

HENRY KNOX (continued)

RECOMMENDATIONS EDW. LeROYdeFOREST, A.B.

Reels: If there was some way they could change the reel system for the lines, that is the lines on the lifeboats. I believe it would be to an advantage if they would.

Sails: The sails definitely should be in a fireproof bag, and if possible, made of fire proof material.

TIMOTHY PICKERING 7-13-43

CHAS. DEERING, 2nd Asst. Eng.

L.P. Stowage: There should be life jackets placed at convenient stations, both forward and aft of the deck because in cases of this type people don't have time to get their life jackets. The men go off with or without.

Port Holes: The portholes should be enlarged to the point where they accommodate a man of any size. I suggest 18 inches at least. I saw men stuck in the portholes at the hips and burned to death as a result.

Emergency Escapes: Yes, off the saloon or off the alleyway, port and starboard both. In a case of this kind when the flame has its source back aft and is coming back through the alleyways, which is a case very likely to happen in case the ship is hit, you have a deep tank of oil right aft the deck house, the alleyways are blocked up, and there is no access to the deck at all.

Machine Space Ladders: The escape ladders in the engine and fire room be secured to the floor plates and adequate means taken to prevent breakage due to a jar by the instruction of a tension device, spring tension device.

BUSHROD WASHINGTON 9-14-43

11-27-43
E.V. SCHAEFER, Chf. Mate.

Emergency Escapes: The fire in #4 hold caused so much smoke and heat there in the after end of the midships house that the men didn't think they could get out that way. Of course the smoke was pouring into the midships house and the midships house had been filled with steam and there were approximately 10 men that for a short time believed themselves trapped in their rooms and the fire in #4 was temporarily controlled and the men were able to get out through the after doorway. The bomb explosion caused the midships house main deck to buckle in, closing off both side exits and the men aft of the athwartship alleyways on the main deck in the midships house were temporarily trapped in their quarters.