

Paul Greene

Born: October 31, 1919
Hometown: Dorchester, MA
Class: 1940 - USMMCC Cadet Officer
1939 - Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: First Assistant Engineer
Date / Place of death: December 5, 1943 / Unknown
Date / Place of burial: Unknown
Age: 24



Paul Greene was appointed a Merchant Marine Cadet, Merchant Marine Reserve, U.S. Naval Reserve on April 25, 1939. His address is shown as USS Nantucket, which was the training ship for the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He graduated from Massachusetts Maritime Academy on September 26, 1939. On October 16, 1939 Paul Greene signed on aboard the SS President Van Buren (later re-named SS President Fillmore) as Cadet Officer (Engine). He served aboard the ship continuously until January 23, 1942 when he signed off as Second Assistant Engineer. Crew lists on file in various ports show that he subsequently sailed as Second Assistant on the SS President Buchanan (March - September 1942). He then signed on as Second Assistant Engineer aboard the SS James Fenimore Cooper on October 30, 1942 and signed off on June 15, 1943 as First Assistant Engineer.

On March 7, 1942 Paul Greene applied for a commission as an Ensign, USNR. He was appointed Ensign, USNR, (E-M) on December 17, 1942, effective November 20, 1942. However, as he was at sea aboard the SS James Fenimore Cooper at the time his acceptance was delayed until he returned to port. However, the appointment was cancelled on August 28, 1943 as he had not accepted the appointment by that date.

Nothing is known about Paul Greene's whereabouts or fate after he signed off the SS James Fenimore Cooper at New York, NY on June 15, 1943. He is not listed amongst the war dead by the U.S. Coast Guard which was responsible for keeping track of all merchant mariners. Research to determine the circumstances of his death is ongoing.

At the time of his death Paul Greene had earned the Combat Bar, American Defense Bar, Atlantic War Zone Bar, Mediterranean-Middle East War Zone Bar, Pacific War Zone Bar, the Victory Medal and Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Paul Greene was the only son and youngest child of George G. Greene and Lillian Hird Greene. Paul's big sister was Margaretta. Their father was killed in WW I, leaving their mother to raise them. The 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census indicates that the Greene family was living with Lillian's parents in Boston (Dorchester), MA. The same records show that Lillian working as stenographer and private secretary in a law office. U.S. Navy records show that Paul Greene attended Boston English High School from 1933 through his graduation in 1937. The Naval Officer who interviewed Paul Greene for his commission as Ensign noted the following about him,

“Quiet, shy but seems to have good judgment and to be dependable, more mature than he looks.”