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Serial C-01144

UNITED STATES FLEET  
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE  
PORT OFFICE, BRISTOL CHANNEL AREA

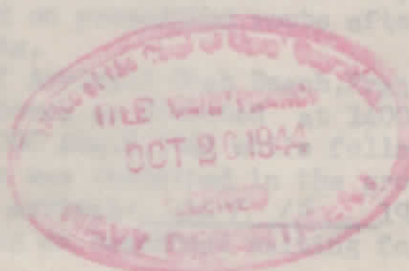
~~U.S. CONFIDENTIAL-BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL~~

17 October 1944.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: The U.S. Naval Port Officer,  
Bristol Channel Area, Cardiff, Wales.  
To : The Chief of Naval Operations.  
Via : The Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.  
Subj: Report of Turco Voyage, S.S. ABIEL FOSTER.  
1. Forwarded.

*V. L. Goldsmith*  
S.L. GOLDSMITH  
By direction.



End--2

Serial 07644

UNITED STATES FLEET  
U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE  
20 GOSVENOR SQUARE  
LONDON, W.1.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

21 OCT 1944

From: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.  
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Forwarded.

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ROUTE 10: 25 OCT 1944

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23043

*H. L. Ashenfelter*  
H.L. ASHENFELTER,  
By direction.

*L-9M*

CONFIDENTIAL

15 October

From: Officer-in-Charge, Armed Guard Unit aboard SS Abiel Foster  
To: Chief of Naval Operations  
Via: (1) U.S. Naval Port Office BRISTOL CHANNEL AREA  
(2) The Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.  
Subject: (A) Report of Turco Voyage of SS Abiel Foster (GB-Utah and return via PLYMOUTH  
to SWANSEA (8th. 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: Army equipment and supplies--Owner: WSA--Operated By: Matson Navigation Lines.

(B) Port of departure: Avonmouth, England. Time: 2000 on Aug. 4, 1944 (DB Sum. Time.)  
Convoy: yes, No. of ships: 9 Liberties, 5 coasters and numerous small craft joining along route. Escorts: 3--Speed of convoy: course and speed altered frequently by Commodore who was aboard this vessel from Avonmouth to Falmouth, at which time this vessel was diverted into Falmouth harbor to pick up tow of water barge for far shore and thereafter proceeded on prescribed route after joining convoy outside Falmouth Aug. 7, 1944. Average speed 8.5 kts.

Port of Arrival: Utah Beach, France, Time: Aug. 9, 1944 at 1300, after having dropped tow at Cherbourg as directed at 1400 Aug. 8, 1944 and having been aground off Utah from 1932 to 2200 Aug. 8, 1944 while following coast guard boat over prescribed course. No noticeable damage was sustained in the grounding cited.

Return arrival: OCT. 15 1944, Time: 1600, having been enroute, going, returning, lying on beachhead waiting for unloading due to low priority of cargo 72 days.

(C) Action and contact with enemy:

At Utah Beach, Aug. 10, 1944: 12 blasts from shore siren at 2300. 1 enemy aircraft overhead at 2320 dropped bomb 1500 yds off stb qtr. (explosion was flat and heavy like flying bomb). Aug. 11., at 0025 1 aircraft overhead, no bombs-held fire; at 0100 heavy fog descended, secured at 0130 from GQ. There were no radio warnings and No all clear on siren. At 2330, Aug. 14, 1944 Heavy tracer fire port bow, this ship's heading was 90degrees; held fire, secured 0130 Aug. 15, 1944. 0730, Aug. 15, 1944, sweeper exploded mine 1250 yds. dead ahead. Aug. 21, 1944 at 0030, Enemy planes reported on Radio. Heavy tracer fire Stb. beam; this ship's heading 90degrees, held fire, no planes overhead, secured 0130.

The return trip was uneventful, except for DEMOLITION OF ANCHOR WINDLASS IN GALE WHILE LYING 7 DAYS AT ANCHOR. MUMBLES RD OFF SWANSEA. BEFORE DOCKING.

(D) General resume of voyage: Route followed: Marked channel to beach, speed 8.5 kts and return by marked channel to Southampton and thence to PLYMOUTH and SWANSEA. Lights shown, None. Fog buoy streamed at 0130 until 0900 Aug. 6, 1944.