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U.S.S. CALAMARES (AF18)

24 December 1944

**FORWARDED**  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
Secy's Office - Records

From:

Lieut.(jg) H. H. COCHRANE, D-V(S), USNR,  
Gunnery Officer.  
The Chief of Naval Operations (Armed Guard  
Bulletin Division).

Via :

Commanding Officer.

Subject:

Shell Rack, for 5"/38 Gun Mount.

Reference:

(a) Armed Guard Bulletin Serial #211023,  
OP-23L-2-ack dated 10 July 1944.



1. The undersigned without knowledge of reference (a) constructed subject rack on a 5"/38 mount on the S.S. ABIGAIL S. DUNIWAY which proved very successful in increasing the rate of A.A. fire against enemy planes at night and further increased the speed of changing A.A. barrage zones by having pre-set fuzes in subject rack.

2. Subject rack on the S.S. ABIGAIL S. DUNIWAY was constructed at such an angle that heavy weather and rapid train of mount in action did not affect the stability of the shells in the rack or the safety of the crew in action by use of this device. Subject rack had a heavy canvas cover that when tied in place, completely covered the projectiles and held them in the rack when the gun was not in use.

3. A letter and drawings of the shell rack were sent to the proper Armed Guard Centers and the Bureau of Ordnance, U.S. Navy Department at the time it was installed.

4. It is respectfully suggested that reference (a) be modified and a proper design for subject rack be developed and approved by the Bureau of Ordnance for use on the Merchant type 5"/38 mount. Further reason for this request is due to the tendency of Merchant Marine personnel to desert battle stations or even fail to appear at same during periods of enemy attack and firing as has been proven by the writer's personal experience in the past.

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*Area of Bulletin #32-44  
Bundled  
not affixed  
this rack  
SCC*

*H. H. Cochrane*  
H. H. COCHRANE.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT:  
AF18/S78-3  
Serial 90

U.S.S. CALAMARES (AF18) 24 December 1944.

From:  
To :

Commanding Officer.  
The Chief of Naval Operations (Armed Guard  
Bulletin Division).

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Forwarded.

*A. R. Myers*  
A. R. MYERS.