

FROM: Officer-in-Charge, Armed Guard Unit aboard SS/ Abiel Foster.

TO: Chief of Naval Operations.

VIA: (1) U.S. Naval Port Director 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 Milford Haven to AVONMOUTH) (7th. 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 personnel---Owner: WSA--Operated by: Matson Navigation Lines.

(B) Port of Departure: Southampton. Time: July 18-44 at 1330 (DB Sum. Time)
Convoy: yes, No. of ships: 35 Liberties, 12 LSTs. and numerous small craft.
Escorts: 3 to 5 observed at all times--Speed of convoy: course and speed altered frequently by Commodore--Average 8.5 kts.

Port of Arrival: Utah Beach, France, Time: July 19, 44 . at 2130.

Return Arrival JULY 27-1944, Time: 0245

(C) Contacts and action with enemy:

At Outgoing convoy anchorage between Omaha and Utah Beaches July 23, 1944 at 2300 one enemy aircraft flew over ship. Fire was withheld as 90MM. guns on shore put up barrage. At 0100, July 24, 1944 three bombs were dropped by enemy aircraft 500 yds. on Stb. Qtr. Fire was withheld as warships and shore batteries put up a high angle gun barrage. Flak fell on deck from shell bursts overhead. This ship was not attacked. Gen. Qtrs. was maintained from 2300 to 0230, July 23 and 24 respectively. It is estimated that 5 enemy aircraft took part in the activity in overcast darkness. There were no radio warnings given.

The return trip was uneventful except for one black penant warning from escort at 2000 July 25, 1944 at which time one depth charge was dropped at an undetermined distance near The Lizards. No further activity was noted.

(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 Milford Haven and AVONMOUTH. , Lights shown, None. Fog buoy streamed at 1030, July 19, 1944 until 2000 same date.

(E) There were no written or verbal radio orders from foreign government officials, except verbal advices from British Admiralty concerning channel crossing frequencies.

(F) Commercial Radio Operators' procedure was in accordance with Wartime Instructions.

(G) Armament and Equipment: No repairs or replacements needed.

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

(I) Recommendations: None.

(J) There was no improper procedure on the part of friendly air craft which approached the vessel.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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