

FBI Swarms Over The Columbia Eagle

The weathered, gray Columbia Eagle — the ammunition ship hijacked off the Cambodian coast on its way to Thailand March 14 — steamed through the Golden Gate yesterday and was boarded by a swarm of FBI agents.

The boarding force of 17 agents immediately began their investigation of the mutiny by two armed crewmembers in the Gulf of Siam.

A spokesman for the FBI said only that the 17 agents, a "larger number than usual," boarded the ship so the entire crew of the 11,000-ton vessel could be quickly interviewed about what he termed a "possible crime on the high seas."

After going through quarantine off Treasure Island, the Columbia Eagle steamed to the Todd Shipyards in Alameda where she was placed in dry dock.

Her skipper, Captain Donald A. Swann, 51, told The Chronicle Sunday the two

crewmen who took over his ship — Alvin Glatowski, 20, a steward, and Clyde McKay Jr., 25, a fire and water tender — told him the whole, incredible incident "was a war protest."

They were granted asylum in Cambodia and Cambodian authorities later returned the ship and her cargo of napalm bombs to the United States.

See also this file 16 Apr, May 70, 4 Jul 70, 16 Dec 70.