

RECOMMENDATIONS

2 July, 1943

MARCUS WHITMAN 11-9-42

JOSEPH C. SMITH, Master

Crew Attack.- The machine gun of the submarine was raking our upper decks and gun platform with machine gun fire.

Launching boats and rafts.- We had quite a time to launch our lifeboats overboard, due to the stern settling. This caused the stern ends of the lifeboats to rest against the hatch davits. We only launched the two after rafts because had we tried to launch the forward rafts we were afraid they would drift back under the boats that we were launching.

Signal Mirrors.- We could see P. B. Y.'s flying, and we could have signalled them had we had any looking glasses. We took the bottom of tin cans in the boats and tried to signal the P. B. Y.'s with them, and finally we did get the attention of the planes.

Water Breakers.- The main importance that I see is water. You see the water breakers they had were wooden. The water tasted bad from the pine barrel and you could hardly drink it. The men were sea sick and drank the water and vomited, and by putting a little lime juice in it was the only way we could drink it. It tasted like pine and when the men were sea sick they could not drink it.

Boat Stowage.- I kept my lifeboats swung in because if I kept them swung out and a torpedo hits it is liable that fragments hit the lifeboats and puncture them, making them useless for service. We did a drill and found we could get the boats out from the chocks, overboard in twenty seconds. So on the strength of that I felt it best to keep the boats in board.