

4/30/43

ROGER B. TANEY 2-7-43

Survivors.

More Boats Needed.- Liberty ships should be equipped with 6 lifeboats instead of the 4 carried aboard; 2 near the stern, 2 amidships, and 2 near the foremast stays.

Provision Containers.- Food boxes aboard the Liberty ships' lifeboats should be made lower in the boat to give the boat a lower center of gravity and make it more seaworthy, or better yet that provisions should be stowed in the bow of the lifeboat in a suitable box and in the stern under the tiller in a similar box so that the provisions would be out of the way of the occupants of the lifeboats. Water containers should be constructed under the thwarts for the sake of convenience and economy of space.

Thwarts.- Thwarts in the lifeboat which they had occupied had been about 6" in width, and suggested that these thwarts should not be less than 9" in width for more comfort and more efficient handling of the boat.

Signal Gun.- Supply Very pistol because they had only signal rockets in their lifeboat, but no gun in which to discharge them. They had seen two ships pass them during the course of their 22 days adrift, but had been unable to signal said vessels because of the lack of proper signal equipment.

Provisions.- Chow box had been only half full of provisions at the time that they were set adrift.

First Aid Kit.-No proper first aid kit aboard the lifeboat either.

Rudder.- The rudder was too small, making it necessary for nearly all of the occupants to crowd into the stern sheets in order to make the boat respond to the tiller.

Soap.- Suggest that salt water soap be a part of the standard equipment on all lifeboats.