

the fire room and engine room then if it hit the engine room or fire room someone could trip that and whichever case it was the ones in the other compartment could get out. It takes you at least eight or ten minutes to lower that watertight door. If they had some way they could trip them and let them drop..."

WARRIOR (July 1, 1942)

Recommendations by the Master:

- "Q. How did you have the boats, in the chocks?
"A. Swung overside even with the boat deck lashed into the boom.
"Q. Would you consider this the best way of carrying your boats at sea?
"A. Yes sir, we got some booms in Philadelphia and gripes, all you had to do was to slip these gripes and the boats swung free.
"Q. And you considered best to have the boats swung out instead of resting in their chocks?
"A. We would not have been able to get away if we had them in chocks. You will lose that much time in swinging the davit clear.
"Q. What was the capacity of your boat?
"A. 42 person - 24' boat.
"Q. How do you account for the boat being crowded, with 29 persons; was it on account of the amount of gear you had in the boat, or the boat's were just not large enough to accommodate that many men?
"A. She would never take 42. We had a freeboard of about 1 foot then with 29 persons. Of course, these boats----- all this extra equipment you put in there, that makes a lot of difference, water breakers, etc. That all takes up room. You could not make a full sweep without hitting a man around you. I recommend a small 2" stern painter on lifeboats to hold the boat alongside while man board it. No matter how well a ship is armed, it is my opinion she does not have a chance without a listening device. I recommend that all ships be equipped with efficient listening device for detecting the approach of submarines."

FAIRFIELD CITY (July 5, 1942)

Recommendations by the Master:

- "Q. What is your opinion about having a motor boat. Did that motorboat help you?
"A. It did.
"Q. To get to land? A. Yes, sir.
"Q. Do you think it's a good policy to have a motorboat on the ship?
"A. I do.
"Q. Did you have sufficient clothing and blankets in the boats?
"A. Six blankets.
"Q. Is that an adequate amount.
"A. Well, up in a region like that you could use more, but you can't fill up the boat with everything. We made the best we could. We had one injured man we had to give three blankets.
"Q. Would you recommend more blankets be put in those boats?
"A. Going to North Russia I would.
"Q. ~~What~~ extra equipment.
"A. I was going to suggest that we have some light planks, say six feet or

- eight feet long in the boats; various light wood about six inches wide.
- "Q. How thick?
- "A. Anywhere from a half inch to three-quarters. If we had those we could have made a little flooring for the injured men. Wouldn't be any extra weight in the boat. If we didn't need them we could throw them overboard. We could have made a platform for them to lay on make it more comfortable. As it was we had to improvise one, make the best we could, make a little platform in the bow, tie their feet up. The man was injured, had a broken leg.
- "Q. If you were provided with them how would you place them in the boat?
- "A. Fore and aft.
- "Q. What would you use for supports?
- "A. I would use the thwarts of the ship.
- "Q. Captain, do you consider that when anti-aircraft machine guns are mounted on decks of merchant ships they constitute a danger to men in the crows nest?
- "A. The height the crows nests are on our type of ships I would say yes. Different heights in different ships, and ours is at a height where it's almost in range on that particular time we were firing at this plane.

JOHN WITHERSPOON (July 6, 1942)

- "Q. Under the heading of recommendations, 1 to 5 inclusive, have you any recommendations to offer or suggestions under these five subjects?
- "A. Well, I think perhaps that the number of persons allotted to each boat should be revised downward. I don't think that these boats are able to hold safely as many people as they're certified for.
- Mr. Smith: I think that is a point well taken, that, in addition to the emergency stop, there should be fitted on the main condenser a valve for the purpose of breaking the vacuum at the time the main engine is to be stopped.

ALCOA RANGER (July 7, 1942)

Recommendations from the Master:

- "Q. Have you any suggestions for No. 3?
- "A. I found that we had canned ham, with very little salt in the ham, and that was by far the most substantial of the appetizing of all the life-boat supplies. It also seemed to give the men strength, nourishment. I think it was a canned fresh ham. There was no skin on it; it was bone and cooked. One can lasted 15 men three days. The weight of the ham was between five and six pounds.
- "Q. What is the name of this canned ham, did you observe that?
- "A. No, sir. I also found that malted milk tablets, while they're all right the first few days, after the system has consumed practically all the water that it has and you are rationing water, they're very hard to take that is, to put them in the mouth. The men didn't use the rations at all, not the full rations, or the malted milk tablets."

ANDREW JACKSON (July 12, 1942)

Recommendations from the Master:

Have you any recommendations to make for the betterment of the lifesaving