

FOURTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
PEARL HARBOR, T.H.

C-A9/P16-5/ND14
Serial 01557

CONFIDENTIAL

28 APR 1943

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to:

Armed Guard Report

S.S. ABIGAIL ADAMS

dated April 22, 1943

From: Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District.

To : Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Report of voyage S.S. ABIGAIL ADAMS
from San Francisco, Calif., to Honolulu, T.H.

1. Forwarded.

2. Defects listed in basic letter not remedied in
this district.

3. State whether or not you have copy of following publications on board:

(a) Ordnance and Gunnery Instructions for Naval Armed Guard on
Merchant Ships, YES/NO.

(b) Manual of Instructions Five Inch A.A.

(c) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guard
on Merchant Ships, YES/NO.

(d) Copy to:

4. List Armed Guard personnel, giving name, rates, and service number
and address next of kin (Separate plain sheet, original and three
copies).

5. Submit reports as instructed in Chapter IV - Section 4 - Paragraph 4 of
"General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guard on
Merchant Ships 1942". (Separate plain sheet, original and two copies).

108

Note: Reports to be in triplicate
and typewritten if practicable.

RECEIVED SC FILE

MAY 12 1943

ROUTE 23

ADMR NO. SC 44-3

UC NO

DD NO

DN

A-2040

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
COMMANDER HAWAIIAN SEA FRONTIER
PEARL HARBOR, T.H.

CONFIDENTIAL

PORT DIRECTOR, N.T.S.

INSTRUCTIONS TO A. G. OFFICERS ON MERCHANT VESSELS

FOR REPORTS TO THIS OFFICE

S. S. Abigail Adams DATE April 22, 1943

1. Report any deviation from instructions contained in Chapter II and Chapter IV of "General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guard on Merchant Ships". NO/YES (If affirmative explain in detail in report required in paragraph FIVE (5) below. yes
2. Report any deviation from "Wartime Instructions for United States Merchant Vessels" Section 9 - Paragraph 1901 - Article (4) and Paragraph 1902 - Article (H) Items (2) and (6). NO/YES. If affirmative explain in detail in report required in Paragraph FIVE (5) below. yes
3. State whether or not you have copy of following publications on board.
 - (a) Ordnance and Gunnery Instructions for Naval Armed Guard on Merchant Ships. YES/NO. yes
 - (b) Manual of Instructions Five Inch A.A. Guns. YES/NO. no
 - (c) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guard on Merchant Ships. YES/NO. yes
 - (d) _____
4. List Armed Guard Personnel, giving names, rates, service numbers and name and address of next of kin (Separate plain sheet, Original and Three Copies). ✓
5. Submit reports as instructed in Chapter IV - Section 4 - Paragraph 436 of "General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guard on Merchant Ships 1942". (Separate plain sheet, original and two copies). ✓

John H. Todd
Officer in Charge.

Note: Reports to be in Triplicate
and Typewritten if practicable.

ARMED GUARD UNIT

S.S. ABIGAIL ADAMS

ARMED GUARD PERSONNEL

Name	Rank/ Rate	Service No.	Name and address of next of kin
Todd, John H.	Lt.(jg)	179917	Mrs. Emma Hart Todd, 719 University Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
Logan, Carson Beach	GM 3/c	660 06 96	Mrs. Martha M. Logan, 833 C Street, San Rafael, Calif.
Carpenter, Charles Wilson	SM 3/c	386 19 05	H. W. Carpenter, Route 2, Port Orchard, Wash.
Warff, Arthur (n)	Slc(SM)	632 88 65	Mrs. C. H. Warff, 3544 Comer Ave., Riverside, Calif.
Astorga, Joseph Sena	S 1/c	618 86 48	Mrs. Joseph Sena Astorga, 4342 Delaware St., Denver, Colo.
Barnes, Woodrow Wilson	S 1/c	655 64 50	Martha Eliza Barnes, 440 West Main St., Hillsboro, Ore.
De Leon, Juan (m)	S 1/c	632 41 55	Carman Baraso, Needles, California
Crabtree, Ben (n)	S 2/c	378 01 32	Mrs. Ben Crabtree, Jr., 726 Luna Ave., San Leandro, Calif.
Holmes, Floyd (n)	S 1/c	630 14 20	Mrs. Floyd Holmes, New Boston, Texas
Jackson, Orman Ezera	S 1/c	604 64 66	Jesse Daniel Jackson, Andalusia, Alabama
Jacobson, Henry George	S 1/c	664 34 74	Route 2, Sandpoint, Idaho
Perry, Grady (n)	S 1/c	641 42 83	Mrs. Evelyn Perry, Jacksboro, Tennessee
Roberts, Edward Rich	S 1/c	576 29 51	Mr. Roy R. Roberts, Route 2, Box 165, Flatonia, Texas
Thompson, Robert Earl	S 1/c	357 15 02	Mrs. W. G. Thornton, 2201 East Vickery St., Ft. Worth, Texas
Vadasz, Henry (n)	S 1/c	710 01 80	Henry Vadasz, 1130 Colgate Ave., Bronx, N.Y.
Wylam, William Earl	S 1/c	633 32 15	W. J. Wylam, 1041 N. Hudson St., Pasadena, Calif.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority WND 750161

ARMED GUARD UNIT
S.S. ABIGAIL ADAMS

ARMED GUARD CENTER (PACIFIC)
Treasure Island
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: _____

From: Commanding Officer, Armed Guard Unit,
S.S. Abigail Adams.

To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

Via: The Port Director, Honolulu, T. H.

Subject: Report of voyage of S.S. Abigail Adams.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of
Naval Armed Guards Aboard Merchant Vessels, par-
agraph 436, sub-paragraphs (a) through (j), page
74.

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

A. Name of vessel: S.S. Abigail Adams.

Type of Vessel: "Liberty" EC2 Freighter.

Owner of Vessel: U. S. A., represented by the War Shipping Administration.

Gross tons: 7,176. Cargo: Cement, iron pipe, construction machinery,
motor trucks, creosoted poles, Etc. Charter: De La Rama S.S. Co., Inc.

B. Port of Departure: San Francisco (9th Ave. Pier, Oak-
land), California. Time and Date of Departure: 1200, April 11, 1943.

Sailed in Convoy, or Singly: In Convoy. No. of Ships in Convoy: 15.*

No. of Escort Vessels: 1. No. of Escorting Aircraft: 0.

Speed of Convoy: 9 Knots. Port of Arrival: Honolulu, T. H.

Time and Date of Arrival at Honolulu, T. H.: 1215 April 22, 1943

C. Detailed Account of Contact with Enemy: No contact.

*: 12 ex San Fran. plus 3 (4-13-43) ex San Pedro, plus SS Miller (4-16-43), less
SS Harper dropped astern 0300 4-20-43.

D. General Resume of Voyage: During first three days out, minor engine troubles caused ship to slow or stop occasionally; but without dropping out of convoy. 2035-2044, April 13, dropped out of convoy to repair telemotor. Station promptly regained. 0900-0912, April 14, lagged some 500 yards behind convoy for structural test firing of 3 inch gun. Station promptly regained. Speed of vessel: 4 to 7.8 Knots; Average 7.4 Knots. Lights shown: None. Fog signals used: None. No zig-zag instructed; none performed.

E. Written or radio orders received by vessel from foreign government officials: None.

F. Commercial radio operator appeared to carry out wartime radio instruction for merchant vessels, - with regard to keeping intercepted messages confidential, and otherwise.

G. Defects or deficiencies in location or arrangements of battery: None. In equipment as regards materiel: 3-inch 50-Cal. (Mk.22) gun should be equipped with pipe stop for train and elevation. Platforms for 20 MM. machine guns Nos. 1 to 9, inclusive, should be equipped with barrel-cooling "pots", as well as spare-barrel-storage "pots". Should have bore gage, and bore-lapping head for 3-Inch 50-Cal. gun. Should have 5 additional (metal) 20 MM. barrel removing tools. Protective "splinter" sides of turret "tubs" for 20 MM. machine guns Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7, and for 3 Inch gun should be reinforced with "asphalt" composition, as are those for 20 MM. guns Nos. 4, 5, 8 and 9. In equipment as regards personnel: Naval personnel insufficient to maintain fully efficient lookout watches on 24-hour basis, or effectively to man armament (1 officer, 2 signalmen - communications liason group -, 1 GM 3/c, 11 S 1/c, 1 S 2/c; 1 3-In. 50-Cal., gun, 9 20 MM. machine guns).

D. General Resume of Voyage: During first three days out, minor engine troubles caused ship to slow or stop occasionally; but without dropping out of convoy. 2035-2044, April 13, dropped out of convoy to repair telemotor. Station promptly regained. 0900-0912, April 14, lagged some 500 yards behind convoy for structural test firing of 3 inch gun. Station promptly regained. Speed of vessel: 4 to 9.8 Knots; Average 9.4 Knots. Lights shown: None. Fog signals used: None. No zig-zag instructed; none performed.

E. Written or radio orders received by vessel from foreign government officials: None.

F. Commercial radio operator appeared to carry out wartime radio instruction for merchant vessels, - with regard to keeping intercepted messages confidential, and otherwise.

G. Defects or deficiencies in location or arrangements of battery: None. In equipment as regards materiel: 3-inch 50-Cal. (Mk.22) gun should be equipped with pipe stop for train and elevation. Platforms for 20 MM. machine guns Nos. 1 to 9, inclusive, should be equipped with barrel-cooling "pots", as well as spare-barrel-storage "pots". Should have bore gage, and bore-lapping head for 3-Inch 50-Cal. gun. Should have 5 additional (metal) 20 MM. barrel removing tools. Protective "splinter" sides of turret "tubs" for 20 MM. machine guns Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7, and for 3 Inch gun should be reinforced with "asphalt" composition, as are those for 20 MM. guns Nos. 4, 5, 8 and 9. In equipment as regards personnel: Naval personnel insufficient to maintain fully efficient lookout watches on 24-hour basis, or effectively to man armament (1 officer, 2 signalmen - communications liason group -, 1 GM 3/c, 11 S 1/c, 1 S 2/c; 1 3-In. 50-Cal., gun, 9 20 MM. machine guns).

H. Master and officers of ship did carry out "INSTRUCTIONS FOR NAVAL TRANSPORTATION AND U.S. MERCHANT VESSELS IN TIME OF WAR". Master and ship's officers are very cooperative. However, because the master fails to see the necessity therefor, and particularly because he doubts the efficiency thereof, it has not been practicable to prepare a battle station bill for the entire ship's company, or give sufficient instruction to ship's company in supplementing gun crews. Tactful information - not censure - of master is indicated.

I. Recommendations tending to the improvement or greater efficiency of this service: 1. Increased naval personnel for gun crews; 2. More thorough information of masters with regard to defensive procedure, particularly with respect to ship's company supplementing gun crews at definitely assigned stations; 3. More thorough naval indoctrination of enlisted naval personnel.

J. Improper procedure on the part of friendly aircraft: None.

ADDENDA: At 1715 on April 15, a large, unidentified vessel was sighted some 12 miles to starboard, hull-down, apparently on opposite course (approximately 062°, true), speed about 15 knots. Top of superstructure amidships visible; one high mast forward, one high mast aft, each flanked by vertical spars of approximately one-half the height of the tall masts. Escort vessel went out to investigate. Strange vessel signaled with flashing light; but distance and mist prevented our reception of messages.

ADDENDA: At 0605, April 19, the sound of aircraft motors was heard. At 0610, a large plane, appearing to be a Boeing B-17, passed the convoy close aboard from astern, starboard to port, on a course of approximately 235° true; altitude approximately 6,000 feet, speed approximately 225-250 knots.

ADDENDA: At 1150, April 20, a PBY plane was sighted ahead. After circling about the forward portion of convoy, it departed.

ADDENDA: At 1417, April 20, a PBY plane was sighted astern. After circling over and about convoy several times, it departed.

ADDENDA: At 1831, April 21, a large, unidentified plane (resembling a Dornier flying boat) was sighted off starboard bow, about 8,000 yards distant, altitude about 8,000 feet, on steady course of about 64° true. It disappeared in mist and darkness without changing course, speed, or altitude.

ADDENDA: April 22, shortly after dawn, the convoy was joined by an additional escort vessel; and from that time until arrival in destination port the vicinity of the convoy was constantly patrolled by numerous scout, patrol, and patrol-bomber planes bearing United Nations markings.

John H. Todd
JOHN H. TODD

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