

CONFIDENTIAL

August 13, 1943

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

TO: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Via: The Port Director, Third Naval District

Subject: VOYAGE REPORT OF S. S. ABANGAREZ
From Avonmouth, England to New York N.Y.

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

OT-4538

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 : 4,825
Type of Cargo : In ballast (sand)

(b) Port of Departure : Avonmouth, England
Date of Departure : July 28, 1943
Convoy or Singly : Convoy
No. of Ships in Convoy : 52 (assembled off Irish Sea)
NO. of Escorts : 9 to Halifax, 4 thereafter,
Air coverage very light.
Port of Arrival : New York, N.Y.
Date of Arrival : August 13, 1943
Average Speed : 9.52 K

See page 2
LCC
LRR

(c) No direct contact with the enemy. Escort dropped depth chagses on one occasion.

(d) Weather was exceptional permitting fast passage. Engaged in target practice off Milford Haven, Wales. Navigation lights were shown on several occasions upon orders of Convoy Commodore. This ship acted as sound and light repeater.

(e) No loss of time other than waiting period at Milford Haven.

(f) As far as could be determined

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(g) The 4" 50 as mounted on the stern is apparently too much gun for this ship. After the practice firing at Milford Haven extensive repairs were necessary to electric cables, steam pipes, emergency wheel, and quarters in the stern leaked badly. According to the Captain this has happened on all previous firings of this gun. In addition the gear locker under the turret is badly damaged, the top step in #6 turret was loosened. It is therefore recommended that turrets # 6, #7, & #8 be strengthened and a 3" 50 be installed in place of the 4" 50.

*Draper
Bushings
working on
this now.
F.C.C.*

The firing steps as installed in the six 20 MM turrets are dangerous and inefficient. The top step should be removed, the other two widened. It is not necessary for these steps to extend completely around the turret. In rough weather it is necessary for the forward watch to be stationed in the bridge turrets and the present set-up endangers the safety of the men.

The cat walks leading from the bridge to turrets #2 & #3 should be extended to provide a watch station if the steps in the turrets cannot be changed.

- (h) Yes
- (i) None
- (j) None

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John A. Hillier Jr.
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