

Op-23L-2-urm
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Serial 0246423

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25 April 1944

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Ensign Ward E. Bakken, USNR,
Armed Guard Commander, SS ABANGAREX, 4538 G. T.
c/o Armed Guard Center (Atlantic)
51st Street and 1st Avenue,
South Brooklyn, New York.

SUBJ: 20 MM Sighting Steps.

Ref.: (a) Conf. voyage rpt., SS ABANGAREX, dated 14 Apr. '44,
with 1st End. from PD, SMD, Ser. SMD(14a) Q51 of
19 Apr. '44.
(b) BuShips conf. drawing No. 57402-459503, of 26 Sep. '43.

1. The recommendation contained in paragraph (g) of reference (a) that the sighting steps installed in the 20MM gun tube aboard the SS ABANGAREX be removed, is noted.

2. Sighting steps are to be retained in 20MM tube. However, the outboard 120 degrees of circumference should be cut away so that when following low flying planes across the ship, the gun will be elevated when the gunner steps down, and he will not fire into the ship's rigging or other gun positions. Protection for lockouts is also provided by the cut away portion. A request should be made to the Port Director at the first U. S. port of call to have the steps altered in accordance with reference (b).

3. Armed Guard gunners should be trained to take full advantage of the sighting steps.

/s/ R. M. HINGELEY,
By direction.

CC:
Port Director, SMD
Norfolk, Va.