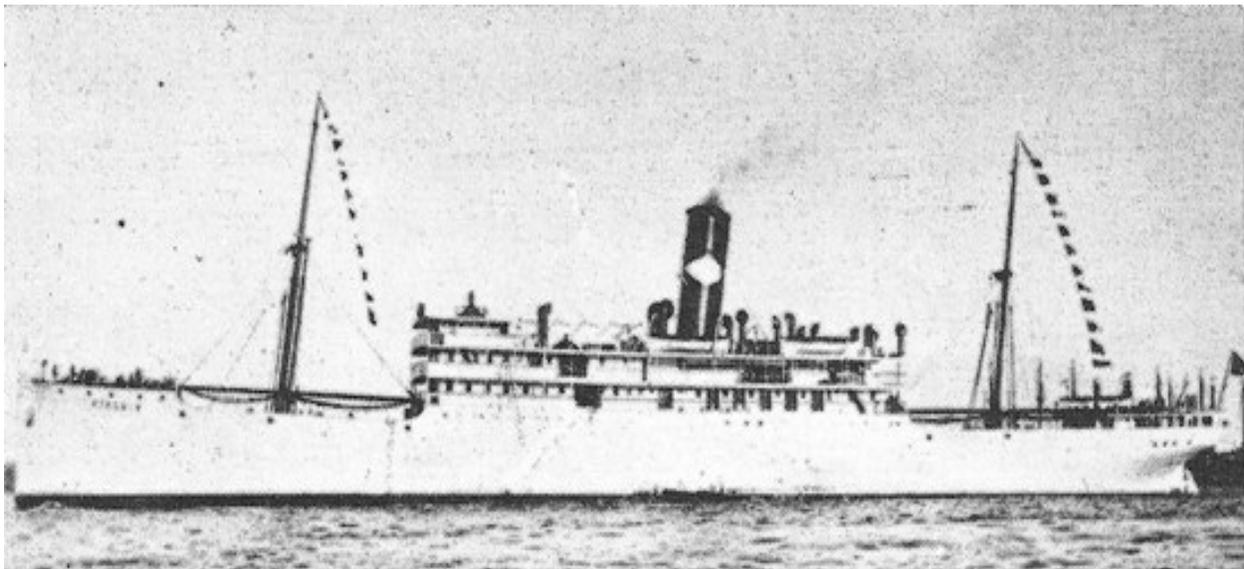


Glenn Ray Bruaw

Born: November 19, 1921
Hometown: York Haven, PA
Class: 1943
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Deck Cadet
Date / Place of death: May 9, 1942 / 28-53N, 91-03W
Date / Place of burial: May 9, 1942 / Lost at Sea –
28-53N, 91-03W
Age: 20



Glenn R. Bruaw signed on aboard the passenger-cargo ship SS Heredia as Deck Cadet on April 23, 1942 at New Orleans, LA. In addition to Glenn Bruaw, Cadet-Midshipman Irwin S. Ebel (Engine) was also aboard. On May 19, 1942 the ship was returning to New Orleans from Puerto Barrios, Guatemala loaded with 40,000 stems of bananas and 5,000 bags of coffee. The ship was traveling without an escort and was not zigzagging since the Navy did not believe that any German submarines were operating in the Gulf of Mexico. However, the German Navy had recently ordered the submarines of their 10th U-Boat Flotilla to begin operating in the Gulf of Mexico to interrupt the flow of petroleum products and supplies to the U.S. East Coast and Caribbean. During the month of May 1942 these submarines sank 56 ships, including the SS Heredia.



SS Heredia

At about 0200 CWT, when the SS Heredia was about two miles south of the Ship Shoal Buoy off the Louisiana coast, the ship was sighted and attacked by U-506. Two torpedoes hit the Heredia on the port side at #3 and #4 holds. Survivors reported a third torpedo hit on the starboard side amidships, leading them to conclude that the ship was attacked by two submarines. However, German Naval records do not identify a second submarine operating in the same area as U-506.

The torpedo explosions on the port side destroyed the life boats there. No distress signal was sent and the passengers, crew and Armed Guard abandoned ship in two life rafts. The survivors were rescued by several shrimp boats (Papa Joe, Conquest, J. Edwin Treacle and Shellwater) and by a seaplane. Of the Heredia's eight passengers, 48 crewmen and 6 Armed Guard Sailors, one passenger, five Armed Guard Sailors and thirty crewmen, including Cadet-Midshipmen Glenn Bruaw and, Irwin Ebel, perished.



Bruaw Family Memorial, Pleasant Grove Cemetery, York Haven, PA

Cadet-Midshipman Glen R. Bruaw was posthumously awarded the Mariners Medal, Combat Bar with star, Atlantic War Zone Bar, Victory Medal, and the Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Glen R. Bruaw was the only child of Raymond Stephen Bruaw and Lottie M. Stoner Bruaw. Atlee Hoover, a family friend said the following about Glen.

“Cadet Glen Bruaw had an ideal American boyhood. Born on a small farm in the village of Cly in Newberry Township, York County, Pennsylvania, he attended a one-room school for eight years.

His youthful days were spent playing baseball, hunting and fishing the nearby Susquehanna River.

Growing up in the historic Pennsylvania Dutch country no doubt contributed to the formation of his patriotic character.

He graduated from New Cumberland High School.”