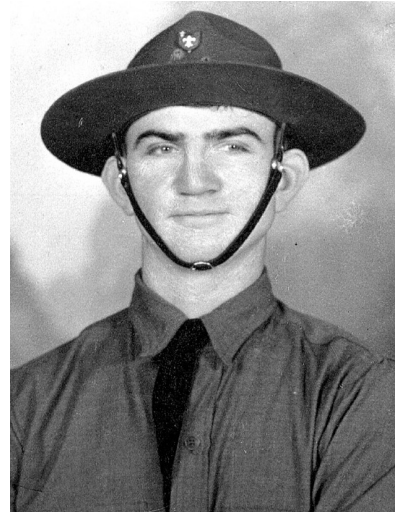
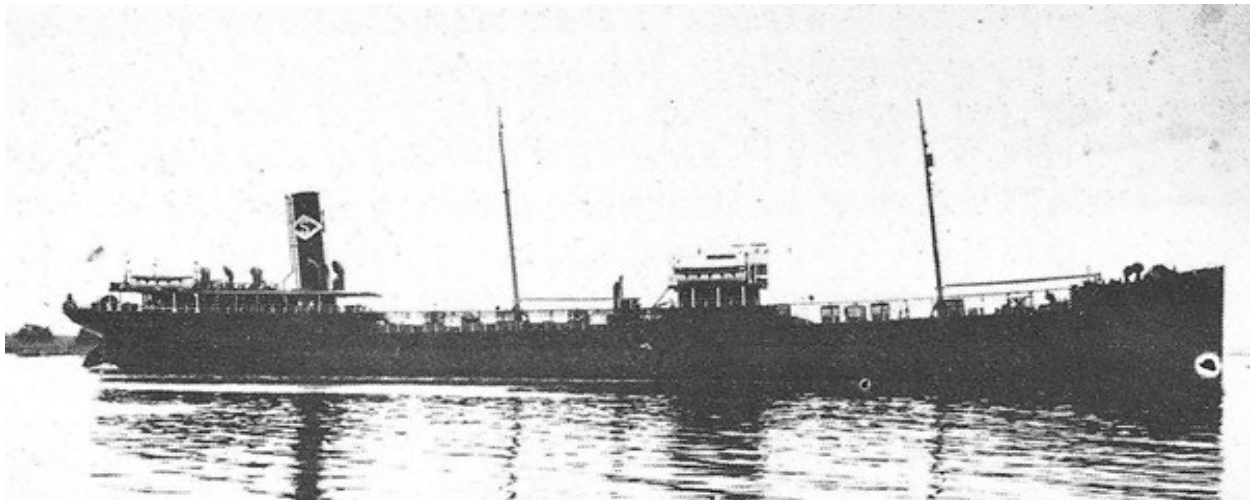


## Carl A. Brandler

Born: 1918  
Hometown: Mabank, TX  
Class: 1943  
Service: Merchant Marine  
Position / Rank: Engine Cadet  
Date / Place of death: May 4, 1942 / 25-17N, 83-57W  
Date / Place of burial: May 4, 1942 / Lost at Sea – 25-17N, 83-57W  
Age: 24



According to his family history, Carl A. Brandler entered the Cadet Corps in March 1942. Given his Texas residence he probably attended the Pass Christian Basic School and was then assigned to the tanker SS Munger T. Ball.



**SS Munger T. Ball**

On May 4, 1942 the Munger T. Ball was traveling from Smith's Bluff, Texas to Wilmington, North Carolina carrying a cargo of 65,000 barrels of gasoline. At 1840 EWT, when the Munger T. Ball was 80 miles northwest of Dry Tortugas Island it was sighted and attacked by U-507. The ship was hit on the port side by two torpedoes, one amidships and one in the engine room in the ship's stern. The explosion of the first torpedo ignited the gasoline cargo while the explosion of the second torpedo killed the engine room crew and many in the crew accommodations. The flames from the burning gasoline prevented the launching of ship's lifeboats and life rafts. Four of the

33 man crew survived the attack by leaping from the ship and swimming clear of the burning gasoline on the surface of the water. All of the other members of the crew, including Cadet-Midshipman Carl A. Brandler, perished in the attack.

According to the survivors, within minutes of the second explosion U-507, the attacking submarine surfaced on the port side of the vessel and fired a machine gun at the ship from stem to stern. The four survivors were picked up by the MV Katy at 2055 EWT. The Katy had been about nine miles away from the Munger T. Ball when it was attacked.

At this point in the war the Navy did not believe that German submarines were operating in the Gulf of Mexico, so ships traveling through the Gulf were neither escorted or expected to zigzag. However, the German Navy had just sent the submarines of the 10<sup>th</sup> U-Boat Flotilla into the Gulf of Mexico to disrupt the flow of oil and other cargos from the Gulf of Mexico to the East Coast and Caribbean. The Munger T. Ball was one of 56 ships sunk by these German submarines during May 1942.

Cadet-Midshipman Carl A. Brandler was posthumously awarded the Mariners Medal, Combat Bar, Atlantic War Zone Bar, the Victory Medal and Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Carl Brandler was the youngest son of Charles Hubert Brandler and Winnie Myrtle Bates Brandler's four children. According to the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census Carl grew up on farms and small towns in Henderson and Kaufman Counties in North East Texas.