

SHIP:

SS JOSEPH LYKES

FLAG:

NOVEMBER 11, 1942 - JANUARY 2, 1943

OPERATOR:

January 19, 1943

UNION:

U. S. Maritime Service

SOURCE OF U S Office of Censorship, from U S Customs in San Francisco, Record COMPLAINT: No. SF 22245, Div. Pers - Table 20 - Ex. 10043 - DAC 1474. 1-18-43

PLACE:

San Francisco, from diary recorded at sea.

DATE REFERRED

TO THE COAST GUARD:

March 27, 1943

Headquarters:

DATE REFERRED

TO UNION:

March 27, 1943

Diary entries from the SS Joseph Lykes, dated from November 11, 1942 to January 2, 1943. The entries describe the ship's operations, including cargo handling, weather conditions, and crew activities. Key entries include:

- Nov. 11 - "Left San Francisco at 10:00 AM..."
- Nov. 12 - "Weather very heavy..."
- Nov. 13 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Nov. 14 - "Started the day by making..."
- Nov. 15 - "Weather breaking..."
- Nov. 16 - "Blizzard..."
- Nov. 17 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Nov. 18 - "Started the day by making..."
- Nov. 19 - "Weather breaking..."
- Nov. 20 - "Blizzard..."
- Nov. 21 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Nov. 22 - "Started the day by making..."
- Nov. 23 - "Weather breaking..."
- Nov. 24 - "Blizzard..."
- Nov. 25 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Nov. 26 - "Started the day by making..."
- Nov. 27 - "Weather breaking..."
- Nov. 28 - "Blizzard..."
- Nov. 29 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Nov. 30 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 1 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 2 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 3 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Dec. 4 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 5 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 6 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 7 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Dec. 8 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 9 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 10 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 11 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Dec. 12 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 13 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 14 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 15 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Dec. 16 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 17 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 18 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 19 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Dec. 20 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 21 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 22 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 23 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Dec. 24 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 25 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 26 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 27 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Dec. 28 - "Started the day by making..."
- Dec. 29 - "Weather breaking..."
- Dec. 30 - "Blizzard..."
- Dec. 31 - "Cold - high wind..."
- Jan. 1, 1943 - "Started the day by making..."
- Jan. 2, 1943 - "Weather breaking..."

This diary, being that of a merchant, was referred to the U. S. Customs and referred to the records. For further details see page...

SHIP: SS JOSEPH LYKES

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: AUGUST 11, 1942 - JANUARY 3, 1943

DATE OF ORIGINAL COMPLAINT: January 19, 1943

CREW INVOLVED: C. J. Seiberlich, Seaman

CHARGE: U. S. Customs at San Francisco intercepted a diary from midshipman Carl J. Seiberlich aboard the JOSEPH LYKES, and have transmitted through the U. S. Office of Censorship excerpts regarding disclosure of ship movements, armament, Route through South Seas, and other information. Parts are as follows:

"Sept. 12, 1942 - "Ship left drydock today and was floated at 1100. Tugs took it over to pier. 20 m m mounted on bow today - now have 1-2m m - 4-50 cal - 2 30 cal - 1-4 in."

Sept. 14 - "3:00 left dock and went down to net where we waited until 12:00 to open because of fog. Proceeded to sea."

Sept. 19 - "Assisted in moving ship from Pier 30 to 41." (These entries made in San Pedro.)

Oct. 10 - "Crossed the Equator at - 1 AM this morning at 142° 30' West Longitude."

Oct. 15 - "Passing thru Society Islands today - 17° S - 152° W at noon."

Oct. 17 - "Cold - High Wind - Heavy Seas over bow - 35° S - 167° W at noon."

Oct. 24 - "Started the day by taking soundings with deep sea Lead to determine position Green Clay Bottom - Sea is bluer - Rough high winds - taking water - Stood watch wheel house at Fathometer - Raining pretty hard - Proceeding at  $\frac{1}{2}$  speed - very poor visibility - Forward part of Catwalk carried away - 1500 weather breaking full speed ahead - Thru Hole in the wall near Mercury Islands at 1700 Heading on down to Auckland at 18 knots thru maze of rocky islands - Blackout is off - three ships pass us heading out to sea Beautiful moon - much warmer with good breeze - Dropped anchor in Auckland harbor at midnight."

Oct. 25 - "We are across the bay from the British Naval Station where the Leander, Neptune and Ajax are tied up (Achilles)".

Nov. 21 - "Town is Noumea - 2 battleships, the Washington and So. Dakota, are in plus destroyers - Principal US Navy Base in So. Pacific.

Dec. 11 - "Left Noumea, heading for Souva, Fiji." Dec. 13: "Docked at Suva."

December 14: - "Arrived at Lautoka."

December 19: - "Cleared harbor at 10 o'clock - two more in - N. Mex and Miss."

December 31: - "1060 mi. to go."

January 3, 1943, (Last Entry) "Made a Land Fall at 10:30 - The Good Old Calif. Coast.

This diary, turned over to Censorship, was returned to U. S. Customs and recommended to be condemned. No further details are given.