

MARE ISLAND IS TO MANUFACTURE KAPOK PILLOWS AND MATTRESSES

Hereafter all mattresses, pillows and hammock mattresses used in the U. S. Navy will be stuffed with No. 1 kapok, equal in buoyancy to the standard sample on hand at the Philadelphia and Mare Island yards. This is announced by the Navy Department, with the following additional information relating to life preservers: No more hair mattresses or feather pillows will be manufactured. The allowance lists of all vessels should be amended to call for kapok mattresses and pillows in lieu of hair or feather mattresses and pillows. Existing equipment will not be replaced until it has become worn out. When it becomes necessary to condemn mattresses or pillows they will be replaced by similar articles filled with kapok. The standard life preserver for submarines will be Edmonds No. 2 kapok pillow type, and the allowance for each submarine will be a number equal to the total complement. The standard allowance of life preservers for destroyers and torpedo boats will be as follows: (a) Edmonds No. 1 kapok pillow type life preservers, allowance 100 per cent of the total complement; (b) waistcoat kapok life garments, allowance 25 per cent of the total complement. The standard allowance for fleet auxiliaries having merchant complements, tugs, hospital ships and transports will be Edmonds No. 1 kapok pillow type life preservers, in number equal to the total complement, including passenger capacity. Allowance lists of such vessels should be amended to call for the standard al-

lowance.

Cork life packets now on board these vessels will be gradually replaced by Edmonds No. 1 kapok pillow type life preservers when worn out. The allowance list of all other vessels should be amended to call for a number of waistcoat kapok life garments in number equal to 20 per cent of the total complement. The present equipment of cork or other life preservers will not be eliminated from allowance lists and will not be turned into store until such time as all mattresses and pillows, including hammock mattresses, on board an individual ship, have been replaced by similar articles stuffed with kapok. All articles stuffed with kapok will be manufactured by the government in order to insure the use of kapok of proper buoyancy. The manufacture of kapok pillows and mattresses (berth and hammock), kapok pillow type life preservers and kapok life garments to supply the needs of the west coast has been assigned to the Mare Island yard. The manufacture of the kapok pillows and mattresses (berth and hammock) and kapok pillow type life preservers to supply the remainder of the naval service has been assigned to the New York yard. Kapok will be purchased only by the Philadelphia and Mare Island yards. The Edmonds pillow type life preserver was adopted on account of its efficiency in holding the head of an exhausted man above water, and it is not the intention of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts to have it used as a sleeping pillow.