

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
FLEET MAINTENANCE
2 FEB 1945
NAVY DEPARTMENT RECEIVED

CONFIDENTIAL

18, JANUARY, 1945

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: ARMY CARGO, CONSISTING OF TRUCKS, DUCKS, FOOD, EXPLOSIVES, OIL, GASOLINE, LCM, PONTOONS, WATCHES ETC.
OWNER OF VESSEL: W S A
CHARTERED TO A.H.BULL
GROSS TONNAGE, 7176.

(b) PORT OF DEPARTURE: NEW YORK, N.Y. 20, OCTOBER, 1944, 1200.
CONVOYED OR INDEPENDENT: INDEPENDENT TO HOLLANDIA, NEW GUINEA: CONVOYED FROM HOLLANDIA TO PORT OF ARRIVAL.
NUMBER OF SHIPS IN CONVOY: 36
NUMBER OF ESCORTS OR AIRCRAFT: 9 vessels, NO AIRCRAFT.
SPEED: INDEPENDENT VOYAGE: 12.28 knots; IN CONVOY: 7 KNOTS
PORT OF ARRIVAL: TACLOBAN, SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, P.I., 15, JANUARY, 1945, 1600.

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(c) VESSEL HAD NO CONTACT WITH ENEMY

(d) VOYAGE WAS ROUTINE THROUGHOUT.

(e) MERCHANT RADIO OPERATORS APPEARED TO CARRY-OUT WAR TIME RADIO INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE KEEPING OF INTERCEPTED MESSAGES CONFIDENTIAL.

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- (f) THE MASTER AND OFFICERS OF THE SHIP WERE DILIGENT ABOUT CARRYING OUT "WAR TIME INSTRUCTIONS FOR MERCHANT SHIPS.
- (g) TRAINING GIVEN AT SEA: CLASSES HELD FOR MEN TAKING PROGRESS TESTS; MULTIPLE TRAINERS WERE MOUNTED ON FOREMAST AND MIZZENMAST FOR POINTER AND TRAINER DRILL ON 3" 50 BOW GUN AND TRACKING DRILL FOR ALL 20 mm GUNNERS; SHORT LOADING DRILLS HELD DAILY DURING EXISTANCE OF CONDITION I; PLANE IDENTIFICATION AND FIRST AID CLASSES HELD.

Richard L. LaGrange
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