OCTOBER 8, 1944.

FROM:

LT. (JG) MERLE JAMES GRAHAM, USNR.

COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL ARMED GUARD.

(C/O ARMED GUARD CENTER, SOUTH BROOKLYN, N.Y.)

S.S. ABEL STEARNS, GROSS TONS 7176.

TO:

THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

VIA:

THE PORT DIRECTOR, NEW YORK, N.Y.

SUBJECT:

REPORT OF THE VOYAGE S.S. ABEL STEARNS FROM NAPLES, ITALY TO NEW YORK, N. Y. VIA REGGIO, ITALY AND PORT AGUSTA, SICILY.

REFERENCE: (a) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMANDING OFFICERS OF NAVAL ARMED GUARDS ON MERCHANT SHIPS, PARAG. 4301 THRU 4308.

- IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE (a) THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED:
  - (A) TYPE OF VESSEL: FREIGHTER (LIBERTY) TYPE OF CARGO: ARMY FLATTING AND 633 TONS OF BRIAR WOOD AND MISCELIANEOUS CARGO. TWO FIELD PIECES. OWNER OF VESSEL: U.S. WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION CHARTERED TO A.H. BULL & CO. OPERATORS, J.J. BROWNE, MASTER.
  - (B) PORT OF DEPARTURE: NAPLES, ITALY. DATE: SEPTEMBER 119,1944. CONVOYED SPEED (AVERAGE) 10 KNOTS ARRIVED REGGIO, ITALY 1830 SEPT. 10, 1944. DEPARTED REGGIO, ITALY 0920 SEPT. 13, 1944. UNESCORTED SPEED 10 KNOTS. ARRIVED PORT AGUSTA, SICILY 1448 SEPT. 13, 1944. DEPARTED PORT AGUSTA, SICILY 1730 SEPT. 16, 1944. CONVOYED SPEED IN MEDITERRANEAN 7 KNOTS. SPEED IN ATLANTIC 10 KNOTS. ARRIVED NEW YORK, N.Y. 2150 OCTOBER 7, 1944.

NUMBER OF SHIPS IN CONVOY: OUT OF NAPLES #10

OUT OF REGGIO # 0 OUT OF AGUSTA #16 ADDITIONAL SHIPS WERE PICKED UP ON VOYAGE THRU MEDITERRANEAN BRINGING TOTAL TO 50 BY THE TIME THE

ATLANTIC WAS REACHED.

NUMBER OF SORT ESCORT VESSELS: OUT OF NAPLES

OUT OF REGGIO # 0

OUT OF AGUSTA # 3 AT BIZERTE AMERICAN ESCORT OF NINE DE'S TOOK OVER AND FURNISHED ESCORT FOR BALANCE OF VOYAGE.

- (C) THIS VESSEL HAD NO CONTACT NOR ACTION WITH THE ENEMY.
- (D) THE VOYAGE WAS ROUTINE THROUGHOUT.
- (E) THE GENERAL CARGO WAS LOADED IN REGGIO, ITALY BY NATIVE WORKMEN. TWO DAYS WERE SPENT IN LOADING AT THIS PORT AND THREE DAYS WERE SPENT IN AGUSTA, SICILY WAITING FOR CONVOY.
- (F) THE MERCHANT RADIO OPERATORS APPEARED TO CARRY OUT WARTIME RADIO INSTRUCTIONS PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO KEEPING INTERCEPTED MESSAGES CONFIDENTIAL.
- (G) SEE ATTACHED LIST FOR REQUEST FOR REPAIRS TO ARMAMENT AND
- (H) THE MASTER AND OFFICERS OF THE SHIP WERE DILIGENT ABOUT CARRYING OUT " WARTIME INSTRUCTIONS FOR U.S. MERCHANT SHIPS ".
- (I) IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL SIGNALMEN HAVE SEA EXPERIENCE AS

AT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL SHIPS SENT INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN AND OTHER AIRCRAFT AREAS BE EQUIPED WITH DUAL PURPOSE GUNS BOTH FORE AND AFT. THE IDEAL GUN FOR THIS PURPOSE IS THE BOFORS 4CMM AS THIS GEN IS MUCH BETTER ADAPTED TO LOCAL CONTROL THAN IS THE 3"/50.

## CONFIDENTIAL

- NO IMPROPER PROCEDURE ON THE PART OF FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT (J) APPROACHING THIS VESSEL WAS NOTED.
- WHILE AT SEA AND IN PORT FREQUENT GUN DRILLS WERE HELD AS (K) WELL AS A DAILY CLASS IN SIGNALING AND SEMANSHIP. SMALL ARMS INSTRUCTION AND PRACTICE WAS HELD WHENEVER CONDITIONS

MERLE J. GRAHAM LT. (JG) D-V(S), USNR.

CONFIDENTIAL 1st Endorsement

SERIAL PDNYF 038706 17 Battery Place, New York, N.Y. 13 October. 1944

The Port Director, Third Naval District.

To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Voyage Report of SS ABEL STEARNS.

1. Forwarded.

2. All repairs requested were referred to the Maritime Commission.

## LCEIVED S-G FILES

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