

RECOMMENDATIONS

Name of Ship
Date of Casualty

PETER SILVESTER
2-6-45

CONTAINERS FOR PROVISIONS

4-9-45
2nd Mate

"Two and a half boxes of type C biscuits were moldy, probably because of a leaky gasket on the container. They were all in one container. We scrapped some of them off, and ate them. There was no lifeboat log in our lifeboat. Everything else went fine, and the gear all worked well."

SEA ANCHOR:

4-9-45
2nd Mate

"In the lifeboat, the sea anchor canvas and line were rotten. The canvas gave way after two or three hours use. We rigged another with a canvas cover on the original line. The line lasted only 2 or 3 hours before it gave way. The sea anchor had been securely stowed in the bow of the boat, and well oiled. Nothing in its appearance showed it was rotten."

DAYTIME DISTRESS SIGNALS:

4-9-45
2nd Mate

"I think it was on the 12th February that we saw an airplane (Catalina) which described a large circle around us as though looking for something, we fired parachute flares and orange smoke bombs, and made signals with signal mirrors, but if the aircraft saw us it made no indication of having done so and after a while flew off. About the 16th we spotted the smoke of a passing ship, and again parachute flares and smoke bombs were fired, but again apparently we were not seen. The food was now beginning to run low and rations had to be cut down. I think it was the 19th that the superstructure of another ship was sighted and once more our pyrotechnics were fired, but again without result. On the evening of the 21st, a small plane was seen flying very high from East to West, and passed right over us. We fired one smoke bomb, but a very high wind spoiled its chances of indicating our position. On the 27th morale was still very high and we had not given up hope, but the next day, when we were down to our last day's ration, our spirits dropped and most of us felt that we would never be picked up. I gave out 3 malt tablets for breakfast and did my best to cheer the men. At approximately 12 noon when most of us were doing our best to sleep in the bottom of the boat the Army captain sighted a ship on the horizon and we fired 3 parachute flares, one orange smoke bomb and six revolver shots. We also waved a yellow distress flag. The ship was seen to alter course towards us, and at 1240 the H.M.S. ACTIVITY picked us up."