

CONFIDENTIAL

7 May 1945

From: Ralph K. Brafford, Ensign, (D)-L, USNR.
Armed Guard Commander
S.S. Abangarez

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Via: U.S. Navy Port Office, Marseille, France.

Subject: Voyage Report of the S.S. Abangarez from Newport News, Virginia to Marseille, France.

Reference: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guard on Merchant Ships, 1944.

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

(a)	Name of Vessel	: S.S. Abangarez
	Owner of Vessel	: United Fruit Company
	Captain of Vessel	: A. L. Hestvik
	Chartered to	: War Shipping Board, Subchartered to Army Transport
	Gross Tonnage	: 4,538
	Type of Cargo	: Refrigerated Products
(b)	Port of Departure	: Newport News, Virginia
	Date of Departure	: 18 April 1945
	Convoy or Singly	: Convoy- Newport News to Gibraltar. Singly- Gibraltar to Oran, Algeria. Convoy- Oran to Marseille, France.
	Number of Ships	: 43 Newport News to Gibraltar. 14 Gibraltar to Marseille, France.
	Number of Escorts	: 5 Escorts consisting of 1 DD, 3 DE and 1 PF from Newport News to Gibraltar. 2 additional DD joined a day out from Gibraltar. 2 Escorts from Oran to Marseille consisting of DE's. Two Navy blimps and aircraft were overhead outside of Newport News and Gibraltar.
	Port of Arrival	: Marseille, France
	Average Speed	: 9½ knots.

(c) No contact was made with the enemy although the following action took place. At 0413 on 18 April 1945 an escort dropped 8 depth charges on a sound contact which was soon lost. At 0251 on 26 April 1945 the escort dropped 4 depth charges. At 0305 on 3 May 1945 an escort reported a sound contact, the convoy executed an Emergency turn to starboard. No charges were dropped and the convoy returned to it's course at 0325 as the contact was probably a false one.

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- (d) Weather was favorable. No navigation lights were shown during the Atlantic crossing. In the Mediterranean, running lights and stern lights were shown.
- (e) The loading of the vessel at Newport News, Virginia appeared to be efficient.
- (f) The radio operators appeared to carry out "Wartime Instructions for Merchant Vessels". The radio log was reviewed and signed by the Commodore Communication Officer, Lt. Paul H. Rice, Jr. and the Master.
- (g) ✓ The flood valves to both magazine flooding systems should be repaired as there is a small leakage in both valves.
- (h) The Captain and Officers of the ship appeared to carry out "Wartime Instructions for Merchant Vessels". This was the Flag ship of the convoy during the Atlantic crossing.
- (i) NO RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBMITTED.
- (j) All friendly aircraft followed the proper procedure on approaching the convoy.
- (k) Classes are held for men qualifying for S1c and for those that are striking for Petty Officer ratings. Gun drills on all guns are held to perfect the working of the gun crew.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OBSERVATIONS

2. REPORTS SUBMITTED UNDER ITEM (8) ARE TO BE HANDLED BY

3. Ralph K. Brafford
Ensign Ralph K. Brafford USNR.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

ATTN: COMMUNICATIONS (DEVALUED)*
TO: THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OBSERVATIONS*
FROM: U. S. NAVAL POLICE OFFICE*

NAVY DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON, D. C. NAVAL POLICE OFFICE 3 MAY 1945

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 750161

1st Endorsement

U. S. NAVY PORT OFFICE,
MARSEILLE, FRANCE.

9 May 1945

From: U. S. Navy Port Officer.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.
Via: COMNAVNAW (USNAVPOMED).

1. Forwarded.
2. Condition I properly observed and indicated in log.
3. Repairs requested under item (g) are to be handled by Chief Engineer aboard ship.

J. J. Donovan
J. J. DONOVAN,
 Lieut., USNR.
 Acting.

MAY 17 1945

(K)

2nd ENDORSEMENT

FROM: COMNAVNAW
 TO : CNO

1. FORWARDED

W. W. Teller
W. W. TELLER

By Direction

(M)

(N)

(T)

(E)

(D)

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RECORDED

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subject: to be retained in France. Report of the 2.3.4.5. regarding the 1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.

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