

By: Clement Hunter, Master:

\*These boats are supposed to carry some 30 men, 30 men in it, bearing in mind 3 of these men were stretcher cases; were very crowded, therefore, we were unable to row very effectively to remain in the area; strong, choppy and Northwest wind.

In regards to the rafts, much so, I don't approve of rollers which is on the rafts, which in turn are secured to the side chassis of the raft and extends under the skid. I was told these act very effectively in a test tank. I still believe while we can go far in a test tank, we cannot cover all phases during actual torpedoing. Inasmuch as these rollers are designed, in my opinion, for the vessel to sink on an even keel, but in a case where the vessel sinks either by the head or by the stern at a great angle, such as a light vessel would do, these rollers tend to block themselves or the raft under the skidway. That is one reason why I think the rafts did not release.

In the case of our rafts in regards to the pelican hooks. The pelican hooks which was installed in this releasing gear were new and apparently good in every way, but when we came to launching the rafts or releasing hooks, it was found that the tip of the hook was bent instead of being straight, preventing the ring to slide freely off the hook. When the ring was struck a blow to be released, it would stop at the bent point and bounce back up in the original position.

\*I would like to offer is something we have at present on some vessels and in my case we had, and that is for the boat tackles or falls to have mechanical means of lowering. I believe in our case our only boat was launched successfully due to having mechanical means of lowering, meaning both ends of the boat lowered instantaneously and equally.

By George L. Taylor, Second Mate:

\* all the rafts jammed. One of the men back aft beat the ring, the pelican hook, with the fire axe and never did free the ring, but broke the axe. \*something should be done about the rafts. It should be made almost so. In other words, have them fool proof, so they can't miss, they will have to go.