

CONFIDENTIAL

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

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Via: (1) U.S. Naval Port Office, NEW YORK, N.Y.

(2) ~~The Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.~~

Subject: (A) Report of Turco Voyage of SS Abiel Foster (GB-Cherbourg and return via MUMBLES to NEWPORT, ENGLAND (9th. Turco Voyage).

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: Heavy dock gear and equipment, Army equipment and supplies (deep loaded)--Owner: WSA--Operated by Mabsco Navigation Co.

(B) Port of departure: Swansea, Wales. Time: 2245 on Nov. 5, 1944 (Brit. Sum. Time) Convoy: yes, No. of ships: 6 Liberties, 4 coasters, with convoys fusing and breaking off along route. Escorts: 3-Speed of convoy: Course and speed altered frequently by Commodore. Average speed 6 kts. This vessel was forced to cruise out night of Nov. 6, while convoy put in to small shore harbor to anchor, due to anchor windlass deficiency. Windlass had been repaired in Swansea and passed Admiralty Inspection. Thereafter this vessel proceeded to Southampton going along side dock at 1100 Nov. 9, 1944 for windlass repairs; departed dock 1530 Nov. 11, 1944, anchored Solent 1743 same day, windlass broke again 0900 Nov. 12, 1944--returned to dock 1600, Nov. 13, for further repairs, completed anchor windlass trial satisfactorily at 1400 Nov. 15, 1944, departed dock 1130 Nov. 16, 1944, anchored Solent 1400 same day, lay at anchor until departure for destination at 0620 Nov. 25, 1944.

Port of Arrival: Cherbourg, France, Time 1530, Nov. 25, 1944. Unloading began at 1400 Nov. 27, 1944 and was completed at 0300 Dec. 5, 1944. Departed Cherbourg at 1115 Dec. 5, 1944 in company one other ship and one escort, joined coastal convoy off Southampton 1730 same day, proceeding to Mumbles for orders.

Return arrival: DEC. 8, 1944, Time BST. 1315, at NEWPORT, ENGLAND.

(C) Action and contact with enemy:

St-B. At 0312 Dec. 6, 1944, this vessels' course 240 True, position last ship-part column. escort vessel made run down starboard and landward side of convoy from fore to aft on convoy and dropped a pattern of 4 depth charges 400 to 500 yds. off our St. Bd. qtr. after telling convoy to close up by blinker. Gun crew went to G.Q. at 0314 and so remained until 0430. No further activity was observed or heard after 0415 when escort resumed regular patrol.

(D) General resume of Voyage: Route followed: Coast wise to Southampton and thence by marked channel to Cherbourg and return by same route to destination. Lights shown, blue stern only.

(E) There were no written or verbal radion orders from foreign governments, except verbal advises from British Admiralty concerning channel crossing frequencies.

(F) Commercial Radio operators' procedure was in accordance with Wartime Instr.

(G) Armament and Equipment: No repairs or replacements needed, except cam plate and stud for salvo latch 3in. 50 gun forward. Repeated efforts reveal DEMS cannot readily provide these parts.

(H) Master and officers complied with Wartime instructions for Naval Transportation in time of War.

(I) Recommendations: None.

(J) Improper friendly aircraft procedure: None.

Respectfully submitted,

L.T. Griffith
Lt. (JG) L.T. Griffith, USNR.
Armed Guard Commander,
SS Abiel Foster.