

Confidential

Abadan, Iran  
18 March 1945.

From: Lester S. Pearl, Lt(jg), USNR, Armed Guard Commander  
S.S. Abiqua, 10,179 gross tons.

To : The Chief of Naval Operations

Via : Port Director, Abadan, Iran

Subject: Voyage Report from Fremantle, Australia, to Esperance, Australia  
and to Abadan, Iran.

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 Fremantle to Esperance 26,500 bbls Diesel Oil. Type of  
cargo Esperance, Australia to Abadan, Iran - none.

Owner of vessel - War Shipping Administration, Washington, D. C. Not  
chartered, allocated to British Ministry of War Transport (unofficial information)

(b) Left Fremantle, Australia on 27 February 1945 at 0100, sailing  
singly, an average speed of 15 knots with no ships in convoy and no escorts and  
arrived Esperance, Australia on 28 February 1945 at 1700. Left Esperance,  
Australia at 0800 on 2 March 1945 sailing singly at an average speed of 15.5 knots  
with no ships in convoy and no escorts and arrived at Abadan, Iran on 18 March 1945  
at 1300.

(c) No contacts or action with the enemy.

(d) No lights were shown during voyage, vessel zig-zagged during the  
part of course as directed.

(e) In Fremantle, Australia there was a delay of about three days due  
to unavailability of dock space and planning of port authorities.

(f) Radio operators followed wartime radio instructions for Merchant  
Vessels.

(g) No defects or deficiencies in material or operation. Several  
members of the ship's personnel did not report for duty when required and needed for  
essential ship's work due to alcoholism and absence over leave in port. These  
specific cases are properly logged and a more complete report will be made if their future  
behavior so requires.

(h) Master and Officers of the ship followed "Wartime Instructions for  
Merchant Vessels"

(i) No recommendations.

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

(k) Training given at sea consisted of instruction and practice in handling 3"-50, 5"-38, 20 mm. and .45 Colt automatic and firing practice with the .45 Colt. Instructions covering the maintenance of friendly relations with the Merchant crew and proper Naval behavior ashore were also given.

Lester J. Pearl, Lt(jg), USNR  
Armed Guard Commander  
S.S. Abiqua

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT  
EF43/A4-3  
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OFFICE OF U.S. NAVAL OBSERVER  
BASRA, IRAQ

24 March 1945

From: U.S. Naval Observer.  
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Forwarded.

J. G. PICKLING,  
By direction.

