

File
Abangarey *GT-4538*

- (K) ACCORDING TO CONVOY INSTRUCTIONS.
- (L) NO INSTRUCTIONS TO ZIG-ZAG GIVEN BY CONVOY COMMODORE.
- (M) YES, WITH A HIGH DECREE OF CO-OPERATION FROM ALL.

Edward G. Magennis
EDWARD G. MAGENNIS, LT. (JG) USNR.

1st Endorsement

CONFIDENTIAL
SERIAL PDNYF 03843

17 Battery Place, New York, N. Y.
September 23, 1942

From: The Port Director, Third Naval District.
To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Forwarded.
2. Provided the following:
 - (a) Stowage for Armed Guard gear and snowflakes.
 - (b) Hasps and padlocks for magazine.
 - (c) Sound-powered phone jack on flying bridge.
 - (d) Battle phones repaired.

LECC
WNR
TM
ACD
LRM

F. G. REINICKE,
By *A. V. Howard Jr*

SEP 24 1942
RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT

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Note: This officer seems to fail to realize we are fighting a war. Sorry we can't oblige with all his Recs E.C.C.

SIMILAR FRICTION WAS OBSERVED IN OTHER GUNS, THOUGH NOT TO THE SAME EXTENT. REPAIRS WERE EFFECTED BY MY GUN CREW AND ALL GUNS NOW SEEM TO BE OPERATING SATISFACTORILY.

SOME OF THE AMMUNITION SUPPLIED WAS FOUND TO BE BADLY SCORED AND IN SOME CASES A LUMPY MATERIAL WAS FOUND ON THE CARTRIDGE CASES. IN ONE INSTANCE THE DETONATOR CAP OF ONE PROJECTILE WAS FOUND IN THE AMMUNITION BOX LYING UNSCREWED BESIDE THE PROJECTILE.

FROM THESE INSTANCES I GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT 20 MM. GUNS AND AMMUNITION ARE PROBABLY BEING MANUFACTURED IN SUCH A HURRY THAT INSUFFICIENT TIME IS TAKEN TO SEE TO IT THAT THE MOVING PARTS ARE PROPERLY MACHINED AND TESTED.

.30 CAL. COLTS . THESE GUNS ARE QUITE UNRELIABLE AND SHOULD BE REPLACED. FOR EXAMPLE IN AVONMOUTH WE WERE INSTRUCTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT NO GUN LARGER THAN A LEWIS MACHINE GUN WAS PERMITTED TO BE USED BY THE SHIP IN REPELLING ENEMY AIRCRAFT ATTACK. THUS IF THE SHIP SHOULD BE FORCED TO RELY ON THE COLTS IT MIGHT BE DEFENSELESS AT A CRITICAL TIME.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM . ALL EIGHT SETS OF TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED HAD TO BE REWIRED ON BOARD AT LEAST ONCE ON THE VOYAGE. USUALLY IT WAS FOUND THAT ALL THREE CONNECTING WIRES TO THE MOUTH PIECE HAD BEEN BROKEN, AND IN SOME CASES THE EAR PHONE WIRES ALSO HAD PARTED. WHETHER THE WIRE WAS BRITTLE BY REASON OF AGE I DO NOT KNOW BUT IF THESE SETS MUST BE KEPT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SUITABLE WIRE FOR REPAIRS SHOULD BE SUPPLIED. A LOUD SPEAKER AT THE 4"-50 GUN MOUNT AND AN OTHER ON THE FLYING BRIDGE WOULD BE INVALUABLE IN ENABLING THE BATTERY OFFICER TO CONTROL FIRE AND TO INSURE PROMPT ACTION BY THE SHIP'S OFFICERS ON WATCH IN RESPONSE TO ALARMS FROM AFTER OR FORECASTLE LOOKOUTS.

(G) MY PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION IN THIS MATTER IS TO GIVE ARMED GUARD PERSONNEL SOME EXPERIENCE ON MEN O WAR BEFORE ORDERING THEM TO ARMED GUARD DUTY. AS IT IS , TAKING MY OWN GUN CREW AS A CRITERION MEMBERS OF THE ARMED GUARD ARE NAVAL RESERVE MEN WITH ONLY A FEW MONTHS OF SERVICE. WHEN THEIR FIRST TOUR OF SEA DUTY IS ON A MERCHANT SHIP IT IS DIFFICULT TO EDUCATE THEM IN NAVY WAYS AND NAVY TRADITIONS.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS : 1 , PROVISION OF RIFLES FOR DRILL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO BUILD COHESION AND UNITY, 2, PERMISSION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN APPROVED RADIO RECEIVER FOR DISSEMINATION OF NEWS AND PROPAGANDA, AND, 3, PROVIDING FOR THE SENDING ABOARD IN FOREIGN PORTS OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

(H) YES.

(I) 10 KNOTS EASTWARD: 9.5 KNOTS WESTWARD.

(J) NO LIGHTS EXCEPT IN FOG, WHEN DIMMED RUNNING LIGHTS WERE USED .

HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT TOO CONFIDENT OF THEIR LEADERS. MANY OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR RESPECT FOR GERMAN EFFICIENCY. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEY ARE LOOKING TO AMERICA NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE MATERIALS AND MAN POWER, BUT ALSO THE OFFENSIVE SPIRIT TO WIN.

(F) CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE BATTERY CAN BE MADE. THE BATTERY CONSISTS OF ONE 4"-50 CALIBER GUN MOUNTED ON THE POOP DECK AND FOUR 20 MM. GUNS MOUNTED TWO ON THE POOP DECK ON EITHER SIDE OF THE 4"-50 GUN, THE OTHER TWO BEING MOUNTED ON THE BOAT DECK ON EITHER WING OF THE BRIDGE. IN ADDITION THERE ARE TWO POINT THREE O (~~#~~ .30) COLT MACHINE GUNS OF ANCIENT VINTAGE MOUNTED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BOAT DECK, JUST FORWARD OF THE FORWARD LIFE-BOATS. IN ADDITION THERE IS A MOUNT ON THE FORECASTLE DECK FOR A 3"-50 GUN BUT NO GUN IS INSTALLED THERE.

THE 3"-50 GUN MOUNT. THE SHIP'S OFFICERS FIND THIS GUN MOUNT TO BE A CONSIDERABLE IMPEDIMENT TO THE SAFE HANDLING OF THE SHIP. IT INTERFERES WITH THEIR LINE OF VISION FROM THE BRIDGE. IF IT HAS BEEN DECIDED DEFINITELY NOT TO MOUNT A GUN AT THIS POINT I RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF THE MOUNT.

THE TWO FORWARD 20 MM. MOUNTS. THESE MOUNTS SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO THE FLYING BRIDGE TO PROVIDE QUICKER, EASIER, AND SAFER ACCESS TO ALL THREE POINTS.

THE TWO AFTER 20 MM. MOUNTS. THESE MOUNTS SHOULD BE CONNECTED DIRECTLY BY A CATWALK IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EASIER ACCESS FROM ONE TO THE OTHER WHEN THE 4"-50 GUN IS IN OPERATION. SUCH CATWALK WOULD BE USEFUL FOR LOADING AND DISPOSING OF MAGAZINES AND FOR EXCHANGING SPARE BARRELS.

STOWAGE SPACE. NO PROVISION WAS MADE FOR STOWAGE FACILITIES AT OR NEAR THE GUNS FOR EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE GUN CREWS, SUCH AS STEEL HELMETS, LIFE JACKETS, GAS MASKS, ETC. IT WOULD BE COMPARATIVELY SIMPLE TO SECURE LOCKERS AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF THE GUN MOUNTS INTO WHICH SUCH EQUIPMENT COULD BE PLACED. IN THIS WAY A GUN CREW COULD ASSEMBLE AND BE READY TO FIRE IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, REGARDLESS OF HAZARD.

CONTROL TOWER FOR BATTERY OFFICER. THE BATTERY OFFICER'S BATTLE STATION IS ATOP THE FLYING BRIDGE. WHILE HE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY REMAIN THERE CONTINUOUSLY IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR HIM TO HAVE A VANTAGE POINT FOR OBSERVATION AND FOR THE STOWAGE OF HIS GEAR SUCH AS RANGE FINDER, RANGE TABLES, BINOCULARS, TELEPHONE HEADSET ETC. PROVISION FOR SOME SUCH TOWER SHOULD BE MADE.

CRITICISM OF 20 MM. GUNS AND AMMUNITION. THE 20 MM. GUNS WERE INSTALLED JUST PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF OUR PRESENT VOYAGE AND WERE FIRST FIRED ON THE WAY TO HALIFAX. SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES DEVELOPED WITH TWO OF THEM. IN ONE CASE A TRIGGER CRANK BROKE WHILE THE GUN WAS FIRING AND THE TRIGGER MECHANISM WAS SEVERELY SCRATCHED AND SCORED. IN ANOTHER GUN A HIGH DEGREE OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE BREECH BLOCK AND THE BREECH CASING WAS FOUND. THE DEFECTIVE PARTS OF BOTH GUNS WERE ALL PUT INTO ONE GUN, AND THIS GUN, THROUGH CAPTAIN MCHENRY AT HALIFAX AND THE D.E.M.S. UNIT THERE WAS EXCHANGED FOR A SIMILAR GUN OFF AN AMERICAN SHIP IN HALIFAX FOR REPAIRS.

September 5, 1942

FROM ;- EDWARD G. MAGENNIS, LT. (JG) D-V (S) USNR OFFICER
COMMANDING NAVAL ARMED GUARD ABOARD S.S. ABANGAREZ,

TO ;- CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,
VIA PORT DIRECTOR, NEW YORK, N.Y.

SUBJECT;- REPORT OF VOYAGE.

REFERENCE: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMANDING OFFICERS
OF ARMED NAVAL GUARDS ON MERCHANT SHIPS, PARAGRAPH 38 .

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF VOYAGE OF NAMED SHIP FROM NEW YORK TO AVONMOUTH, ENGLAND, JUST COMPLETED.
 - (A) THE SHIP LEFT HER DOCK AT THE ARMY BASE BROOKLYN ON JULY 20, ANCHORED IN STREAM OVER NIGHT AND THE NEXT DAY ITS DEGAUSSING EQUIPMENT WAS INSPECTED AT BAYONNE, N.J. FROM THERE THE SHIP SAILED TO WOODS HOLE WHERE IT PICKED UP A CONVOY AND PROCEEDED TO HALIFAX. AFTER TWO DAYS IN HALIFAX THE SHIP MOVED IN ANOTHER CONVOY TO AVONMOUTH VIA BELFAST, IRELAND AND BARRY ROADS, ENGLAND ARRIVING AUGUST 9. THE CARGO WAS DISCHARGED AND THE RETURN VOYAGE COMMENCED AUGUST 18 IN CONVOY VIA BARRY ROADS, MILFORD HAVEN AND BELFAST. THE SHIP PASSED THROUGH THE CAPE COD CANAL SEPTEMBER 3 AND DOCKED IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 4.
 - (B) NONE. DEPTH CHARGES WERE DROPPED BY THE ESCORT OCCASIONALLY, BUT NO ENEMY SUBMARINES, SURFACE VESSELS OR AIRCRAFT WERE SIGHTED.
 - (C) SEE (A) ABOVE.
 - (D) NONE, EXCEPT FOR CONVOY INSTRUCTIONS.
 - (E) (1) I GATHERED BY CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH AND AMERICAN OFFICERS, ENLISTED MEN AND NAVAL RATINGS AS WELL AS BRITISH CIVILIANS, AND BY OBSERVATION, THAT THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN COLORED TROOPS IN ENGLAND IS BEGINNING TO CAUSE SOME DIFFICULTIES. IN CERTAIN QUARTERS THESE TROOPS HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN FRIENDLY WELCOME AND THIS IS BEING RESENTED BY THE WHITE MILITARY FORCES AND BY SOME CIVILIANS. GLOOMY PREDICTIONS OF TROUBLE LOCALLY BY REASON OF A CONTINUATION OF SUCH TREATMENT. AND OF LIKELY DISTURBANCE AND UNREST IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN THESE TROOPS RETURN, WERE MADE.
2. THE ENGLISH ON THE WHOLE SEEM PROFOUNDLY GLAD THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOW AN ACTIVE BELLIGERENT IN THE WAR. EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO PRODUCE A GOOD IMPRESSION UPON AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND SAILORS. THE ENGLISH SEEM SINCERELY INTERESTED IN WINNING THE GOOD OPINION OF AMERICANS. MUCH OF THE TRADITIONAL BRITISH EGOTISM SEEMS TO BE DISAPPEARING. BRITISHERS ON EVERY SIDE EARNESTLY ENQUIRE AS TO WHAT AMERICANS THINK OF THEM AND THEIR COUNTRY.
 - (3) THE BRITISH IMPRESS ME AS BECOMING SOMEWHAT WAR WEARY. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THEIR COURAGE HAS IN ANY WAY DIMINISHED.