

60091

1st Endorsement

Port Director, Third Naval District.
17 Battery Place, New York, N. Y.
October 13, 1942.

CONFIDENTIAL
SERIAL PDNYF 04194

From: The Port Director, Third Naval District.
To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Subject: Report of Voyage S. S. ABIEL FOSTER
From Antofagasta, Chile to New York.

776 CT.

1. Report reviewed and forwarded without comment.

RECEIVED - C. H. HARRIS
NOV 15 1942
MAIL ROOM - 23
UP MAIL ROOM (S) A4-3 Abiel Foster
LINE NO. 1
COMP NO. 3295787

F. G. REINICKE

By

A. C. Stouffer

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Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
FLEET MAINTENANCE
OCT 15 1942
RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT

L E C C
L I C M O R
L 4 T W

ARMED GUARD UNIT
S.S.ABIEL FOSTER
ARMED GUARD CENTER(Pacific)
Treasure Island
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

October 12, 1942

From: Commanding Officer, Armed Guard Unit, S.S.ABIEL FOSTER.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.
Via: The Port Director's Office, Third Naval District,
Brooklyn, New York.
Subject: Report of Voyage of S.S.ABIEL FOSTER from Antofagasta,
Chile to New York City, New York.
Reference: General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval
Armed Guard Units Aboard Merchant Vessels, Paragraph 38.
Enclosure: Letter from Radio Operator of S.S.ABIEL FOSTER to
Master of S.S.ABIEL FOSTER.

1. The S.S.ABIEL FOSTER, an EC-2, U.S. MARITIME COMMISSION "Liberty" Ship of 7,176 gross tons and operated by MATSON NAVIGATION COMPANY, took departure from Antofagasta, Chile, 13 September 1942 at 1700 carrying a cargo of 9,000 tons of copper and 1,000 tons of lead. The navigation lights were dimmed to a visibility of one mile and the ship was sailing singly.

19 September 1942--0819: Arrival Puna, Ecuador, for additional cargo of approximately 250 tons of balsa wood and crude rubber. Distance 1573 miles. Average speed 11.54. Time of passage five days, sixteen hours and nineteen minutes.

1845: Departure Puna, Ecuador, sailing singly and with dimmed navigation lights.

22 September 1942--1647: Arrival Balboa, Canal Zone. Time of passage two days, twenty-one hours and two minutes. Distance 809 miles. Average speed 12.13 knots. To anchorage in harbor to await passage through Panama Canal.

23 September 1942--0733: Departure Balboa, Canal Zone for passage through Panama Canal.

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1525: Arrival Colon, Canal Zone and to anchorage in harbor. Time of passage seven hours and fifty-two minutes.

26 September 1942--0853: Departure Colon Harbor for passage to Gatun Lake to deperm ship.

1214: Arrival Gatun Lake. To anchorage to await our turn at Deperming Barge. Time of passage three hours and twenty-one minutes.

27 September 1942--0315: Ship shifted alongside Deperming Barge.

0900: Deperming completed. Time at barge five hours and forty-five minutes. Sailing delayed because of frozen impeller ring on main condenser.

1830: Engine repaired. Time of delay nine hours and thirty minutes.

2217: Departure Gatun Lake for return passage to Colon, Canal Zone.

28 September 1942--0148: Arrival Colon Harbor. Time of passage three hours and thirty-one minutes. To anchorage in harbor to await orders.

0835: Departure Colon harbor in a convoy of seven merchantmen with an escort of USS ERIE, USS TATTNALL, USS BADGER, two American PC's and one American PYc.

29 September 1942--1645: Escort vessels fired a total of ten depth charges. Convoy made two emergency turns to port and starboard respectively. Position 13-28 North and 77-52 West. No further report made by escort commander and no further activity observed.

1 October 1942--1000: Three merchantmen left convoy and one merchantman joined convoy off Kingston, Jamaica.

2 October 1942--0915: Arrival Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Time of passage three days, twenty-three hours and forty minutes. Distance 729 miles. Average speed 7.6 knots. To anchorage in bay.

3 October 1942--0830: Departure Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,

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in a convoy of fourteen merchantmen and twelve tankers with an escort of USS SIMPSON, USS PC-472, and three United Nations Warships named respectively FREDERICKTON, FURY and SUDBURY.

11 October 1942--1528: Arrival, Pilot Station, New York Harbor. Time of passage eight days, six hours and fifty-eight minutes. Distance 1443 miles. Average speed 7.25 knots.

2. The master and Officer as a whole co-operated very well and carried out "INSTRUCTIONS FOR NAVAL TRANSPORTATION AND U.S. MERCHANT VESSELS IN TIME OF WAR."

3. It is recommended, that should there ever be a shortage of deck officers in the Merchant Marine, the Commander of Armed Guard Units be allowed to stand deck watches. This would give the Armed Guard Commander further deck experience, and should he ever rejoin the fleet, he will have gained valuable experience while in the merchant service.

J. S. Bailey
Frederic Lynn BAILEY
Ensign, D-V(G), USNR.

10/18/42.
There is nothing
to prevent A.G.
officer to stand
a watch on the
Bridge with licensed
mate. He cannot
legally stand a watch
unless master or
mate is responsible
clear.