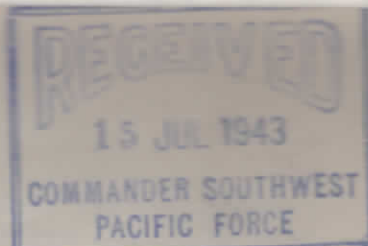


Op-23-L-2

ARMED GUARD UNIT
S.S. ABIGAIL ADAMS
ARMED GUARD CENTER (PACIFIC)
Treasure Island
San Francisco, California



CONFIDENTIAL

July 14, 1943

From: Lieut. (jg) John H. Todd, D-V(S), U.S.N.R.
Commanding Officer, Naval Armed Guard
c/o Armed Guard Center (Pacific)
S.S. Abigail Adams Gross Tons: 7,176.

To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Via: U.S. NAVAL LIASON OFFICER
SYDNEY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

Subject: Report of Voyage, S.S. Abigail Adams,
from Brisbane, Queensland to Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

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

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

- (a) Type of vessel: Cargo (EC 2 "Liberty")
Owner of vessel: U.S.A., represented by War Shipping Administration.
Chartered to: De La Rama Steamship Co., Inc.
- (b) Port of departure: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Date: July 11, 1943.
Convoyed or independent: Convoyed.
Speed (Aver.): 7.1 knots.
Number of escort vessels: 4. Number of escort aircraft: 1 and 2 at a time, patrolling from shore.
Port of arrival: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Date: July 14, 1943.
- (c) Contacts and action with the enemy: None.
- (d) General resume of voyage:

Average speed of vessel: 7.1 knots. Lights shown: None.
No zig-zag instructed; none performed.

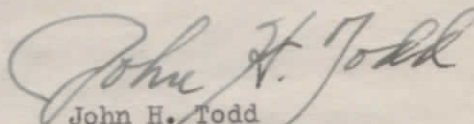
- (e) There was no delay in port due to lack of port facilities.
- (f) Commercial radio operator appeared to carry out wartime radio instructions for merchant vessels, - with respect to keeping intercepted messages confidential, and otherwise.

(g) Defects or deficiencies: (1) In location or arrangements of battery, None. (2) In equipment as regards materiel: 3 Inch 50 Cal. gun at stern should be replaced by a heavier gun, and 3 Inch 50 Cal. gun should be mounted forward; or a second 3" 50 Cal. gun should replace the 20 MM MG in bow. Should have a brace and a lapping out head for 3 inch 50 Cal. gun. Should have additional general alarm bells in fire room, and forward and aft on main deck. (3) In equipment as regards personnel: Naval personnel is insufficient to maintain fully efficient lookout watches on a 24-hour basis, or effectively to man armament now installed on board (1 officer, 1 BM 2/c, 1 GM 3/c, 1 SM 3/c, 1 S 1/c (Signalman striker), 12 S 1/c gunners. 1 3" 50 Cal. gun in stern, and 9 20 MM machine guns). Should have at least the 9 additional gunners which present personnel allowance permits (4 men per 3" 50 Cal. gun, 2 men per 20 MM machine gun).

(h) Master and officers of the ship did appear to carry out "Wartime Instructions for United States Merchant Vessels".

(i) Recommendations tending to the improvement or greater efficiency of this service: 1. Increased naval personnel for gun crews and lookouts. 2. More thorough Naval indoctrination of enlisted Naval personnel.

(j) Improper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft: None.


John H. Todd