

CONFIDENTIAL

SEPTEMBER 30, 1943

FROM: ENSIGN EDWIN ANTHONY GEHRING, U.S.N.R.,
COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL ARMED GUARD,
(C/O ARMED GUARD CENTER, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK)
S.S. ABEL STEARNS, GROSS TONS 7176

TO: THE VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

VIA: THE UNITED STATES NAVAL OBSERVER,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

SUBJECT: REPORT OF VOYAGE, S.S. ABEL STEARNS,
FROM LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND TO ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK,
CANADA, VIA HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

REFERENCE: (A) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMANDING OFFICERS
OF NAVAL ARMED GUARDS ON MERCHANT SHIPS, 1943,
PARAGRAPH 4301.

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

- (A) TYPE OF VESSEL: FREIGHTER
TYPE OF CARGO: BALLAST (SAND)
OWNER OF VESSEL: U.S. WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION
CHARTERED TO: GENERAL AGENTS: A.H. BULL & CO.
SUB-AGENT: U.S. LINES
- (B) PORT OF DEPARTURE: LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
DATE: AUGUST 8, 1943
CONVOYED
SPEED (AVERAGE): 9 1/2 KNOTS
NUMBER OF SHIPS IN CONVOY: 73
NUMBER OF ESCORT VESSELS: 9
ARRIVED AT HALIFAX, N.S.: AUGUST 20, 1943
LEFT HALIFAX, N.S.: AUGUST 22, 1943
CONVOYED
SPEED (AVERAGE): 8 1/2 KNOTS
NUMBER OF SHIPS IN CONVOY: 9
NUMBER OF ESCORT VESSELS: 3
PORT OF ARRIVAL: ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA
DATE OF ARRIVAL: AUGUST 24, 1943
- (C) THERE WAS NEITHER CONTACT NOR ACTION WITH THE ENEMY.
- (D) THE VOYAGE WAS ROUTINE THROUGHOUT.
- (E) THE COMMERCIAL RADIO OPERATOR APPEARED TO CARRY OUT
"WARTIME INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNITED STATES MERCHANT VESSELS".
- (F) THE FOLLOWING DEFECTS OR DEFICIENCIES WERE NOTED:-
1-THERE IS A NINE DEGREE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
BEARINGS ON THE TRAINING CIRCLE OF THE 3"50 GUN
AND CORRECT RELATIVE BEARINGS.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 750161

- 2-VENTILATION OF THE FORWARD MAGAZINE IS INADEQUATE TO KEEP THE TEMPERATURE WITHIN A SAFE RANGE.
- 3-QUARTERS, LOCKERS AND ESPECIALLY STORAGE SPACE ARE CROWDED.
- 4- FOUR OF THE OERLIKON GUNS CAN BE TRAINED ON PARTS OF THE SHIP.
- 5-STOPS ON THE 3"50 GUN PREVENT ADEQUATE COVERAGE OF THE AIR.
- 6-THE ARMED GUARD PERSONNEL INCLUDES ONLY ONE SIGNALMAN. AS A CONSEQUENCE HE IS STANDING DOUBLE WATCHES.

(G) THE MASTER AND OFFICERS OF THE SHIP CARRIED OUT "WARTIME INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNITED STATES MERCHANT SHIPS". BLACKOUT REGULATIONS WERE RIGIDLY OBSERVED.

EDWIN A. GEHRING,
ENSIGN, U.S.N.R.

A4-3/ FIRST ENDORSEMENT

11 September 1943.

Office of U. S. Naval Observer,
H.M.C. Dockyard,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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From: U. S. Naval Observer.
To : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Forwarded.

(see part F)
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Malcolm N. Stanley
MALCOLM N. STANLEY.

20 SEP 1943

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Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
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