

ROUTING AND TRANSFER SLIP—NAVY DEPARTMENT ROOM 2055

P16-5

46891

(SC) \_\_\_\_\_

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_

General Instructions Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships.

SUBJECT:

3/27/42

Date received

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Ltr: Comdr, Armed Guard Crew, S.S. ABANGAREZ (H.M. Ramsey, Bm2c, USN)	GNOVPD, 8ND	-----	-----	3/23/42	1-2	-----	-----

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P16-5  
Serial 01149

First Endorsement

Headquarters, Eighth Naval District,  
Federal Building, New Orleans, La.  
23 March, 1942

From: Port Director, N.T.S., Eighth Naval District,  
New Orleans, Louisiana.  
To: Chief of Naval Operations.  
Subject: General Instructions Naval Armed Guards on  
Merchant Ships.  
1. Forwarded.

*W. E. G. Erskine*  
W. E. G. Erskine



RECEIVED S-C FILES  
Room 2055  
MAR 27 1942  
ROUTE TO: 23-L  
Op File No. (SC) P16-5  
Doc. No. 46891  
Copy No. 1 of 2  
PRN \_\_\_\_\_  
*L-ccc*  
*AGT - 18/3/42*  
*L-2/1/42*

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C. Routing orders directed.

D. None.

E. None.

F. When gun is in action on port side, the passage of ammunition is across the rear of the breach, and there should be more room for rapid firing when the gun is in this position.

Have contacted the proper authorities aboard this vessel and they have assured me that the following necessary work will be requested from this company.

Request ventilation. Present ventilation system does not keep magazine cool, due to shaft alley escape being adjacent to forward bulkhead.

Alterations on ready/cover <sup>ammunition</sup> hinges. Should be cut so that the cover will lay down flat.

Canopy awning for ready ammunition boxes.

Drainage system for gun mounts.

Communication. Phones for all battle stations.

Quarters. Bunks should be installed immediately under

Gun Station. Present quarters are not built to insure comfort in the tropics.

First Aid. Locker should be built by Gun Station to accommodate liter, wire injury basket and medical supplies.

G. I feel that I am justified in assuming that we should be furnished more ammunition for target practice.

H. Yes.

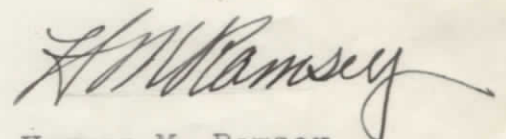
I. Approximately 12 knots.

J. Navigation lights in use, but dimmed during extremely inclement weather.

K. As prescribed by rules of the road.

L. Yes.

M. Yes.



Herman M. Ramsey  
Boatswain's Mate, 2/c  
Commander of Armed  
Guard Unit, S.S.  
ABANGAREZ

CONFIDENTIAL

S. S. ABANGAREZ  
New Orleans, La.  
March 23, 1942

GT 4538

From: Commander, Armed Guard Unit, S. S. ABANGAREZ.  
To: Chief of Naval Operations.  
Via: Port Director, N.T.S., Eighth Naval District,  
New Orleans, La.

Subject: General Instructions Naval Armed Guards on  
Merchant Ships.

Reports 38

A. March 5, 1942. Fire and boat drill. Tested three lengths of hose, water tight doors, galley slop chute, emergency generators and #3 and #4 life boats. Instructed crew in the use of life raft.

March 11, 1942. Fire and boat drill. Tested #1 and #2 life boats. Instructed crew in the use of distress flares, tested emergency generator.

March 17, 1942. Fire and boat drill. Same as March 5, 1942. Also instructed crew in the use of very pistols (parachute flares).

March 20, 1942. Fire and boat drill. Same as March 11, but instructions. Gave lecture to crew on proper procedure in darkening ship. Time consumed on drills, instructions and lectures, about thirty minutes.

The Armed Guard Unit of this vessel was instructed, drilled, and lectured in the following: (1) Gunnery; (2) Safety precautions; (3) Casualties; (4) First aid; (5) Lookouts; (6) Physical drill and semaphore; (7) Seamanship; (8) Use of small arms (fired 88 rounds .45 cal. pistol); (9) Cleanliness and upkeep of gun magazine and equipment; (10) Cleanliness and upkeep of quarters.

Members of the merchant personnel assigned to gun, participated in drills and instructions included in articles #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5.

B. Latitude 28-50 N., Longitude 88-55 W. 0735--sighted object which appeared to be round in contour, approximately three or four feet in diameter, floating one-third out of water, upper half painted yellow, lower half painted black. Could not see any horns or fittings. Strong winds and swells from northeast. Ship was pitching considerably, which made it impossible to concentrate our fire. Hence no effort was made to fire at all.

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W. E. G. Erskine

RECEIVED S-C FILES

Room 2055

MAR 27 1942

ROUTE 10- 23- L

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