

CONFIDENTIAL

4 April 1945

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

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Via: The Port Director, Third Naval District.

Subject: Voyage Report of the S.S. Abangarez from Oran, Algeria, N. Africa
to New York, New York, U.S.A.

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

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 | : C. Dahlgard |
| Chartered to | : War Shipping Board, Subchartered
to Army Transport |
| Gross Tonnage | : 4,538 |
| Type of Cargo | : Argol and Navy Ordnance |
- (b)
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Port of Departure | : Oran, Algeria, N. Africa |
| Date of Departure | : 18 March 1945 |
| Convoy or Singly | : Convoy |
| Number of Ships | : 48 after the convoy was formed. |
| Number of Escorts | : 5 Escorts including 3 DD and 1 DE. |
| Port of Arrival | : New York, New York, U.S.A. |
| Average Speed | : 9½ knots. |
- (c) No contact was made with the enemy although at 0001 on 22 March 1945,
the Escort dropped eight depth charges.
- (d) Weather was favorable. No navigation lights were shown.
- (e) The partial loading of the vessel at Oran, Algeria was efficient.
- (f) The radio operators appeared to carry out "Wartime Instructions for
Merchant Vessels". The radio log was signed daily by the Master
and myself.
- (g) The 4"/50 on the stern of this ship should be replaced by a 3"/50
as the present gun causes considerable damage when fired. The Ready
Boxes in the 4"/50 gun tub should have the hinges changed from the
top to the sides. A "blower" should be installed in the Aft magazine.
A Test Cock system should be installed on the flooding lines for both
foreward and aft magazines. Corroded pipes to the flooding system
should be replaced in the Aft magazine. The liner of the 4"/50

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gun barrel should be examined for "creeping" and replaced if necessary. The ventilator to the Foreward magazine should be reinstalled. The steps in 20mm. gun tubs #1 and #6 should be corrected so that the gunner would not fire into the ship.

- (h) The Captain and Officers of the ship appeared to carry out "Wartime Instructions for Merchant Vessels".
- (i) No recommendations are submitted.
- (j) All friendly aircraft followed the proper procedure in approaching the convoy. On 31 March 1945 at 2310 a patrolling aircraft was forced down and landed ahead of the convoy. One of the Escort stood by until the aircraft was able to take on gasoline and take off again.
- (k) Classes are held for men qualifying for Slc and for those that are striking for Petty Officer ratings. Gun drills on all the guns are held as often as possible to perfect the working of the Armed Guard and Merchant Marine gun crews.

Ens. Ralph K. Brafford

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