

LOSMAR (9-24-42)

- Q. Have you any recommendations or suggestions to make?
- A. I had trouble with my chocolate rations. It seemed to bind us. I think the chocolate aggravates the condition of the men. It has a tendency to constipate.

KENTUCKY (9-18-42)

- Q. Have you any recommendations or suggestions to make?
- A. Well, one thing, I don't think any of the crews can be drilled too much for launching boats - put the boats over the side, man the boats and get away from the ship and exercise them at the oars. For fire control, I think a person should have at least two fire parties on the ship, equipped with sand, fire hoses, axes and buckets with lanyard handles. One thing more I would like to suggest, a portable telephone from the bridge to the engineroom, or a wire can be strung across from the bridge down through the engineroom hatch, or something like that. I would like to offer the suggestion as to communication from the bridge to the engineroom after the vessel has been attacked, as all of the fixed communication after the explosion of the aerial torpedo affected the communication to the extent that it couldn't be used. I am of the opinion that if the communication was fixed with flexible cord and not permanently secured that under such circumstances it would still be effective. The foregoing suggestion is an alternative method, in addition to the fixed method which is now installed aboard all vessels.

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT (7-4-42)

- Q. Have you any recommendations or suggestions to offer?
- A. The life belts to be equipped with whistles, and also the crew members to be furnished with electric lights.

CHICKASAW CITY (10-74-42)

- Q. Have you any recommendations or suggestions to offer?
- A. Two large doughnut rafts be fixed on the rails on the poop deck, or else a lifeboat aft.

WEST LASHAWAY (8-30-42)

- Q. Have you any recommendations or suggestions to offer?
- A. I suggest that there should be something to make a smoke on those rafts, to attract a vessel. I think there should be fishing gear on the rafts too.

STEEL NAVIGATOR (Oct. 19, 1942)

- Q. Have you any suggestions to offer?
- A. Well, one of the biggest troubles we had while we were in the boat was almost continually getting half full of water and nearly

STEEL NAVIGATOR (Cont'd)

swamped from the sea, and usually this just poured over the gunwhale. We thought if there was some way to have canvas or something to run right across the boat, just have a hole through it for the mast to go through, that it would stop this.

- Q. And at the time of shipping seas were you under sail?
- A. We had a sea anchor out over the stern, as we found that the boat wouldn't lay head to the sea, so we put the sea anchor over the stern and put the jib up, and then we steered, and that's the only way she would ride, unless we rowed all the time, and you couldn't row all the time. Another thing, I think it there could be some type of rocket, similar to those we have, developed so that when it got up to its height that it exploded and made a sound that was audible a couple of miles and then make a big puff of smoke.

SILVER SWORD (9-20-42)

- Q. Have you any recommendations to offer.
- A. Well, I am not a naval man and I really don't know what to do about it, but I would like to see American escort over there to help out a bit, someone that wouldn't run away from you when you are in a jam.
- Q. Anything on prearranged procedure to be adopted in case of attack, for fire control and for maintainance of stability in the event of the ship's remaining afloat. T
- A. The only thing I could say is that I think that the Commodores of these convoys should be picked very carefully, and that they should be listened to when the convoy starts.
- Q. Have you anything in addition to state that you have not brought out so far?
- A. I will say that I think more care should be done in arming these ships, that the guns are completely inadequate. 30 calibres, to my way of thinking are just absolutely useless. The 50's are some good, but not much.

COLORADAN (10-9-42)

- Q. Have you any recommendations or suggestions to offer?
- A. If they could get some sort of mechanism to detect the presence of a submarine, I believe something like that would be a great thing for a merchant ship.
- In regard to water casks, have the water put in tanks under the thwarts, square rectangular tanks under the thwarts or put in tanks in the bow or stern. It would be a lot better than the casks as they are under-heat all the time, and you put a spigot in them and somebody is liable to knock the spigot out. A tank is part of the boat, and it can't be moved or tapered with.
- I also recommend repair equipment for wooden lifeboats.

EMANELIA (L)