

CONFIDENTIAL

December 15, 1943

From: Lt(jg) J. A. HILLIER Jr., D-V(S), USNR
Commanding Officer, Armed Guard Crew
S. S. ABANGAREZ

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Via: The Port Director, Oran, Algeria

Subject: VOYAGE REPORT OF S. S. ABANGAREZ
From NORFOLK, VA., to ORAN, ALGERIA

Referenece: (a) General Instructions for Commanding Officers of
Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, 1943 issue.

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1. In accordance with referance (a) the following information is submitted:

- (a)
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Name of Vessel | : S. S. ABANGAREZ |
| Type of Vessel | : Refrigerator |
| Owner of Vessel | : United Fruit Co. |
| Chartered to | : War Shipping Board, Sub-chartered to Army Transport |
| Gross Tonnage | : 4, 825 |
| Type of Cargo | : Refrigerated (meats etc) |
- (b)
- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Port of Departure | : Norfolk, Virginia |
| Date of Departure | : November 24, 1943 |
| Convoy or Singly | : Convoy |
| No. of ships | : 63 |
| No. of Escorts | : 14 plus aircraft carrier and its escorts. |
| Port of Arrival | : Oran |
| Date of Arrival | : December 12, 1943 (anchorage) |
| Average Speed | : 8.84 |
- (c) No direct contact with enemy. Escort dropped depth charges on 4 occasions. Ship #111 reported sighting a torpedo track the night of December 7, 1943.
- (d) On the morning of December 7, 1943 about 0930 the ship developed engine trouble which forced us to drop astern the convoy for a considerable portion of the day and it was late in the afternoon of the same day before we finally regained our position as column leader (#91). The Chief Engineer reported to the Captain that he had found what appeared to be sawdust in one of the fuel oil settling tanks. The Captain reported this to me and we established special watch in that area. The facts were reported to the convoy commodore the following day and as instructed by the convoy
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- (d) commodore the matter was reported to Naval Intelligence upon arrival in Oran. *
- (e) No loss of time, other than unexplained slow down last few days from Sasablanca break-off on into Oran.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) None.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) None.
- (j) None observed.



* Ref. Naval Intelligence Boarding Report Subject: S. S. ABANGAREZ, December 17, 1943.

John A. Hillier Jr.

JOHN A. HILLIER JR.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

U.S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE
ORAN, ALGERIA

20, December 1943.

From: Naval Port Director, Oran, Algeria.
To: Chief of Naval Operations.

99 1. Forwarded.

A. S. Oakholt
A.S. OAKHOLT

31 DEC 1943

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