

CONFIDENTIAL

30 July 1944

From: Ward E. Balken, Ensign D-V(S), USNR
Armed Guard Commander, S.S. Abangarez.

To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: The Port Director, Cherbourg, France.

Subj: Voyage report of the S.S. ABANGAREZ, from New York, N.Y.
to Cherbourg, France.

Ref: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of
Naval Armed Guard on Merchant Ships, 1943.

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

- (a) Name of Vessel : S.S. ABANGAREZ
Type of Vessel : Refrigerator
Owner of Vessel : United Fruit Company
Chartered to : War Shipping Board, Sub-Chartered
to Army Transport.
Gross Tonnage : 4,538
Type of Cargo : Meat and Butter.
- (b) Port of Departure : New York, N.Y.
Date of Departure : 3 July 1944
Convoy or Singly : Convoy
Number of Ships : 92 Ships, New York to Halifax
116 Ships, Halifax to Oban
11 Ships, Oban to Loch Ewe
40 Ships, Loch Ewe to Methil
12 Ships, Methil to South End
17 Ships, South End to Yarmouth Roads
7 Ships and 16 LST's Yarmouth Roads
to Cherbourg, France.
Number of Escorts : 4 Escorts New York to Halifax
6 Escorts and 3 Carriers, Halifax
to Oban.
1 Escorts Oban to Loch Ewe
4 Escorts Loch Ewe to Methil
2 Escorts Methil to South End
5 Escorts South End to Yarmouth Roads
4 Escorts Yarmouth Roads to Cherbourg
- (c) No Contact with Enemy.
- (d) Passage was uneventful in the Atlantic with the exception of a few days of fog. A good average speed was maintained. Lights were shown and whistle signals sounded in accordance with instructions received from the convoy commodore.

- (e) Quite a loss of time was caused by sending this ship to so many ports before our unloading spot. In my opinion it would have been better to have waited in one port for orders, rather than run the ship all around the British Isles.
- (f) The radio operator did carry out wartime radion instructions for Merchant Vessels.
- (g) As in other reports, the 4/50 on the stern of this vessel is too much gun for the ship and if possible should be replaced by a 3/50/. Considerable damage is caused when the 4/50 is fired.
- (h) The Captain and Officers of the ship did carry out "Wartime Instructions for Merchant Vessels".
- (i) No recommendations are submitted
- (j) All freindly aircraft followed the proper procedure in approaching the convoy.
- (k) Classes are held daily for men who are qualifying for Slc and for those 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. Experienced Merchant Seaman have been used in the teaching of Seamanship to the members of the Armed Guard Crew.

Ward E. Bakken
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