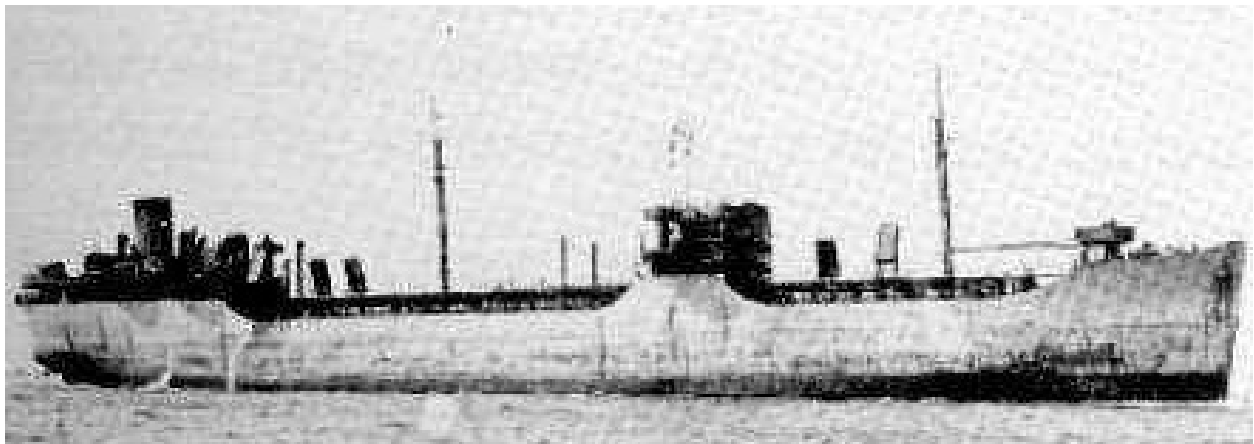


Leroy Pinneo Lawrence

Born: July 10, 1921
Hometown: Hartford, CT
Class: 1945
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Deck Cadet
Date / Place of death: August 30, 1944 /
55-30N, 7-30W
Date / Place of burial: August 30, 1944 / Lost at Sea --
55-30N, 7-30W
Age: 23



Leroy P. Lawrence signed on aboard his second ship, the tanker *SS Jacksonville*, as Deck Cadet on August 18, 1944 at the Port of New York. He had previously served as Deck Cadet aboard the *SS Henry S. Sanford*. A recent Kings Point graduate, Robie K. Wentworth, signed on as Third Assistant Engineer. The ship sailed shortly afterward loaded with a cargo of aviation gasoline.



SS Jacksonville

On August 30th, about 50 miles north of Londonderry, Northern Ireland the *Jacksonville* was nearing the end of its voyage when tragedy struck. The vessel was one of five ships in Convoy CU-36 destined for Loch Ewe, Scotland which were separating from the main convoy. The *Jacksonville* had just completed an 86-degree turn to take its place at the end of a single column on the port side of the convoy when it was struck by a torpedo from U-482.

The *Jacksonville's* gasoline cargo quickly ignited. Within minutes, the entire ship was enveloped in flames and ammunition in the stern ready boxes could be heard exploding. Although the ship was on fire, it was not sinking. The Captain of U-482 fired another torpedo which broke the ship in two. Even then the tough tanker didn't sink. Convoy escorts had to sink the after portion with gunfire and depth charges to remove the hazard to navigation. The forward section continued burning, and sank the following day.

The ship's crew had no time to launch any lifeboats or rafts, and nearly all succumbed rapidly to the raging fire. The only two survivors, a fireman and a member of the Naval Armed Guard, jumped over the side of the ship into the flaming water, and swam away from the doomed vessel. The attacking sub was never sighted and witnesses initially thought that the ship had hit a mine. Cadet-Midshipman Leroy P. Lawrence and Third Assistant Engineer Robie K. Wentworth, were among those lost in the sinking.

Cadet-Midshipman Leroy P. Lawrence was posthumously awarded the Mariners Medal, Combat Bar with star, Atlantic War Zone Bar, the Victory Medal, and the Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Leroy P. Lawrence was the third of Edward S. and Pauline Lawrence's four children and their second son. Leroy had an older brother Edward, and older sister Edith and a younger brother Donald. According to the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census, Edward Lawrence owned a battery service company.

Leroy graduated from Hartford High School, where he was active in student government, and a member of the National Honor Society. In 1940 Leroy entered Wesleyan University with the class of 1943. During his college years he was a member of the John Wesley Club, President of both the Debating Society and the International Relations Club. Socially he was a member of the University's Phi Nu Theta "Eclectic Society" or Fraternity.