

CALIFORNIA (August 13, 1942)

Recommendations from the Captain:

- "Q. Under the heading of recommendations from 1 to 5 inclusive, have you any suggestions or recommendations to make?
- "A. One suggestion, that is that all boats be supplied with lines and fish hooks in order to provide fish for food, which proved to be plentiful where we were at the time. Also that better blankets be supplied. The blankets we had were practically cotton blankets and the rain got them soaked. We only had one or two woolen blankets, which proved very good. The rain just runs down on them, it does not soak through. The men that had them were able to keep warm.
- "Q. Have you any other recommendations or suggestions?
- "A. I would like to make a suggestion about the rafts. When we picked up the rafts, the following day, the water breakers and bread tank was absolutely submerged. If anyone had gone on that raft, it would be impossible to get any water or ration from same. I recommend that the water breakers and bread tanks be sufficiently high enough--at least as high as the air tanks.
- "Q. And what provisions do you recommend to be increased in quantity?
- "A. I think can beans and can meat should be increased."

R. M PARKER, JR. (August 13, 1942)

Recommendations from the Master:

- "Q. Do you have any recommendations for the detection and avoidance of enemy submarines?
- "A. Yes. Make every ship on the coast get in convoy, have an escort.
- "Q. Have you any recommendations concerning the saving of life, the abandonment of ship, handling of boats, rafts, etc.?
- "A. Yes. The two hand grips or pipe put outside the boats at fire and boat drill get caught on the frapping wire and the boat had to be raised and this wire disentangled and hauled up in the boat before we could lower it. And on the end where the pipe comes up against the ship's side it comes to that last clip and catches. I think the grab rails should be taken off and rope used instead to eliminate projections on the lifeboat's hull that would catch on the plate laps of the ship as it is lowered.
- "Q. Do you have any suggestions for additional equipment or improvements to existing equipment?
- "A. Yes. I think it would be an improvement to take the knots out of the manrope. I would like to see those radio masts taken out of there. We had those two prongs stuck up and a couple fellows fell over them and hurt them some, but I would like to know why the forward mast can't be used as a radio mast and mast for the sail at the same time. It's all wood. They've got three sticks sticking up and it's a job to get them up at sea.

Recommendations from the Chief Engineer:

- "Q. Have you any suggestions for additional equipment or improvements to existing equipment, or suggestions for more efficient handling of same?
- "A. Well, I don't know. They could move the gear aft and have a liferaft