

William Maxwell Farr

Born: September 29, 1915

Hometown: Allentown, PA

Class: 1939 - USMMCC Cadet Officer
1938 - Pennsylvania Nautical School

Service: Merchant Marine

Position / Rank: Deck Cadet Officer

Date / Place of death: November 16, 1941 / Allentown, PA

Date / Place of burial: Unknown / Union-West End Cemetery, Allentown, PA

Age: 26

No Photograph Available

William M. Farr was accepted into the U.S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps Cadet Officer program as Deck Cadet Officer on June 8, 1938. According to the U.S. Coast Guard he was issued a license as Third Mate at Philadelphia, PA on May 25, 1938. On June 9, 1938 he was assigned to the SS Capulin which was loading cargo at Baltimore, MD. However, on June 15 he was re-assigned to the SS Sarcoxie which was also loading cargo in Baltimore. He signed on aboard the SS Sarcoxie on June 21, 1938 and sailed aboard that ship until he left the ship on February 23, 1939. On June 7, 1939 William Farr signed on as Able Bodied Seaman aboard the SS Exermont. He signed off on August 10 after completing a voyage to the Mediterranean. There are no records that William M. Farr served at sea again, although the 1940 U.S. Census lists his occupation as "Seaman" and the 1940 / 1941 Allentown City Directories list his occupation as "Cadet Officer".

William M. Farr was the youngest of Jacob L. Farr and Mabel L. Farr's five children. William, known as "Bill" to the family, had two brothers, L. Donald and Harvey. His two sisters were Elizabeth and Louise. The Farr family owned a shoe factory and several shoe stores in Pennsylvania, which did business as Farr Brothers. He is listed in the yearbook of Lehigh University as studying Arts at the University in the class of 1938. However, at some point he began his nautical education. His residence in 1941 indicates that he is living with his father, the President of Farr Brothers Company, and his mother. According to surviving family members the cause of William M. Farr's death was suicide.



William M. Farr Headstone

Although the Farr Building, the company headquarters for Farr Brothers Co., still stands at the corner of 8th and Hamilton Streets in Allentown, PA the Farr family sold the business in 1980.