RESTRICTED

EMERGENCY RESCUE EQUIPMENT

COORDINATOR OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, U. S. NAVY
AND
LIAISON COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY RESCUE EQUIPMENT

(Established by the Joint U. S. Chiefs of Staff)

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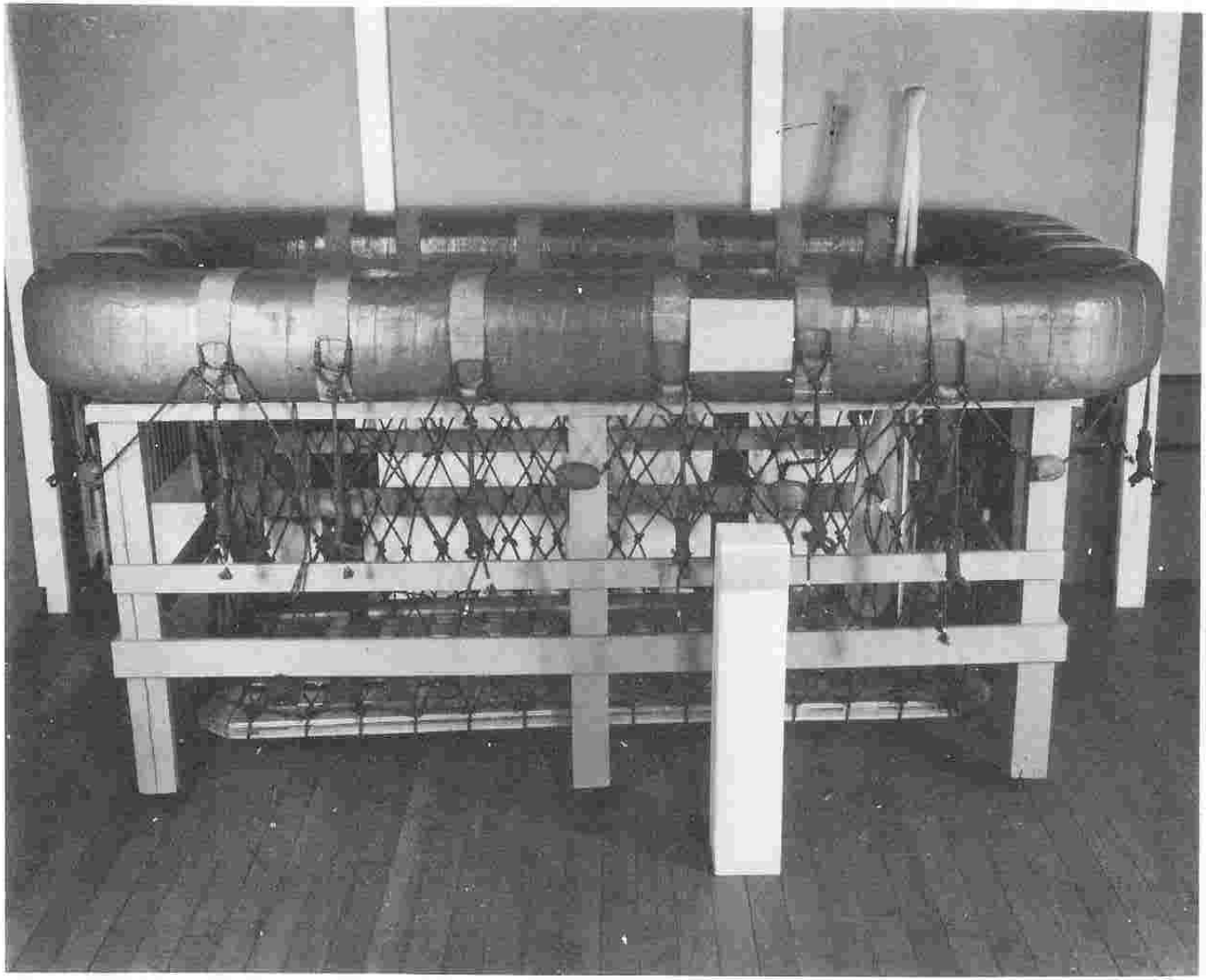
EMERGENCY RESCUE EQUIPMENT SECTION - ROOM 2500, TEMP. BLDG. A - 2nd and T STREETS, S. W.

RESTRICTED



A BALSA FLOAT IN THE ERE EXHIBIT

The Navy equips its floats with water, food, signaling mirror, pistol, water light and tarpaulin. These articles are lashed to the wooden grating.

L I F E F L O A T S

BALSA "DOUGHNUT" LIFE FLOATS

Since 1901 when the Carley float, named after its designer, Horace S. Carley of Boston, was first approved for use, this type of rectangular canvas covered balsa-wood "doughnut" with net-suspended platform or grating has been in general use by the Navy and the Merchant Marine. First manufactured by C. C. Galbraith & Son of New York, Coast Guard records show that a number of other companies have since made floats of the same design with slight modifications, including models of plywood and steel. At present the balsa float is the only type of raft or float used by the Navy on transports and combat ships. Buoyant life nets are also used on combat ships - See page 5.

This type of float has a serious drawback in that the survivors are partially immersed. As a consequence, the time allowance for rescue is cut to a minimum because it is virtually impossible to survive for any length of time in cold waters, particularly those found above and below the equatorial belt.

With this in mind three new float designs described below are now under consideration. They are all so designed that survivors may sit up on a deck out of the water.

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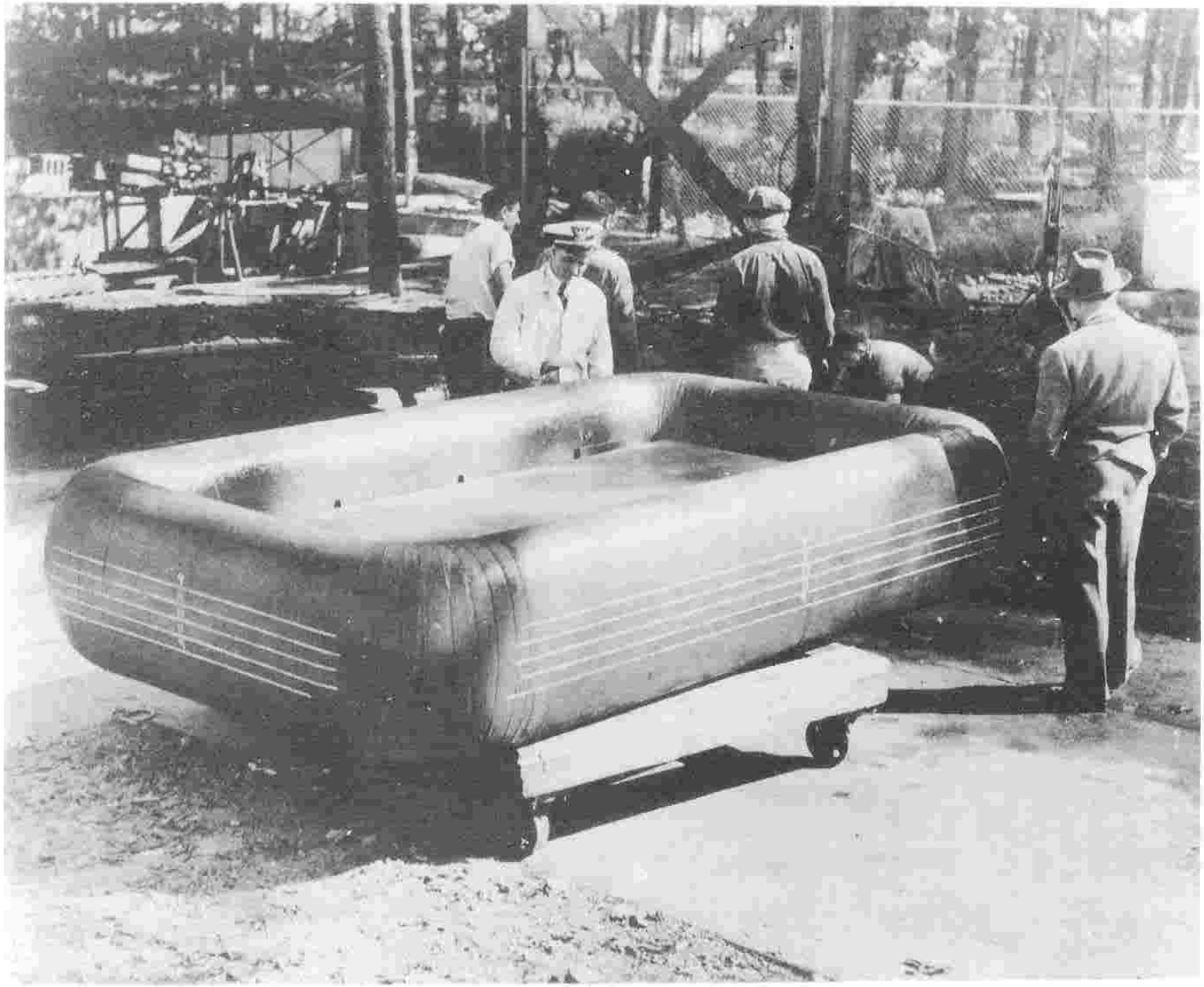
WINNER FLOAT

This float, illustrated on the following page, of plastic mold construction, has a cross section resembling that of a dumbbell and is 7' by 12' with a depth of 2' in the bell section. The maximum width of the bell section is 16". Like the balsa float, it has a buoyant rectangular rim but instead of a grating suspended by a net an inner deck serves as a platform which remains above sea level. Like the balsa float, it is reversible. It does not ship water because there is a narrow open space between the bottom and the sides of the ring. Preliminary tests have been made by the Bureau of Standards on the suitability of a buoyant but solid chemical filling called Styron Foam.



WINNER FLOAT