

CONFIDENTIAL

31 December 1944

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.

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
FLEET MAINTENANCE  
11 JAN 1945  
RECEIVED  
NAVY DEPARTMENT

Subject: Voyage Report of the S.S. Abangarez from Norfolk, Va.  
to Naples, Italy

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.

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| (a) | Name of Vessel<br>Owner of Vessel<br>Captain of Vessel<br>Chartered to<br><br>Gross Tonnage<br>Type of Cargo                               | : S.S. Abangarez<br>: United Fruit Company<br>: C. Dahlgard<br>: War Shipping Board, Sub-<br>Chartered to Army Transport<br>: 4,538<br>: Hams, Chickens, Eggs and Butter   |
| (b) | Port of Departure<br>Date of Departure<br>Convoy or Singly<br><br>Number of Ships<br>Number of Escorts<br>Port of Arrival<br>Average Speed | : Norfolk, Va.<br>: 11 December 1944<br>: Convoy from Norfolk, Va. to<br>Gibraltar. Singly from<br>Gibraltar to Naples, Italy.<br>: 97 Ships after convoy was<br>formed<br>: 8 escorts, including one<br>destroyer<br>: Naples, Italy<br>: 9 Knots |

(c) No contact with the enemy was made, although on 23 December 1944 the  
Commodore received a report that a submarine was following the convoy  
and again on 25 December 1944, the S.O.E. at dusk blinked a message to  
the Commodore indicating a submarine was located 1 degree West on the  
Convoy course.

(d) Passage was hindered by storms causing six ships of the Convoy to turn  
back to Port and two other ships were unaccounted for until Oran was  
reached. Heavy seas were encountered during most of the voyage. Lights  
were shown in accordance with instructions received from the Convoy  
Commodore.

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- (e) The loading of the vessel was efficient although there was space for more cargo.
- (f) The radio operators did carry out "Wartime Radio Instructions of Merchant Vessels. The radio log was signed daily by the Commodore Communication Officer (Lt. Alford) and the Master.
- (g) The 4"/50 on the stern of this ship should be replaced by a 3"/50. The present gun causes considerable damage when fired.
- (h) The Captain and Officers of the Ship did carry out "Wartime Instructions for Merchant Vessels.
- (i) No recommendations are submitted.
- (j) All friendly aircraft followed the proper procedure in approaching the convoy.
- (k) Classes are held for men who are qualifying for S1c and for those that are striking for Petty Officer Ratings. Gun drills on all of the guns are held as often as is possible to perfect the working of the gun crews.

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Ensign Ralph K. Brafford USNR