

containers be fitted with screw caps, as in this casualty the concussion blew the bung out of the water breaker.

He also recommended that the yellow flag be contained in a waterproof bag, as in this case it was discolored by fuel oil and practically useless. He also recommended the raft itself be painted yellow or some bright color, and normally it could be covered to prevent making the ship visible. He also recommended a sheath knife and 12-thread manila rope as equipment for life rafts, and a small grapnel and line, as he "made close to the coast several times but could not make it on account of current being so strong." He also gave the following testimony:

"Q. Is there room on your raft to store all this?  
"A. I think so, there are two ends, top and bottom. Could, by laying on outside.

"Q. Are there any more suggestions you would like to make?  
"A. While the present 'Pelican' hooks are quick launching devices as it is, it merits, I think, a fall and single block which would further aid it for quick launching.

"Q. For quick releasing?  
"A. Yes. And this fall made fast on a cleat or belaying pin."

"Q. The lifeboats that were destroyed, were they close to the fuel oil tanks?  
"A. Yes, they were stored midship house and indications are oil was exploded below and passed up thru every available opening."

If the boatswain's testimony is true, he deserves a great deal of credit for standing by the ship and assisting in rescue work as long as he could.

**EFFINGHAM (March 30, 1942)**

Master made the following recommendations in regard to the caliber of the guns aboard ship: He suggested that they should be more powerful than .50. He said "On our East-bound passage, going across, these damn heinies dive-bombed us, and I noticed myself in particular that the tracer bullets hit in the body of the plane. They glanced off the planes like water off a duck's back. They don't stop them. The 50 caliber is strong enough but you must hit a vital spot or the pilot, and when they dive at you at 400 miles or over from the air, it is very hard to hit a vital spot on them. On the vessel I come over on, we had a 50 caliber on each wing of the bridge and when they dive-torpedoed us, both of these guns was pumped into the heinie and all it did was just partly take him off his course and the torpedo just missed us, well, to the best of my knowledge, 10 feet from the stern, and that was due to a piece of first class seamanship on the part of the master, how he handled the vessel by putting the helm hard right and the torpedo missed us." \* \* \* "If we had a larger caliber, we could have shot down at least 6 of them."