

Confidential

June 1945

From: Lester S. Pearl, Lt(jg), USNR, Armed Guard Commander
S.S. Abiqua, 10,172 gross tons.

To: The Chief of Naval Operations

Via: Port Director

Subject: Voyage Report - Leyte, Philippine Islands to Balboa
Panama Canal Zone

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval
Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, 1944, Fourth Edition, Paragraph 4301

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

(a) Type of vessel - T-2 Tanker, type of cargo - none, Owner
of vessel - War Shipping Administration, not chartered.

(b) Left Leyte, Philippine Islands at 1200 on 18 May 1945
sailing in convoy with eight other ships and two escorts as far as Palau
Islands, sailing the balance of trip singly, without escorts. Arrived
Balboa, Panama Canal Zone at 1100 on 14 June 1945.

(c) On 26 May 1945 at 1730 a small motor boat being operated
by sail, containing 4 persons was sighted with a PBM Mariner plane circling
it. The plane signalled our ship to circle the boat until an escort vessel
could arrive. Our Armed Guard Unit stood at Condition I and Condition II
until the vessel arrived. At 2130 on 26 May 1945 a DE whose call sign of
1027 arrived, took the four men aboard their vessel and destroyed the
boat with gunfire. The four men were Japanese soldiers from the island of
Watje, who had been in the boat four days. At 2200 on 26 May 1945 we
resumed our course and set Condition III.

(d) No lights were shown during voyage except as directed,
zig-zag movements were followed in areas required by our sailing instructions.

(e) No unusual delays in port.

(f) Radio operators followed wartime instructions for Merchant
vessels.

(g) No defects or deficiencies in material, personnel, or op-
eration.

(h) Master and officers followed "Wartime Instructions for
Merchant Vessels."

(i) No recommendations.

(j) No instance of improper procedure by friendly aircraft or