

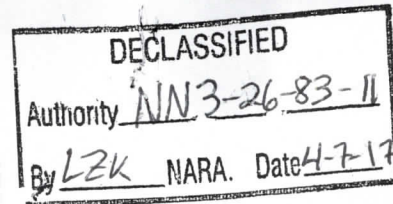
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EXCERPT FROM LOND BOARDING REPORT, SS "ELISHA MITCHELL", (US), 5 Oct 1943.

"THE FASTEST LIBERTY SHIP IN THE WORLD": "Officers of the SS ELISHA MITCHELL described their ship as the fastest of its kind on the Seven Seas. They were reluctant to give details as to how this additional speed was obtained, but admit that their ingenuity was due (1) to the large amount of explosives aboard, and (2) to the fact that it travelled for the most part alone and without air coverage. The Chief Mate, R. E. TAYLOR, said that the safety valves on the boilers were re-adjusted to permit higher pressure, and that other alterations were made to compensate for the increased pressure. On at least two occasions when submarines were reported nearby, the speed of the vessel was stepped up to 15 knots. On the long run from Lobito to Bahia, travelling alone, the ship averaged 12.16 knots according to TAYLOR. The increased speed was attained with little increase in fuel consumption, TAYLOR said."

Dissemination: CoGuard; PD,Trinidad

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