

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 19 June 1943

From: Amos, S. A., Ensign, USNR  
To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Via: Port Director, Third Naval District

Subject: VOYAGE REPORT OF S.S. ABEL STEARNS

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of  
Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships 1942.

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

1. The SS ABEL STEARNS is a EC2 Liberty type vessel of 7176 gross tons, carrying general cargo owned by War Shipping Administration, chartered to American Export Lines, operators - A.H. Bull and Co.

2. The SS ABEL STEARNS departed Calcutta, India, sailing singly, 28 March 1943 for Vizagapatam, India. Arrived at Vizagapatam 31 March 1943. Loaded additional cargo and sailed singly for Colombo, Ceylon, arriving 4 April 1943. Took on bunkers and water. Sailed singly for Free Mantle, West Australia on the 18th, April. Took on water and stores. Sailed singly for Panama, C.Z., 22 April 1943 and arrived at canal 28 May 1943. From 28 May 1943 to 30 May 1943, passage through the canal and taking stores, water and bunkers. Sailed singly from Panama, C.Z. to Key West 30 May, 1943 to 4 June 1943. Anchored out and sailed that same day for Cape Lookout in convoy. Speed 9 knots. Three escorts for 5 cargo ships as far as Jacksonville. From there we proceeded alone to Look Out Bight. Called in anchored and got under way in 3 hours for Norfolk. Arrived 10 June 1943 and anchored in the stream for 2 days, then proceeded to the station to be depermed. Returned to stream and anchored. Sailed to the Delaware in convoy, anchored for a few hours and got under way for New York, arriving at the port of New York 1700, 17 June 1943.

Total distance covered between departing from west coast of the states to the return the port of New York, approximately 35000 nautical miles.

3. No contacts or action with the enemy.

4. A report of the outward bound voyage was made in Calcutta, India and forwarded to proper channels in the states, unsigned carbon copy included with this report.

5. General resume of the voyage: Weather conditions were good. Time of passage through the India Ocean was before the S.W. Monsoon had set in. Few days of heavy seas at the equator. Passage south of Australia was during the fall. We had a following sea which would have delayed speed of ship considerably if bow on.

-1-

(3 Copies of this Report should be submitted at Destination)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WNO 750161

SS ABEL STEARNS

19 June 1943

While in Fremantle, the merchant crew went ashore and were drunk and indifferent to returning to the ship. The War Shipping Administrator said to me and I quote; "You will do your best to keep the merchant crew on board"- (by police action I assumed) - "and in the meantime I attempt to get a shore patrol". My reply was - I quote, "Sir, I do not have the authority, but if you will get an order from the Senior Naval Officer present in this port to direct me to do so, I will do my best to see that it is carried out".

Needless to say, the order did not come. There is a tendency of the British steamship agents to ask for Armed Guard crew as cargo hold watch, which I have denied. The trip has been without incident as far as sighting enemy planes or submarines.

6. The remarks of paragraph 5 of first report holds true in regard to 4"50 gun on a 5" platform. The Port Director has taken action to correct the situation.

1st Endorsement

17 Battery Place, New York, N.Y.  
22 June, 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL  
SERIAL PDNYF 09925

From: The Port Director, Third Naval District  
To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Subject: Report of Voyage S.S. ABEL STEARNS

- 1. Report reviewed and submitted without comment.

F. G. REINICKE,

By Michael

RECEIVED 30 JUN 1943

27 JUN 1943

UNIT 100-

NO. 100-

SEC. No.

NO. 100-

NO. 100-

AB-3/Abel Stearns

2794771

(as marked) LSCC

ADKRR

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
JUN 26 1943

Stan A. Ramos  
Ensign U.S.N.R.