

U. S. NAVAL ARMED GUARD UNIT
S. S. ABIEL FOSTER
U. S. NAVAL ARMED GUARD CENTER (ATL)

CONFIDENTIAL

¹³
14 June 1945

From: Lt. Paul Wallace Smith, 211112, (D)L, USNR,
Commanding Officer, Naval Armed Guard Unit
(c/o Fleet Post Office, N.Y.C., N.Y.),
S. S. Abiel Foster - Gross tons: 7,176

To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: The Port Director, San Francisco, Calif.

Subject: Report of Voyage, S. S. Abiel Foster, M. H. Barber, Master.
From Leyte, P. I. to San Francisco, Calif. via Eniwetok, Atoll.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval
Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, paragraph 4301.

Enclosure: (A)

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

- (a) Type of vessel: Liberty.
Type of cargo: Oil and water ballast.
Owner of vessel: War Shipping Administration.
Chartered to: Matson Navigation Co., operators, - Capt.
Barber, M. H., Master.
- (b) Port of departure: Talosa, Leyte, P. I., - 14 May 1945.
In convoy part way to Eniwetok, Atoll, - independent from
Eniwetok to San Francisco.
Speed in convoy: 9½ average, Leyte to Eniwetok.
Speed independent: 10½ average, Eniwetok to San Francisco.
No. of ships in convoy: 38.
No. of escort vessels: 4.
Port of arrival: San Francisco, Calif.
- (c) No contact with the enemy.
- (d) The voyage was routine with no special incident. Navigation
lights were shown in such waters as permitted by convoy and
routing instructions. The vessel zig-zagged when proceeding
independently in accordance with instructions.

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- (e) The vessel was delayed 25 days at Leyte and Samar waiting to be unloaded, and there was approximately three days detention during unloading due to lack of storage facilities for cargo at Calicoan, Island. The vessel was also detained for at least two whole days at Eniwetok, Atoll because the Master (1) did not comply with port instructions regarding procedure for obtaining bunkers, and (2) he did not come along the side of the oil barge for bunkers until 40 hours after receiving direct orders to do so from the Port Director.
- (f) Commercial radio operators (two) appeared to carry out "War Time Radio Instructions for Merchant Vessels".
- (g) No defects or deficiencies in location or arrangements of the battery, or in equipment as regards material, personnel or operation.
- (h) The Master and Officers carried out "War Time Instructions for Merchant Vessels" to the best of their ability.
- (i) No recommendations tending the improvement or greater efficiency of the service.
- (j) No improper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft approaching the vessel.
- (k) The Armed Guard crew received training in, and completed the following subjects: A to N and S1c (19 men), BM1c (1), GM1c (1), and GM2c (3). Classes in First Aid and Gunnery were held in conjunction with the regular Increase in Rate classes.

Paul W. Smith
P. W. Smith, (D)L, USNR