED  
ARRIVED: HOLLANDIA, NEW GUINEA, 22 FEB, 1945,  
at 1438.  
DEPARTED HOLLANDIA, 23 FEB.1945,at 1615,  
Independent.  
ARRIVED: FINCH HAVEN, NEW GUINEA, 25 FEB.,  
1945, at 1105.  
DEPARTED FINCH HAVEN, N.G. 28 FEB., 1945,  
at 0845. Independent.  
ARRIVED: GREEN ISLAND, 2, MAR.,1945, at  
1200.  
DEPARTED GREEN ISLAND, 12 MAR.,1945, at  
1235, Independent.

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ARRIVED: ENIRAT ISLAND, 14 MAR., 1945 at 1600.  
DEPARTED ENIRAT, 24 MAR., 1945, at 2400,  
Independent.

ARRIVED: MANUS, ADMIRALTY ISLANDS, 25 MAR., at 1600  
DEPARTED MANUS, 28 MAR., 1945, at 1500, Independent.

ARRIVED: HOLLANDIA, N.G. 30, Mar, 1945, at 0810.  
DEPARTED HOLLANDIA, 2 APR. 1945, 0900, Convoyed.

ARRIVED: TACLOBAN, LEYTE, P.I., 9 APR., 1945,  
at 1315.

DEPARTED TACLOBAN, LEYTE,, 13 APR., 1945, at 1740,  
Independent with one Escort.

ARRIVED: ZAMBOANGA, MINDANAO, 15 APR, 1945,  
at 1006.

DEPARTED ZAMBOANGA, 15 APR., 1945, at 1130,  
Independent.

ARRIVED: ISABELLA, BASILON, 15 APR., 1945, at  
1353.

DEPARTED ISABELLA, 26 APR., 1945, at 1453,  
Independent.

ARRIVED: ZAMBOANGA, MINDANAO, 26 APR., 1945,  
at 1730.

PORT OF ARRIVAL: ZAMBOANGA, MINDANAO

NUMBER OF SHIPS IN CONVOY:

TACLOBAN TO HOLLANDIA-- 78 SHIPS

HOLLANDIA TO TACLOBAN-- 20 SHIPS. 16 SHIPS

JOINED CONVOY BEFORE REACHING TACLOBAN

NUMBER OF ESCORTS:

TACLOBAN TO HOLLANDIA--- 5 Escort Vessels

HOLLANDIA TO TACLOBAN--- 4 Escort Vessels

TACLOBAN TO ZAMBOANGA--- 1 Escort Vessel

NO AIRCRAFT ESCORT

SPEED IN CONVOY: SPEED IN ALL CONVOYS WAS 9  
KNOTS.

SPEED IN INDEPENDENT TRAVEL: 10 KNOTS

(c) VESSEL HAD NO CONTACT WITH ENEMY. ESCORT  
VESSEL DROPPED DEPTH CHARGES DURING TRIP FROM  
TACLOBAN TO HOLLANDIA. THEY WERE DROPPED ON  
16 FEB, 1945, AT 1840. ALSO ON TRIP FROM  
HOLLANDIA TO TACLOBAN, ESCORT DROPPED FIVE  
DEPTH CHARGES, ON APRIL, 8th, 1945, at 1900.

(d) VOYAGE WAS ROUTINE THROUGHOUT.

(e) MERCHANT RADIO OPERATORS APPEARED TO CARRY  
OUT WAR TIME INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE

KEEPING OF INTERCEPTED MESSAGES CONFIDENTIAL.

(f) THE MASTER AND OFFICERS OF THE SHIP WERE DILIGENT ABOUT CARRYING OUT "WAR TIME INSTRUCTIONS FOR MERCHANT SHIPS".

(g) TRAINING GIVEN AT SEA: TRAINING IN FIRING AND MAINTENANCE OF SMALL ARMS GIVEN: CLASSES HELD IN PLANE RECOGNITION: CLASSES IN SEAMANSHIP HELD: LOADING, POINTING AND TRAINING DRILLS HELD FOR SHORT PERIODS DURING EXISTENCE OF CONDITION I.

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

OFFICE OF THE PORT DIRECTOR  
NAVY 3964, BOX 3  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

11 May 1945

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: Port Director  
To: Chief of Naval Operations

1. Forwarded

Keith C. Middleton  
*Robert B. Harris*  
Robert B. Harris  
By direction