

CONFIDENTIAL

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

TO: Chief of Naval Operations.

VIA: (1) U.S. Naval Port Office, Southampton.

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

Subject: (A) Report of Turco Voyage of SS Abiel Foster (GB-Utah and return-6th 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 personell--Owner: WSA---Operated by: Matson Navigation Lines.

(B) Port of Departure, Southampton. Time: July 10 at 0945 (All times DE. Sum. time)

Convoy, yes. No. of ships: 29 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 10, 1944 at 2030.

Return arrival, Southampton, July 14, 1944 at 2300.

(C.) Contacts and action with enemy: SEE NOTE BELOW

(D) General Resume of Voyage: Route followed: Marked channel to beach, speed 8.5 kts., lights shown, none, Fog signals, none, ZigZag, none.

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

(F) Commercial Radion 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.

NOTE: June 15-1944 at anchorage No. 22-Southampton.

From 0110 to 0515, 9 flying bombs crossed (1 ahead-8 astern) in vicinity of ship from 1 to 5 miles distant, could be plainly seen and heard in flight and during subsequent explosion on land; shore battery fire seemed to be hitting, but to no avail.

Respectfully submitted,

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