

CONFIDENTIAL

5 February 1945

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

To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: The Port Director, Third Naval District.

Subject: Voyage Report of the S.S. Abangarez from Marseille, France to New York, New York.

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 | : <u>4,538</u> |
| Type of Cargo | : Dirt Ballast and Ordnance material |
- (b)
- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Port of Departure | : Marseille, France |
| Date of Departure | : 14 January 1945 |
| Convoy or Singly | : Singly from Marseille, France to Oran, Africa. Convoy from Oran, Africa to New York, New York. |
| Number of Ships | : 43 |
| Number of Escorts | : 5 |
| Port of Arrival | : New York, New York |
| Average Speed | : $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots |
- (c) No contact was made with the enemy.
- (d) Weather was favorable. Navigation lights were not shown.
- (e) The partial unloading and loading of the vessel at Marseille, France was efficient considering the type of labor employed. There was a delay of $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours due to a truck shortage. At Oran, Africa the loading of Ordnance material was slow due to the spasmodic arrival of trucks containing the ballast material.
- (f) The radio operators appeared to carry out "Wartime Radio Instructions for Merchant Vessels". The radio log was signed daily by the Master and myself.
- (g) No recommendations are submitted.

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- (h) The Captain and Officers of the ship appeared to carry out "Wartime Instructions for Merchant Ships".
- (i) *see endore* The 4"/50 on the stern of this ship should be replaced by a 3"/50. The present gun causes considerable damage when fired.
- (j) All friendly aircraft followed the proper procedure in approaching the convoy.
- (k) Classes are held for men who are qualifying for Slc and for those that are striking for Petty Officer Ratings. Gun drills on all of the guns are held as often as possible to perfect the working of the gun crews.



Ens. Ralph K. Brafford U.S.N.R.

Ensign Ralph K. Brafford USNR.

1st Endorsement

CONFIDENTIAL

SERIAL PDNYF 045339

17 Battery Place, New York, N.Y.

8 February 1945.

From: The Port Director, Third Naval District.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Subj: Voyage Report SS ABANGAREZ.

1. Forwarded.

2. The subject ship has authorized armament. Report of damage done when firing does not necessitate change in stern gun. (Par. i).

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F. G. Reinicke
For F. G. REINICKE

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Authority 750161