

From: Commanding Officer, Armed Guard Unit, U.S. Armed Guard
Center, SS Harpers Ferry, Gross Tonnage - 2,000

To: Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D. C.

Via: Port Director, New York N. Y.

Subject: Voyage - Report of. SS Harpers Ferry, American Registry.
From: Ulithi Islands To: New York

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

Enclosure: (A)

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

- (a) Type of vessel: Tanker (T-II) Type of cargo: Ballast to
Cartagena, Columbia and Crude oil to New York.
Owner of vessel: War Shipping Administration
Chartered to: American Trading and Production Corporation.
- (b) Port of departure: Ulithi Islands Date: 12 January 1945.
Convoy to Eniwetok and Independent to New York via Canal
Zone and Cartagena, Columbia.
Speed: (Average) 13.0 knots
Port of arrival: Bayonne, N. J. Date: 17 February 1945.
- (c) Submarine probable - Patrol plane, with running lights blink-
ing passed on port side of ship and dropped flare astern.
Position approximately 38°58' N. and 72°25' W. Visibility
approximately 1000 yds. or less. Time - 2120. At time of
incident ship was zigzagging and Condition II on watch. Flank
speed was called for and stern put to. Upon reaching bridge
either a flare of great brilliance or a ship aflame was ob-
served on the horizon. Second flare was dropped by plane and
Master and Gunnery Officer saw unidentified object in area of
illumination on port quarter. Opened fire with stern gun,
5"/38. Range set at 3200 yds. Spotted first shot as short
about 200 or 300 yds. Second shot could not be observed as
flare had settled in the sea. Two (2) rounds expended. No
further firing. Ten minutes later two (2) more flares were
dropped but were too far astern and nearly out of visibility
by the bridge on the ship.

cc: Addresses
PD-Crist.
File.

Warren F. Lickert
Commanding Officer of A.G.U.

FDE/P16-2

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

Date 6 December, 1944.

From: Port Director, NTS, Balboa, C.Z.

1. FORWARDED.

J. H. Henry
J. H. HENRY.

By direction,