

WILLIAM H. ROHAN

8 HARVEY BUILDING RACINE, WISCONSIN

War Dept. - Personnel
Complaint.

ackn. 4/27/ R. L.
April 17, 1944.

Senator Harry S. Truman,
Washington D.C.

Honorable Sir:

1. The enclosed clipping prompts this letter to you in the hope that your committee the incompetency of the beel cows of the Office of the chief of transportation for Supply who build the boats for the Army.
2. With forty years experience in owning, building, repairing, and sailing commercial and pleasure boats I was processed by Civil Service and given the rating of Principal Hull Inspector (next to Chief or second highest rating) I wnet on the pay roll April 10, 1942 and served in numerous yards from Galveston Texas to Pt. Pleasant New Jersey.
3. Everything went swimmingly until about August when the department was placed in charge of Lt. Col. Harry Toulman Jr. an ex patient lawyer who surrounded himself with a hive of officers most of whom were tailor made blanks as far as knowledge of the subject was concerned. We went from a few small offices in the New Municipal Building to acres in the Pentagon and Zone offices in many large cities from coast to coast.
4. I stood the crap of these stuffed shirts as long as possible until my remunerations were cut to a point where I could not live honestly myself say nothing of maintaining my family back in Wisconsin. Rather than graft or attempt to eke out an honest living by side lining component parts of boats and equipment I resigned October 11, 1943. (Eighteen months).
5. I am also incloseing a list of some of the top flight officers with the request that you have Captain W.G. Frederick, Personnel, Pentagon building advise you of any boat designing ~~on~~ building experience the records show they had previous to Pearl Harbor, feeling quite positive that the report will show that as a round table the whole hive together could not make a grade of 40 on a kindergarden I.Q. on the design and construction of boats.
6. Generally speaking the blue prints were foggey and the specifications contradictory to the extent that Millions of dollars and critical man power hours were literly thrown away. Specifically, the MTL 46 foot Invasion tugs with Chrysler gasoline motors and reduction gears 4.48 to 1, steel shafts with fakelouie bearings and 40 inch propellers are dangerous to the point that they shoud be condemned at the dock instead of being shiped to active duty. The person responsible for permitting construction of these tuge should be courtmartailed.

Senator Harry S. Truman 2.

7. The Attorney General certainly would not hire a paper hanger nor the General of the Medical Corps a barber. Why, Sommervill in the shadow of the Pentagon should stick his neck out further by delegating the construction of as technique an article as a boat to a body of men who believe that pile drivers are surgical instruments is unconceivable.

8. The wasteing of billions and billions of printing press money ~~is~~ bad if only for the reason that the bonds cant be paid off with pine tree shillings or soiled ration tokens.

9. To jeopardise the lives of our boys or may be loose a beach head due to crates like these I believe justifies a firing squad- (with ignorance a defense).

10. I could run this letter into reams (and back it up with the complete file I have here at Racine) of the eighteen months I served with these stuffed shirts. For months the only consolation was the fact that my three sons were not being led by officers who spoke continually from a bottomless pit of ignorance.

11. The war is a heel of a long way from being won- there is still plenty of time to correct these unbelievable, uncalled blunders and as an American tax payer I plead that you have some member of your committee investigate this department- it's incompetency and uncalled for ruinous waste.

12 If there is any further information you desire I will be pleased to furnish same -immediately.

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Rothen

Lt. Col. Harry Toulman Jr.

Lt. Col. J.S.Gamble

Lt. Col. Emil Koester

Lt. Col E.B.Gray

Major Joseph C.Tourne

Major Egbert Gesell

Captain E.R.Kirk

Lt. H.C.Ruempler

Lt. A.C.Ricketts

Lt. H.W.Bullard

Lt. H.J.Cohn

April 17/44.

Truman Denounces War 'Errors and Waste'

PITTSBURGH.—(U.P.) — Senator Harry S. Truman (dem. Mo.), said Friday night that "no one can tell how much farther along the road to victory we would be if the costly errors and waste we have witnessed in the last three years had been altogether eliminated."

Truman, chairman of the special senate committee investigating the war effort, said that there had been "too little discipline" of the individuals responsible for these errors.

"As long as I am able to exert any influence," he said in a speech before the Allegheny county chapter of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck association, "the committee will not hesitate to denounce action, or inaction, clearly inconsistent with the most vigorous prosecution of the war of which this country is capable."

Thumbs Transportation, Straight to Jailhouse