



The tense feeling didn't last long. Even wearing a life jacket can be fun. Ward came from the medical storeroom wearing the bustle type. Piast tied the top and bottom fasteners of each side, turned it wrong side out, and wore it looking a visitor from Mars. Someone discovered that the kapok linings made excellent pillows. The canvas cover was much easier to carry without the insides, especially since the insides felt so comfortable under the mattress.

News came from the radio shack that the British ship "Dorchester" had sunk the German submarine supply ship, the "Python". The victim had been refueling and supplying subs in the vicinity of St. Helena. That island was near! Halfway around the world, Hell broke loose that day, 7 December 1941. The kapok returned to the life jackets, and the life jackets returned to the men's backs.

The Master at arms went about keeping all hands away from the rail. The sight of land had drawn everyone topside. The ship's policy was to keep the rails clear of draped men. McKibben never understood why he couldn't sit on the "fence".

Cape Town reminded many of California. Closer inspection, however, revealed the lack of rain. The modern city disappointed those who had expected naked savages and mud huts. High above the city stood