

CONFIDENTIAL

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18 May 1944

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4538 A.T.

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

To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Via: ^{Port} U.S. Navy Liaison Office, Naples, Italy.

Subj: Voyage report of the S/S Abangarez, from Norfolk, Virginia to Naples, Italy.

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 : Norfolk, Virginia
Date of Departure : 22 April 1944
Convoy or Singly : Convoy
Number of Ships : 80
Number of Escorts : 15
Port of Arrival : Naples, Italy
Average Speed : 9.3

(c) At 2110 on 11 May 1944 the convoy of which this ship was a member was attack by enemy aircraft in what was believed to have been a combination bombing and torpedo attack. Our position at the time of attack was Lat. 37 deg. 01' N. and Long. 4 deg. 11' E.

Immediately upon being attack the convoy altered course 45 degrees to port. Upon completion of our swing a tremendous splash was observed dead ahead at a distance estimated at 300 yards. A heavy vibration was felt all over the ship. At the same time fires were observed on the port and starboard quarters. These fires are believed to have been caused by burning aircraft.

Shortly after, a plane was observed approaching from the port at an elevation of about 100 feet and at an estimated range of 2000 yards, all guns that could be brought to bear opened fire.

air attack (c) L E.C.C.
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The plane passed to starboard and out of range. This plane is believed to have been a J.U. 88. A few seconds later a plane again approached from port, fire from our 3/50 apparently caused it to swerve and go down between columns 3 and 4. Immediately following, a plane approached from starboard, we opened fire but he was apparently out of range of the 20 M.M. and no apparent hits were scored by the 3/50.

At 2125 we made a turn of 45 degrees to starboard bringing the convoy back on the original course.

This ship expended a total of 336 rounds of 20 M.M. ammunition and 7 rounds of 3/50.

At 2145 the report was received that all sectors were clear of enemy aircraft.

- (d) Passage other than mentioned above was uneventful. The weather was favorable and a good average speed was maintained. Ship carried convoy Commodore and staff and lights were shown in accord with his instructions.
- (e) The only loss of time occurred while waiting for reformation of the convoy at Augusta, Sicily.
- (f) Yes, as far as can be determined.
- (g) If possible the 4/50 now on the stern of this ship should be replaced by a 3/50. The 4/50 seems to be too much gun for the ship and considerable damage is caused each time it is fired.
- (h) Yes
- (i) None
- (j) None

ATB :
SO :
BLOW :
WARD E. BAKKEN

COMBIVSUTET
LIBEL BIDONSENERE

NAVY BOLD CALICE