

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

From: District Intelligence Officer, First Naval District.

To: Chief of Staff, District Operations Officer, Commander Inshore Patrol, District Communications Officer, Port Director, District Security Officer, Army-Navy Operations, Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer.

201115Z June 1942 (Date and Time)

050

SUBJECT: S/S SIBERIA, Murmansk voyage of.

Source: John Lanier HAYNES, S/O, USNR.

Reference: 8-ND Naval Intelligence Report, same SUBJECT, dated June 22, 1942.

Position: Various.

Description: 1. Following are excerpts from the diary of Seaman 1/class, John Lanier HAYNES, member of gun crew of S/S SIBERIA on voyage to Murmansk:

- (a) The SIBERIA departed with a convoy of 40 ships on Feb. 18, 1942 and on March 6, 1942 came to anchor in North Channel near Loch Lomond. On March 8, as member of convoy left for Murmansk.
(b) On Wednesday March 11th, the destroyers which were conveying the ships sighted a submarine and fired 10 four inch shells and dropped 15 depth charges.
(c) On March 14, the SS ICELAND fired at a floating mine.
(d) On March 15, the SIBERIA came to anchor in Reykjavik, Iceland.
(e) On March 18, the SIBERIA again weighed anchor and started on a northerly course. HAYNES learned that the destroyers got the submarine that they fired on during the voyage from Scotland to Iceland, and that the submarine sank two ships and a corvette in another convoy.
(f) On March 19, the SIBERIA turned back to Iceland because the German cruiser, HUNDESDORF was lying in wait for them.
(g) The SIBERIA arrived back in Iceland on March 20 and immediately got out again for the North.
(h) On March 22, just as the SIBERIA entered the Arctic Circle, the gun crew fired on and sank a floating mine. At this time, the ships were conveyed by four destroyers, one "Liney" cruiser, and four mine sweepers, were said to have done.
(i) On March 26, the SIBERIA lost her convoy, but reached it again on March 27.
(j) On March 28, three ships out of the convoy were sunk in the morning and three more in the afternoon.
(k) On March 29, HAYNES designated this Sunday in his diary as "Bomb Sunday". At 0800 hours, 30 English bombers joined the German planes and started attacking the convoy long during the 24 hour daylight.

Respectfully,

cc. as checked:

(ab) On ComNavFor(30) x DCGO x JGO x ...
C/S..... DOO... x... CIP.....
DCO ..... PD..... DSO.....
ANO ..... ASW.....

E. M. MAJOR, Commander, U. S. N. R.

SUBJECT: S/S ELDENA, Murmansk voyage of,

0905 on this day a squadron of German planes came over and bombed the convoy about 50 times, three torpedoes passed in front of the ELDENA's bow, surface raiders shelled the ship, and HAYNES states in his diary, "We were saved by a God-sent snow storm".

- (l) During this attack, one cruiser and one merchant ship were hit, and two more ships were torpedoed. The SS SPFINGHAM was sunk.
- (m) On Monday, March 30, the ELDENA arrived in Murmansk, and two German planes came over and dropped bombs near the ship.
- (n) On April 1, the ELDENA moved to the docks and started unloading. There was another minor air raid on this day.
- (o) On April 3, Murmansk had six air raids and numerous bombs were dropped all around the ship. Six planes were shot down, including two by the gun crew of the ELDENA.
- (p) On Saturday, April 4, HAYNES records six more air raids. He states in his diary, "These raids are beginning to be a nuisance". However, he states, "I got one plane just before we ran out of ammunition". In all eight planes were shot down this day.
- (q) On Sunday, April 5, HAYNES states that the Russian planes attacked German territory and destroyed 180 planes, losing 15 of their own in the action.
- (r) On April 12, German planes came over Murmansk, bombed the ships and laid mines in the water, which were swept by the Russians.
- (s) On Tuesday, April 14, HAYNES visited the SS WESTMINSTER CITY. He states in his diary, "She is in bad shape, five bombs hit her".
- (t) On Wednesday, April 16, 26 German planes came over in one raid and 27 in another. Bombs fell all around the ELDENA. One bomb hit an air raid shelter and killed a number of Russians and ruined a crane.
- (u) On April 19, a large convoy came into Murmansk. There were two raids on this day, and HAYNES states in his diary, "Plenty of shooting and bombing".
- (v) On April 20, the Germans again bombed Murmansk.
- (w) On April 23, one German plane was shot down.
- (x) On April 24, five planes dived down at the ELDENA out of the clouds and laid their eggs. No damage was done.
- (y) On the 28th, the ELDENA hoisted anchor and at 0830 stood out to open sea with 13 ships in the convoy, 13 destroyers, 13 corvettes, and one cruiser.
- (z) On April 30, HAYNES writes, "Adolph came over to give me a big blowout for my birthday. At 8:00 this morning, six planes came over flying low on the water dropping aerial torpedoes all around us. One would have got us, but we drove him off with machine gun fire. At 1:30 P.M., three German surface raiders attacked us but were driven off by our escorts who laid smoke screens between us and the raiders. The raiders made five attacks in five hours; each one lasting about 30 minutes. None of our escort was lost, but they were said to have damaged the "Heinie" raiders. During the first attack, a torpedo fired from an enemy raider at the "Limy" destroyer, hit a Russian freighter. She sank in two minutes after she was hit. Part of the crew was picked up by a "Limy" trawler, the rest were lost".
- (aa) On May 3, two English cruisers joined the convoy and their planes scouted all day long during the 24 hour daylight.
- (ab) On May 30, the ELDENA arrived in New York.