

- "Q. Do you feel that you have ample equipment in the lifeboats?
- "A. Only one suggestion I could make and that is some kind of a small clean cloth to catch rain water with. Just a plain ordinary sheet that is clean with no poisonous substance on it.
- "Q. Have you any recommendations for a prearranged procedure to be adopted in case of attack, for fire control and for maintenance of stability in the event of the ship's remaining afloat, or for the handling of the engines and orderly abandonment of the vessel in case that is decided upon?
- "A. No, sir. I think the CITY OF JOLIET was just about as good as could be found. Our attack signals were arranged. We all had gun stations. Only one thing I could criticize about. *** A Navy Lieutenant (j.g.) concentrated the officers all in one place. I would suggest this, that it would be up to the Captain and Chief Officer to make up the station bills and not the Navy men because they are not sailors."

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- "Q. Now, subject 2, the saving of life, the abandonment of ship, handling of boats, rafts, etc.; what recommendations have you to offer on that, if any?
- "A. That all ships, instead of having cork life preservers, should have kapok, because in a crowded boat with 40 men, where no one could stretch out and no one could move, to sit on a hard surface is rather hard on the men. In regard to rafts, my suggestion is that the angle iron on which the life raft hangs should give the raft a clearance of at least 3" on each side. Furthermore, instead of painting the inside of the angle bars, they should be greased, as after lengthy periods the paint and corrosion makes the liferaft stick. In fact, it was shown that when we released the two after liferafts, they remained in position and only came up after the ship had gone down.
- "Q. Subject No. 3, suggestions for additional equipment or improvements to existing equipment, or suggestions for more efficient handling of same; you have mentioned kapok in preference to cork. Have you any suggestions for any additional equipment?
- "A. No, sir; we had everything we needed in the lifeboat; we weren't missing anything, with the exception of weather cloth in the lifeboat, which should extend all the way towards the stern. You see, the man who handles the tiller and the man who sits there--they're exposed to the sea, and the way we had a strong wind, and it was mighty cold out there.

Every member of the crew should at the beginning of the voyage be in possession of a whistle as well as a light, an electric torch. As was proven in my case, I was picked up merely because I had slipped and the light in my pocket had been switched on, and this light was burning while I was swimming around. Otherwise, I would have been feeding some sharks right now.

- "Q. Your recommendation on this subject is more frequent drills?
- "A. Yes."