

ARMED GUARD VOYAGE REPORT

From: Ens. H.L. Cottrell 14.5 knots. Lights shown In command of
Fog Signals: Armed Guard Unit Aboard S.S. Abiel Foster Course as per commodore
To: Chief of Naval Operations. (200-4000) flares, for fire and
depth charges were observed. Boat hoisted near at
Via: Port Director, Naval Transport Service, City of New York, N.Y. One very
distinct explosion. Position was approximately 48-51N
21-17W

Subject: Voyage, report of.

Reference: (A) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval
Armed Guard on Merchant Ships, 1943, Chapter IV, Section 3.

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following information
is submitted.

A. Name and type of vessel: Abiel Foster, liberty
battery and personnel.

Owner of vessel: WSA

Gross tons: 7176

Cargo: none

Charter: Matson Navigation Co.

B. Port of departure: Gourock (The Clyde) Scotland
(See note Pg. 2)

I. Instructions for Improved Armed Guard Services:
Time and date of departure: 2100 14 February, 1944

Sailed in convoy: x Alone: No. of ships in convoy: 81

J. Report of improper procedure on part of friendly aircraft
No. and types of vessels: several corvettes and destroyers

No. and types of escort aircraft: two merchant aircraft carriers

Port of arrival: New York, N.Y. (Dawson) 18 December, 1943 alone
Wilford "Wagon" 1920 22 December, 1943 in convoy

Time and date of arrival: (1930) 1 March

C. Detailed account of contact with enemy:

none

D. Speed of vessel: 9.5 knots. Lights shown: no

Fog Signals: yes Zig Zag: Yes No Course as per commodore

Incidents out of routine: 19 February (0200-0600) flares, gun fire and depth charges were observed at frequent intervals. Some seemed near at hand - that is in the convoy - others seemed near the horizon. One very distinct explosion was felt at 0240. Our position was approximately 48-51N 21-17W

E. Copy of written or radio orders received by vessel from foreign government officials attached. none

F. Did commercial radio operator appear to follow wartime radio instructions? Yes x

G. Defects or deficiencies in location or arrangement of battery and of Armed Guard quarters, or in equipment as regards material, personnel, or operation.

none

H. Did master and officers of ship carry out Instructions for Naval Transportation and U. S. Merchant Vessels in Time of War? Yes x

I. Recommendations for Improved Armed Guard Services:
none

J. Report of improper procedure on part of friendly aircraft approaching a Merchant Vessel.
none

Note: Previously departed Plymouth(Devon) 1030 18December, 1943 alone
Milford Haven 1600 23December, 1943 in convoy

Ship cracked during storm at sea -- returned to Clyde anchorage 0200 1 January, 1944

Ens. H. L. Lattin

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