

ARMED GUARD UNIT
S.S. ABIGAIL ADAMS
Armed Guard Center (Pacific)
Treasure Island
San Francisco, California

7176
ET

CONFIDENTIAL

October 13, 1943.

From: The Commanding Officer, Naval Armed Guard,
S.S. Abigail Adams, Gross tons: 7,176.

To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: Naval Liaison Officer
Townsville, Queensland, Australia.
Brisbane

Subject: Report of voyage, S.S. ABIGAIL ADAMS.
From San Francisco, Calif. to Townsville, Queensland, Austr.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval
Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, paragraph 4301, 1943.

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

- (a) Type of vessel: Cargo, EC-2. Type of cargo: Misc. supplies and equipment for Naval Advance Base/s. Owner of vessel: U.S.A., represented by War Shipping Administration. Chartered to: De La Rama Steamship Co., Inc.
- (b) Port of departure: San Francisco, Calif. Date: September 15, 1943. Conveyed or independent: Independent. Speed (Aver.): 11.5 knots. Number of escort vessels or aircraft: None. Port of arrival: Townsville, Queensland, Australia. Date: October 13, 1943.
- (c) Contacts and action with enemy: None.
- (d) Resume of voyage: Speed: 11.5 knots. Lights shown: Running, masthead, and range lights (shown only inside Great Barrier Reef between Gladstone and Townsville). Vessel zig-zagged in accordance with instructions.
- (e) There was no delay in port due to lack of port facilities.
- (f) Commercial radio operator appeared to carry out wartime radio instructions for merchant vessels, in all respects.
- (g) Defects and deficiencies: Wooden gun platform under bow 3" 50 Cal. gun is faulty, causes gun to bind in train, and should be replaced. 20MM machine gun (No. 8) still lacks a telephone outlet (jack-box). Telephone outlet (jack-box) at bow 3" 50 Cal. gun should be transferred from front of splitter shield to base of gun mount.

See page 2 *500*

- (h) Master and ship's officers carried out "Wartime Instructions for United States Merchant Vessels!"
- (i) Recommendations tending to the improvement or greater efficiency of this service: (Applicable particularly to units having only one officer)
- (1) Minimize paper work, eliminating paper work which has no positive benefit and produces no beneficial result. (2) Replace at least one of the signalmen (all of which have been transferred). The burden placed on the time of Armed Guard commanders by the ever-increasing volume of paper work, some of which (the smooth log, for example) would appear to be productive of no beneficial result whatever, plus the time burden of personally handling all visual communications, does not leave him enough time to obtain enough sleep to be alert, leaves virtually no time for drilling and instruction of men (except when at general quarters), and makes recreation for the Armed Guard Commander virtually impossible. This situation is most acute in United States ports, where it is also necessary personally to procure replacements and additions to supplies, Etc. For example: At sea the only loading drill broadside gun crews have is when the bi-monthly target practice is conducted. Commanders are urged to take their crews ashore at San Francisco and other U.S.A. ports for such drills, for firing practice at Point Mantara Firing Range, Etc., but this is utterly impossible under present conditions, unless a number of required duties are neglected.
- (j) Improper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft: None.

Subject:

Subject of Report

By:

John H. Todd

Date:

10-10-43

JOHN H. TODD,

Lieut. (jg), D-V(S), U.S.N.R.

Approved by:

10-10-43

Special Instructions

Comments

Notes

10-10-43

Remarks

10-10-43

10-10-43

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 750161