

STAR OF OREGON (August 30, 1942)

Recommendations from the Master:

"I consider that sun hats of some type should be placed in each lifeboat for each occupant, especially for tropical service. We had several cases of severe sunburns and headaches. Also, I believe that the axes instead of being secured with a lanyard should be secured to the side of the boat forward and aft with spring clips."

PATRICK J. MURLEY (September 12, 1942)

Recommendations from the Third Mate:

"The detection of enemy submarines, I told the captain many times, I says, if we had some microphones in the eyes of her like we had in the olden days to pick up the submarine signals, which I found great, like they have on the West Coast, picking up those lights and bells, but the captain said he didn't think much of it, but I did, and these bells, you can hear them for 5 or 6 miles. Megaphones put in the eyes of her and a phone on the bridge, that one person can stay there continually on a continuous watch."

GULFBELLE (July 3, 1942)

Recommendations from the Chief Officer:

Recommended that a type of rack be provided portable fire extinguishers to prevent them from falling and discharging when a torpedo explosion occurs.

WILLIAM HOOPER (July 4, 1942)

Recommendation from the Captain:

"I recommend all those ships going up into those waters have a gyro compass aboard."

HONOLULU (July 5, 1942)

Recommendations from the Second Officer:

"Q. Definitely how many did leave the vessel with their rubber suits on or how many used the rubber suits after they had abandoned the vessel?"

"A. Well, it would be less than half the men, and those that did use them discarded the suits after a couple of days. I didn't actually experience anything. I didn't wear mine. I used it to keep the blanket dry. I didn't think they were to be used when you get out of the water. They're practically useless after you get out of the water. That is my opinion. If you are working on the raft, it is not a handy thing to have on. I'll say they're all right to keep a man dry until he gets picked up."

"Q. Were'nt you supposed to wear them for a certain length of time?"

"A. They were worn day and night, until the men discarded the thing altogether. After a couple of days, they couldn't stand them any more. So after three or four days no one was wearing the rubber suits. Some were wearing the boots but no one had the complete suit on."

- "Q. Can you amplify that recommendation, how much more and what number of canvas.
- "A. Four canvas, about, at least another foot longer and wider than it is right now. You can keep the raft pretty dry if you got enough canvas to rig up around the sides.
- "Q. Then would it be correct to say that the perimeter of the canvas now furnished to be increased by one additional foot?
- "A. Yes, to give a greater area, so that the water that comes through on the raft over the tank, it doesn't go over the raft. Then the water that goes over the tank and run into the boat, if you have blankets, the blankets will absorb all this water. If you got more of this canvas, the water that goes over the tank will run down, heavier canvas. There is another point, there should be more blankets on the rafts. If it is possible there should be more blankets and in tanks, waterproof tanks. I realize there isn't a great deal of room on the raft to get too much stuff on her."

FAN KRAFT (July 5, 1942)

- "Q. Have you any recommendations to offer as to the five subjects listed. Detection and avoidance of submarines?
- "A. More loose life rafts stowed on top of the houses on the uppermost part of the ship not lashed down - something that can't float off.

PETER KERR (July 5, 1942)

- "Q. If you were attacked on the date of July 5 at 11:30 A.M. and you didn't take fire until 2:50 P.M., what maneuvers had you adopted between that interval of time?
- "A. Endeavored to keep vessel lined up, making target small as possible, attempted to light smoke bombs, or smoke pots, but blew out evidently due to lack of good repairs, and therefore, had no effect. The parachute and cable rockets used were very inefficient, seemingly due either to not enough charge, or the charge was either defective or too old.

WASHINGTON (July 5, 1942)

- "Q. Captain, you have offered nothing under the heading of recommendations?
- "A. No, Sir, there was nothing wrong with any of the equipment, but would bring up the matter of equipping the vessel with heavier armaments. I would say that the caliber of the anti-aircraft guns were too small to cope with the airplanes to be of affective range of the type of bombers that attacked the vessel.