

RECOMMENDATIONS

JEREMIAH WADSWORTH (11-27-42) cont'd.

A. Magnusdal, Master.

Rations - They didn't eat all they were given. They refused to eat crackers about the fifth day. They dry up in the mouth and they make your mouth all dry. The best ration we had was pemmican and chocolate.

Rubber suits - Three men used the rubber suits, four men, three gun crew and the chief officer, and the chief officer nearly drowned in his. He had to get his arm in out of the suit, get at the knife on the inside, rip in from the inside to get out. He had two life preservers that kept him up.

The only recommendations that I have is to take the knots out of the trapping lines, the lower knots. There is also one other thing I want to mention. The reels for holding the boat falls have a pin in them so that the rope won't unravel. I want that pin done away with. They jammed one of our cargo falls. I have some suggestions that I have given to Captain Gavitt as regard the lifeboats themselves.

The Captain has offered the following recommendations for lifeboats fitted aboard the Liberty ships:

- (1) Brackets from thwarts to gunwhales to be made "L" shape and all bolt heads and brackets to be flush with thwarts.
- (2) Weather hoods and cloth to be secured outside of gunwhale so that any wash will not get into boat between cloth and gunwhale.
- (3) Omit lower knots in trapping lines. These knots foul thwarts and gunwhale of boats.
- (4) On motorboat exhaust pipe to have a swing-check valve in it to keep sea water from backing into cylinders in case of boat being swamped.
- (5) Lifeboat rudders reinforced with strap irons just below tiller.
- (6) Lee boards to be provided for better sailing when working to the windward.
- (7) Forestay and shrouds properly fitted and means for securing same to gunwhale.
- (8) Tiller to be longer or in sections.
- (9) Fairlead eyelets for tiller ropes on gunwhale.
- (10) Small cleats inside gunwhale aft for securing sheat and jib.
- (11) Sea anchors made of heavier canvass.
- (12) Gunwhale inboard to be rounded off to make more comfortable seating.
- (13) Loose boards to be placed in boat so they can be laid between thwarts to allow some of the men to rest properly.

EKCELLO (11-13-42)

M. A. Kent, Master.

What caused the No. 1 boat to foul? The gripes.

The only one, number 3, additional equipment, there is plenty to say about that. How I lost my boat. The bridle you know which they have on boats in the Hog ships, they are swung out. The bridle makes fast down below shackles, comes over this way to a pelican hook (draws diagram on paper showing the manner in which the bridle is secured). The complaint in this case is that the sockets fitted for the side guards are considered as a menace. In launching No. 1 boat, the bridle became afoul of these sockets which are fitted on top of the gunwhale. I recommend that these sockets be removed and a recess made in the gunwhale for the side guards, doing away with any chance of fouling the bridle when the boat is to be launched. I further recommend that the bridles be of manila instead of the wire which is now used, and the reason that I offer this suggestion is that the manila can be cut in an emergency with knives that have been furnished

RECOMMENDATIONS

EXCELLO (11-13-42) con'd

M. A. Kent, Master.

by the Service.

Ship's compass was also defective.

PAUL LUCKENBACH (9-22-42)

F. A. Snow, Master.

Equipment - I'm going to make sure all the equipment is in good shape, after the experience of 16 days in a lifeboat. I'm going to make sure that everything is there and a little extra. I think if you could carry a little fruit juice and things like that it would be a great help to the crew.