

- equipment or for the method to be used in abandoning ship?
- "A. I recommend that the painter to the lifeboats be made fast into the bow instead of into the second thwart; instead of into the inboard side of the boat. Because you have not your complete crew on board when the lifeboat is lowered in the water and the painter, naturally, even in the slightest way, will swing the lifeboat away from the shipside causing some delay in getting lifeboat back to shipside for remainder of crew. I also recommend that some method be used in making the rafts fast to the ship that will allow them to float free when vessel sinks.
- "Q. Have you any other recommendations to make that would affect the life of the ship's crew in a disaster of this kind?
- "A. I recommend that all iron bunks, which are set in sockets shall be lashed or well secured into these sockets to prevent the explosion from throwing them out and falling on the man in the lower bunk. I also recommend that lifejackets be of a soft material so that a man may comfortably wear them lashed to him at all times.
- "Q. Other than the falls did you have any trouble in lowering your boat?
- "A. With the exception of loosening the pelican hook. Had some trouble getting that loose, knocking it loose. The strain of the boat on it and I don't know--if you get a strain on that pelican hook they are hard to loose. She was pretty secure.
- "Q. Have you any recommendations that you want to make?
- "A. Yes sir, I would like to recommend that the rudder be carried shipped at all times while at sea. I would also like to have these rafts hooked with a lever instead of a pelican hook, because after my boat was in the water I could hear the navy beating on that hook, trying to release the pelican hook."

WILLIAM DAWES (July 22, 1942)

Lieutenant, j.g. recommends:

"There should be arrangements made to make it possible to sound the alarm at all watch and lookout stations. We could sound the alarm only on the bridge.

"Navy put the Merchant Marine in the Naval Reserve, train them, then let them have their own gun crews. Convoy all ships. Install Y guns for throwing out depth charges."

GRANFORD (July 30, 1942)

Recommendations by a Boatswain:

- "Q. Have you any recommendations or suggestions for the detection and avoidance of enemy submarines?
- "A. ---if we only had some kind of detector. As it is it never surfaced or they didn't have a chance to get to the guns. The engineers shouldn't blow the tubes in the daytime as it makes too prominent a trail that a submarine might pick up and remains visible too long.