

Al6-2/PNC/mmr/hn  
Serial B-SP-10299

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE  
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

DATE 27 December, 1942.

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

From: The Commandant, Eleventh Naval District.  
(The Port Director (NTS), San Pedro.)  
To : The Chief of Naval Operations.  
Subject: ARMING OF MERCHANT VESSELS <sup>M.S.</sup> S.S. ABEL STEARNS  
7176 GROSS TONS FLAG : UNITED STATES

Reference: (a) Confidential airmailgram PD-SP- 271620 December.  
(b) Par. 6, CNC ltr. #063338 of Nov. 29, 1941.  
(c) Par. 2, CNC ltr. #0236323 of July 17, 1942.

Enclosure: (A) Consolidated report of bureaus concerned as directed by references (b) and (c).

1. Confirming reference (a), the attached enclosure submits information required by references (b) and (c) relative to the armament supplied the subject merchant vessel.

R. S. HOLMES

*G.W.D. Dashiell*  
G.W.D. DASHIELL  
By direction.

Copies: BuShips  
BuOrd  
BuPers (Sheets one and two only) Complies with C.L. 27-42.  
Com 11 ND  
PD, 12 ND (Sheets one and two only) Complies with C.L. 27-42.  
CO, AGC, Treas.Isle.

*Acc'd* *W.C.*

HENDRICKSON, Floyd George,	Slc,	V6USNR	633-37-68
JIMINEZ, D. (n),	Slc,	V6USNR	646-57-92
MULQUINN, Thomas France,	Slc,	V6USNR	664-34-30
NEZAT, Curtis (n),	Slc,	V6USNR	646-60-37
NOBLE, Peter (n),	Slc,	V6USNR	622-09-71
REZNY, George (n),	GM3c,	V6USNR	628-08-97
ZUMAULT, Raymond Eugene	Slc,	V6USNR	

Communication Group:

BROWN, Robert Reinhold, Slc(SM), O1USN  
MURPHY, George Emerson, Slc(SM), V6USN

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: WNO 750161

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SERIAL B-SP- 10299

NAME OF SHIP: SS ABEL STEARNS

US OPERATOR

OWNER War Shipping Administration or AGENT: A. H. Bull S.S. Company

REGISTRY: United States CLASS (PASS. CARGO OR TANK SHIP): Cargo

ITINERARY: SAILING DATE 12/26/42 FROM San Pedro TO High Seas.

VIA:

SHIP'S CREW

COMMISSIONED RANK

MASTER: Charles Hendrickx None.

OFFICERS: (Listed by name only if Commissioned).

Table with 3 columns: Deck Department, Engineering Dep't, Steward's Dep't. Lists crew members and their counts for various roles like Chief Mate, Chief Engineer, Ch. Steward, etc.

Total Crew Including Master 43

PASSENGERS -- Number on Board \*23 Navy Passengers: 13 Officers, \*Com 11 Conf. Ser. B-SP-9859 of 12/24/42. 10 Enlisted men.

U.S. NAVY PERSONNEL

ARMED GUARD UNIT NAME RATING BRANCH SERVICE NO. Petty Officer or Officer-in-Charge Ensign Sloan A. Amos, D-V(S), USNR.

Table listing U.S. Navy Personnel including names, ratings (Slc, GM3c), branches (V6USNR, USN), and service numbers for various crew members.

Communication Group:

BROWN, Robert Reinhold, Slc(SM), 01USNR MURPHY, George Emerson, Slc(SM), V6USNR

MS-  
SS ABEL STEARNS GROSS TONS 7176 DEADWEIGHT TONS 10,807  
WHERE ARMED (PORT) San Pedro. DATE 23 Dec., 1942 YARD Calif. Shipbuilding.

LIST ALL GUNS (INCLUDING MACHINE GUNS) ABOARD VESSEL ON DEPARTURE.

Nr. of Guns	Caliber & Type	Gun Mark & Mod.	Mount Mk. & Mod.	Gun Location	Ammun.	Rds
<u>1</u>	<u>4"/50</u>	<u>Mk.9 Mod.16</u>	<u>Mk.12 Mod.3</u>	<u>Aft ctr.line</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>Rds</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>20 MM</u>	<u>Mark 4</u>	<u>Mark 4</u>	<u>Bow ctr.line</u>	<u>2400</u>	<u>Rds</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>20 MM</u>	<u>Mark 4</u>	<u>Mark 4</u>	<u>Mid port-stbd.</u>	<u>14400</u>	<u>Rds</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>20 MM</u>	<u>Mark 4</u>	<u>Mark 4</u>	<u>Aft port-stbd.</u>	<u>4800</u>	<u>Rds</u>

BuOrd frm Nr.228 (rev.May 1942.) submitted 28 Dec., 1942 in triplicate

INSTALLATIONS

ITEM

DETAIL

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Splinter Protection - Bridge           | (Plastic Armor.   |
| Splinter Protection - AA Mach. Guns 1.    | (4-20 MM - plastic armor - 3" thick - 48" high - 11' diam.  |
| 2. Gun Foundations, Number & Location     | (4-20 MM - 5/8" steel - 53" high - 11' diameter.  |
| 3. Magazines, Number & Location           | (1-5" aft center line.<br>(1-3" forward center line.  |
| 4. Painting                               | 2. (2-20 MM aft port-starboard.<br>(2-20 MM fwd. of bridge port-stbd.<br>(2-20 MM bridge port-starboard<br>(2-20 MM bridge aft port-stbd. |
| 5. Darkening Ship Facilities              | (1-5" aft. 2nd deck.  |
| 6. Reinforce Sea Chests                   | 3. (1-3" forward 2nd deck.  |
| 7. Fire Control Communication System      | 4. Satisfactory.  |
| 8. Sky Look Out Stations, Nr. & Location  | 5. Satisfactory.  |
| 9. Results Industrial's Mgr.'s Inspection | 6. Yes.   |
| 10. Messing Facilities                    | 7. Six Leads - Six Phones.<br>8. None.<br>9. Satisfactory.  |

ACCOMMODATIONS NAVY PERSONNEL

<u>ARMED GUARD UNIT</u>	<u>SPACE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Officer in Charge	Room# <u>Midships, bridgedeck,</u>	<u>port.</u>
Petty Officer 2	<u>(1) Midships, starboard.</u>	<u>(1) Aft starboard.</u>
Seamen 13	<u>Midships, main deck, starboard.</u>	
7	<u>Aft deck house.</u>	
<u>COMMUNICATION GROUP</u>		
Enlisted Men 2	<u>Midships, main deck, starboard.</u>	
Standee Bunks No. <u>24</u>	<u>Total.</u>	

EQUIPMENT

QUANTITY

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Navy - Type Life Jackets                 | Twenty-five                 |
| 2. Life Rafts (Capacity <u>18</u> per raft) | Four. 4 Donut Rafts 15 Cap. |
| 3. Life Boats                               | * See below.                |
| 4. Emergency Rations                        | Yes.                        |
| 5. Repair & Upkeep Equipment Armament       | Yes.                        |

- \* 1 Motorboat midships, boat deck, starboard of 25 capacity.  
1 Life boat midships, boat deck, starboard of 31 capacity  
2 Life boats midships, boat deck, port of 31 capacity each

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT ARRIVING MERCHANT VESSELS

146

SS ABEL STEARNS 7176 GROSS TONS  
WHERE  
ARRIVED (PORT) San Pedro. DATE 23 December, 1942.

INSTALLATIONS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
Acoustic Warning Devices	NONE.	
Barrage Balloons and Equipment	NONE.	
Hydrogen Gas Equipment	NONE.	
Snowflake Flares	NONE.	
Snowflake Flare Projectors	NONE.	
Smoke Floats	NONE.	
Smoke Float Racks	NONE.	
Outfits of Heavy Winter Clothing for NR Ships. (OpNav Serial 0200423 of 16 June, 1942).	NONE.	

SERIAL B-SP- 10299

ON BOARD - U.S. ABEL STEARNS

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY NO.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	STOCK NO.	TITLE
1.	0	Each	BAG, canvas, weighted #C&R434791		C
2.	0	Cell	BATTERIES, Blinker Sig.Gun.	17-B-7040	C
3.	16	Cell	BATTERIES, Flashlite	17-B-6300	C
4.	8	Cell	BATTERIES, Dry, hand lantern	17-B-7210	C
5.	0	Each	BELTS, Pistol, Automatic	A-2-B-1535	B
6.	4	Each	BELTS, Pistol, 38 Caliber	A-2-B-	B
7.	2	Pair	BINOCULARS, 6 X 30	18-B-1135	B
8.	0	Pair	BINOCULARS, 7 X 35	18-B-1138	B
9.	1	Each	BLINKER, Sig.Gun Battery type	17-B-16000	B(Nite)
10.	2	Each	BOTTLES, Vacuum, 1 Qt.	63-B-500	B
11.	1	Each	CASE, First Aid (Armed Guard)	S2-510	C
12.	Yes	Misc.	CLEANING, Supplies (Brushes, Soap, Rags, etc.)		
13.	2	Set	FLAGS, Alphabet Code #4	5-F-255-80	C
14.	2	Set	FLAGS, Numeral #4	5-F-4375-4384	C
15.	2	Set	FLAGS, Semaphore	5-F-5100-5110	C
16.	4	Each	FLASHLIGHTS, 2 Cell Pocket Type	17-F-13452	C
17.	25	Each	GAS MASKS (L)	37-M-306	B
18.	4	Each	GLOBES, Hand Latern	17-L-6365	C
19.	2	Pair	GOGGLES, Lookout, Light Density	37-G-3695	C(Variable)
20.	0	Pair	GOGGLES, Lookout, Dark Density	37-G-3530	C
21.	25	Each	HELMETS, Steel, Complete	2-H-1010	B
22.	6	Each	HELMETS, " to wear with headphone	37-H	B
23.	0	Each	HOLSTERS, Auto.Pistol 45 Cal.	A-2-H-1435	B
24.	4	Each	HOLSTERS, Pistol, 38 Caliber	A-2-H-	B
25.	0	Each	LAMPS, Blinker Signal Gun	17-L-6300	C
26.	4	Each	LAMPS, Flashlight	17-L-632-	C
27.	2	Each	LATERNS, hand, portable Type "J"	17-L-7760	B
28.	7	Each	MEDICAL GUN BAG, Equipment	S-2-03	C
29.	1	Each	MEGAPHONE, 18" - Small	37-M-330	C
30.	1	Each	MEGAPHONE, 32" - Large	37-M-335	C
31.	12	Pair	MITTENS, Asbestos (L)	74-G-149	C
32.	0	Each	PISTOLS, 45 Cal. Automatic #1911	A-2-F-3415	B
33.	4	Each	PISTOLS, 38 Cal. Smith & Wesson	A-2-F-	B
34.	5	Gal.	PAINT, Dark Gray, Formula 5D	52-P-1415	C
35.	Yes	Each	ROPE, 125 Fath. 3" Manila	21-R-418	C
36.	1	Each	SEARCHLIGHT, Signal 8"(Crouse-Hinds	17-S-537	B
37.	1	Each	SPAR, towing	23-S-180	B
38.	0	Each	SPY GLASS, Qrtrmaster 16 Power	18-S-2257	B
39.	Yes	Misc.	STATIONERY (#53 Items) (Not over \$30.		C
40.	Yes	Set	CONVOY LIGHTS, Colored		B
41.	1	Each	WAKE LIGHT, Screened, Type #2		B
42.					
43.					

## DEGAUSSING OPERATIONS

TYPE OF COILS "M" only COMPASS COMPENSATED Yes  
(M only, MF & Q, Q & I)

IF NOT COILED - DATE WIPED --- or DATE FLASHED ---

DATE CALIBRATED --- RANGE: ---  
( SAN PEDRO SAN DIEGO )

DEGAUSSING FACTOR ---  
(FROM RANGE)

DATE DEPERMED ---  
(IF SHOWN NECESSARY BY RANGE)

MS

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO ARMED GUARD OFFICER--SS ABEL STEARNS

1. Ordnance and Gunnery Instructions for Armed Guards Yes
2. General Instructions for Commanding Officer of Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, May 1, 1942. Yes
3. Instructions for Operating Naval Transports and Merchant Vessels in Time of War - Part I ..... Yes
4. Test Firing of Guns after leaving Port --(CNO ltr. No. 396123 of 1 December, 1941) - Attach to Orders. Yes
5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS - (Condensed from Naval Regulations, for Armed Guard Officers) ..... Yes
6. SILHOUETTES .....Surface Raiders Yes  
 .....Aircraft ..... Yes
7. Signals for Control of Merchant Vessels by Aircraft Yes
8. Publication of German Raider Tactics ..... Yes
9. Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Training Centers ..... Yes

MOVABLE EQUIPMENT ISSUED TO ARMED GUARD UNIT

SPECIAL	ITEM	QUANTITY	SPECIFICATION NO.	DESCRIPTION
WINTER CLOTHING	1	0		COATS
	2	5	37-C	COATS - Woolen
	3	5	37-T	TROUSERS - Woolen
	4	0		GLOVES
	5	0		MASKS
	6	0		HELMETS
	7	0		COATS, SHEEPSKIN
	8			
	9			
FOUL WEATHER CLOTHING	10	24	37-T	OVERALLS, (TYPE C)
	11	24	37-C	COATS, SHORT (TYPE B.)
	12	1	37-C	COATS, LONG (TYPE A.)
	13	25	37-H	HATS, RAIN
	14	0		ARTICS, 4 BUCKLE (Cshmt)
	15			

WELFARE AND RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

COMMENTS:

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