

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Officer-in-Charge, Armed Guard Unit, SS Abiel Foster.

To: Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: Port Director, New York, New York.

Subject: (a) Report of Homeward Voyage of SS Abiel Foster.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships. 1943 par. 4301.

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

(a) Name: SS Abiel Foster--Type: Liberty----Gross Tonnage: 7176.

Type of Cargo: Ballast only--Owner: WSA.--Operated By: Matson Navigation Co.

(b) Port Departure: Newport, England.

Time: 12-11-44 (0400BST), proceeded singly to Belfast Lough, Bangor, N. Ireland, arriving 12-12-44 (2120); departed in convoy 6 ships, 3 escorts (2230) 12-14-44; joined convoy 18 additional ships 12-15-44 (0900), 9 escorts total; convoy included 1 small carrier with 2 biplanes.

Port of Arrival: New York, N.Y.--Time (0128), Date: Jan. 5, 1945.

(c) Contacts and Action With Enemy: None, except at (1715) 12-23-44, escort Stb.

Qtr. dropped 4 depth charges; no further activity noted, secure from GQ (1830).

(d) General Resume of Voyage: Route Followed and Convoy Data: At various courses set by Commodore, convoy speed was 7.5 kts. or less. High winds increasing to gale velocity slowed and separated convoy (2400) 12-28-44. 2 ships, 1 escort with us; main body of convoy rejoined (1430) 12-30-44. Winds of 50MPH again assailed convoy somewhat off Halifax from (0030-1200) 1-2-45. Shortly thereafter, convoy joined by ships of undetermined number, proceeded to Cape Cod Canal, picked up pilot, proceeded to New York.

Accident Observed: (1010) 12-21-44, plane from carrier crash landed port side carrier deck, bounced into sea; escort, rescue vessel, took 1 survivor from sea. Speed of vessel: 9 kts. best speed capable of after 10 months shuttle service. Lights shown: None, except running lights where ordered and indicated.

Fog signals: None, except sounding our column leader Number for brief period of fog (1620) on 1-1-45. Zig Zag: No.

(e) There were no written or verbal radio orders from foreign Government Officials.

(f) Commercial Radio Operators' Procedure complied with Wartime Instructions.

(g) Armament and Equipment: Need: Salvo Latch 3"50 Forward, repair training gears 4"50 aft, 8 new 20MM Covers.

(h) Master, officers complied, "Instructions for Naval Transportation and U.S. Merchant Ships in time of War".

(i) Recommendations: None.

(j) There was no improper procedure from any friendly aircraft approaching vessel.

Respectfully submitted,

L.T. Griffith
Lt. (JG) L.T. Griffith, USNR (DL).
OIC, Armed Guard Unit,
SS Abiel Foster.