

Herbert Evald Anderson

Born: 1923
Hometown: Worcester, MA
Class: 1943
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Second Assistant Engineer
Date / Place of death: April 18, 1945 / 47-47N,
6-26W
Date / Place of burial: April 18, 1945 / Lost at Sea –
47-47N, 6-26W
Age: 22



Herbert E. Anderson sailed as Engine Cadet aboard the SS Samuel Johnston from July to December 1942 before returning to Kings Point to complete his education. After graduation in 1943 he sailed as Third Assistant Engineer aboard the SS Hall J. Kelley. On January 25, 1945, Herbert Anderson signed on as Second Assistant Engineer of the SS Cyrus H. McCormick at New York, NY. Four months later the ship was part of convoy HX-348 bound from New York to England loaded with 8,400 tons of Army engineer equipment, locomotives, cranes and trucks.

On the morning of April 18, 1945, the ship was nearing the English Channel in clear weather with smooth seas. However, U-1107 was on patrol in the area, unseen and undetected by the 79 ship convoy's escorts. At approximately 1008 GCT, the tanker SS Empire Gold, just astern of the Cyrus H. McCormick, was hit by a torpedo fired by U-1107. The General Quarters alarm was sounded on the Cyrus H. McCormick, and all hands were on the way to battle stations when a second torpedo hit the Empire Gold. Two minutes later, at 1010 GCT the Cyrus H. McCormick itself was struck between the Number 1 and 2 holds on the port side by another of U-1107's torpedoes. Almost immediately the Captain ordered the engines to be secured and the crew to abandon ship. Within three minutes of the torpedo hitting the ship it was under water.

Although all four of the ship's lifeboats were manned, but the crew could only lower boats 1 and 3. Unfortunately, both boats capsized almost immediately, leaving the survivors to, as the Armed Guard Commander put it, "shift for themselves". However, within thirty minutes of hitting the water the first survivors were being picked up by the convoy's designated "Rescue Ship" SS Gothland. By 1115 all of the survivors were aboard the Gothland which, with the survivors of the Empire Gold, were landed at Gourock, Scotland. Of the total complement of 54, four merchant crew, including the

Second Assistant Engineer, Herbert E. Anderson, and two Armed Guard Sailors were missing and presumed drowned in the incident.



**Cadet-Midshipman Herbert E.
Anderson**

Based on the above, Herbert E. Anderson would have posthumously been awarded the Mariner's Medal, Combat Bar with star, Atlantic War Zone Bar, the Victory Medal and Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Herbert E. Anderson was the youngest of John Anderson and Anna M. Anderson's five children. His older brothers were Johann (twelve years older), Otto (nine years older) and Bertella (2 years older). His big sister was Elin, was five years older. According to the 1930 U.S. Census, John Anderson was employed as a factory watchman. However, at some point between 1930 and 1940 John Anderson died, leaving Anna Anderson a widow. In 1940 every member of the household was working, including Herbert who was a newspaper boy while still attending high school.



SS Cyrus H. McCormick