

CONFIDENTIAL  
SERIAL PDNYF 09845

1st Endorsement

Port Director, Third Naval District  
17 Battery Place, New York, N. Y.  
June 17, 1943.

From: The Port Director, Third Naval District  
To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Subject: Report of Voyage S.S. ABIEL FOSTER 7176 GT

1. Forwarded.
2. Attention is directed to improper procedure by friendly aircraft. (Par. 25).
3. Inquiry will be made as to Master's failure to properly inform radio operator on matters affecting his duties. (Par. 24 (b)).

F. G. REINICKE,

By Michael

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ROUTE 10-23

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June 16, 1943

From: Commandin Officer  
Naval Armed Guard, S.S. Abiel Foster

To: The Chief of Naval Operations

VIA: Port Director, Third Naval District

Subject: Report of Voyage S.S. Abiel Foster  
from Abadan, Iran to New York, N.Y.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval  
Armed Guard Aboard Merchant Vessels, paragraph 38.  
(b) Report of Voyage from New York, N.Y. to Abadan Iran  
dated February 7, 1943.

1. Thomas, Morgan 272 84 09 Sea lc U.S.N. secured as replacement for member of crew left in Cape Town S.A. Came aboard on Feb. 17, 1943
2. Docked at Khoramshahr, Iran to discharge cargo, on Mar. 3, 1943.
3. On Mar. 23, 1943 sent Johnson, Richard Ivan, 604 62 83 Sea lc U.S.N.R. ashore with suspicion of pneumonia. He was retained in hospital for examination and ship sailed without him.
4. Took departure Khoramshahr, Iran 0900 on 3-24-43.
5. Arrived Bahrein Island to take bunkers at 1300 on 3-25-43. Departure Bahrein Island at 0700 on 3-26-43.
6. Arrival Bandar Abbas, Iran at 1300 on 3-27-43. Departure Bandar Abbas at 1200 on 3-28-43 in convoy of 30 ships and 4 British Corvettes as escorts. Speed 8 knots.
7. Left convoy at 1745 on 3-31-43 to proceed independently.
8. On 4-3-43 at 1100 test fired 4" 50 cal. and 3" 50 cal. guns. Fired at floating barrel at approximately 1500 yards range while swinging ship in complete circle. Expended 8 rounds on 4" and 6 rounds on 3". Both mounts and guns in good condition after firing.
9. Sighted empty life raft at 1200 on 4-14-43. Approximate position Latitude 34° 38' S. and Longitude 37° 37' E. No action taken.
10. Arrival Cape Town, S.A. at 0822 on 4-19-43. Departure at 1010 on 4-21-43.
11. Arrival Saldanha Bay, S.A. at 1646 on 4-21-43. Departure at 1200 on 4-22-43.
12. Arrival Cape Town S.A. at 1832 on 4-22-43. Departure at 1200 on 4-23-43. According to British Naval officials at Saldanha Bay a mistake was made in sending this ship to that port.
13. At 1955 on 4-23-43 General Alarm turned in. Unidentified ship about 800 yards on port quarter turned on various lights over period of ten to fifteen minutes. Believed to be President Buchanan whom we were in sight og off and on all day. Night very dark and apparently she was afriad of collision. 3rd Mate showed blinker tube light. We changed course immediately 45° to left and remained on changed course for 30 minutes.

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June 16, 1943

14. Arrival Bahia, Brazil at 1650 on 5-7-43. Took Maslauskas, Albert Charles, 607 25 43 Sea lc V-6 U.S.N.R. to hospital with head injury from which he had suffered for some time. He remained for observation after ship left. Took departure Bahia at 0745 on 5-14-43 in convoy of 23 ships, escort of 1 destroyer and 3 corvettes.

15. At 2300 on 5-15-43 General Alarm rung. One of escorts fired two white rockets indicating submarine. Convoy made emergency turn of 45° to port and stayed on this course for 15 minutes, then back to regular course. Gun crew sent to battle stations and dismissed after one hour.

16. At 1400 on 5-18-43 signal from commodore that submarine was in vicinity. Gun crew put on condition II watch for seven hours.

17. At 1400 on 5-19-43 ship on starboard quarter signalled to commodore that she had sighted a periscope, true bearing 130°. Gunners sent to battle stations and destroyer came to investigate. Gun crew secured from battle stations at 1500. No further report.

18. Arrival at 0800 on 5-24-43 at mouth of Suriname river in Suriname. proceeded to Parimaribo to anchor. On 5-26-43 proceeded 20 miles up river to ore dock. Loaded about 4000 tons of Bauxite and departed, sailing alone, at 1200 on 5-27-43.

19. Arrival Port of Spain, Trinidad, B.W.I. at 1700 on 5-29-43. Loaded about 6000 tons of Bauxite. Departed at 0645 on 6-3-43 in convoy of 12 ships with escort of 1 destroyer and 2 PC boats and 1 PCGC boat. Speed 8 knots.

20. At 1600 on 6-5-43 19 additional ships joined convoy off Aruba and Curacao. At 1200 on 6-8-43 12 more ships joined convoy out of Guantanamo Bay Cuba. Escort changed to 1 PCGC boat and 5 PC boats.

21. At 1845 on 6-13-43 Commodore signalled that submarine was in vicinity. Men sent to battle stations. No course change, no change in speed, men not at battle stations on Commodore's ship. Men dismissed at 1900.

22. Arrival at New York at 1125 on June 15, 1943

23. The Radio Operator has carried out instructions for merchant vessels in regard to keeping intercepted messages confidential.

24. The master has disregarded "INSTRUCTIONS FOR NAVAL TRANSPORTATION AND U.S. MERCHANT VESSELS IN TIME OF WAR" in the following particulars.

a. All courses, changes of courses, and times involved are entered in log.

b. Master did not cooperate with radio operator in giving him information secured at convoy conferences that was specifically marked for Radio Operator. Positions were not given to operator every two hours. In very rare instances they were given but not regularly.

25. There were many violations of the proper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft approaching this vessel from Bahia to New York. The most flagrant is as follows: On June 15, 1943 at about 38° 40' N. and 73° 30' W. a plane believed to be a Martin B-26 flew thwartships over convoy and then came from ahead and flew directly at our foremast until quite close and then rose over it at the last minute. He repeated the procedure on three other ships in our column.

*W.H. McIntyre*  
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