

CONFIDENTIAL

May 1, 1944

From: Commanding Officer, Armed Guard Unit
S.S. Abigail S. Duniway (Gross tons, 7176)
c/o Armed Guard Center--Pacific, Treasure Island, Calif.

To: The vice-Chief of Naval Operations

Via: The Port Director

Subject: Report of the voyage of the S.S. Abigail S. Duniway from the
United States to certain New Guinea ports, thence to Australia.

Reference: General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guard,
paragraph 4301.

1. In accordance with above reference the following data is submitted:
 - (a) Type of vessel.....EC2 (Liberty)
 - (b) Type of cargo.....war materials and lumber
 - (c) Owner of vessel.....U.S. Maritime Commission
 - (d) Chartered to.....U.S. Army per Weyerhaeuser Steamship Co.
 - (e) Port of departure....San Francisco, Calif., Feb. 19, 1944.
 - (f) Port of arrival.....Milne Bay, N.G., March 18, 1944
 - (g) Speed independently...11.5 knots
 - (h) Speed in convoy.....9 knots

2. Leaving Portland, Ore., Jan. 31, 1944, the ship proceeded to Eureka, Calif., where a cargo of approximately four million feet of redwood lumber was loaded. The ship left Eureka on Feb. 11 and arrived at San Francisco Feb. 12, where loading was completed. Twenty-four Army enlisted personnel and five Army officers were carried as passengers from San Francisco to Milne Bay. After discharging part of the deck cargo of amphibious tanks at Milne Bay the ship proceeded to Oro Bay where the balance of the deck cargo was removed and another of vehicles was loaded. On April 1 the ship proceeded to Buna where further deck cargo was taken aboard, proceeding thence to Lae on April 2, where all cargo aboard was discharged. The ship left Lae on April 21, 1944.

3. Work of the port battalion at Lae was particularly good, the lumber being unloaded in seven days.

4. Radio silence was broken March 15 to relay a faint distress message intercepted several times in the area around 23.20s and 158.46e.

5. The blower motor in the after powder magazine failed on April 1 but was repaired after about ten hours, during which time the temperature in the magazine rose to 100 degrees.

6. Three cases of venereal infection were discovered in the Merchant Marine crew after the ship left San Francisco. The men were isolated and treated with sulpha until the symptoms disappeared.

Walter B. Stafford
Walter B. Stafford
Lt. (jg) USNR

FIRST ENDORSEMENT
A4-3 (01132)
KFC/mm

U. S. NAVAL LIAISON OFFICE
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

4 May 1944.

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From: The United States Naval Liaison Officer.
To : The Chief of Naval Operations.

- 1. Forwarded.

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S. F. CLARK
By direction.