

Captain L.A. Petersen
S.S. Abiel Foster
Matson Navigation Company

Dear Sir:

For the information of those concerned, I would like to call your attention, to conditions that exist due to lack of certain equipment in the ship's radio installation.

For approximately sixteen days in crossing the South Pacific ocean and for several days on the coast of South America, I have been entirely out of contact with any and all allied radio stations, due to heavy atmospheric conditions on intermediate and low frequencies. We have been unable to receive any Naval broadcast, and except on very few occasions, time signals have not been discernable.

If any emergency should arise whereby it would be necessary to use the transmitter, it would be absolutely useless during the day, and at night the operator would be unable to ascertain whether his signals had been received or not, due to heavy static.

I believe that all vessels plying the southern hemispheric sea lanes should be equipped with high frequency receivers, and if possible, also with high frequency transmitters if the safety of life at sea code is to be adhered to. This is a very serious condition that exists on these ships at this time, and the operator would be helpless under these conditions where the safety of the ship and its members were dependent on the present equipment, or should I say the limitations thereof.

I trust that this matter will be placed in the hands of those where the best results may be obtained in the interest of those most vitally concerned.

Respectfully yours,

S.H. Brown
Radio Operator
S.S. ABIEL FOSTER

September 22, 1942