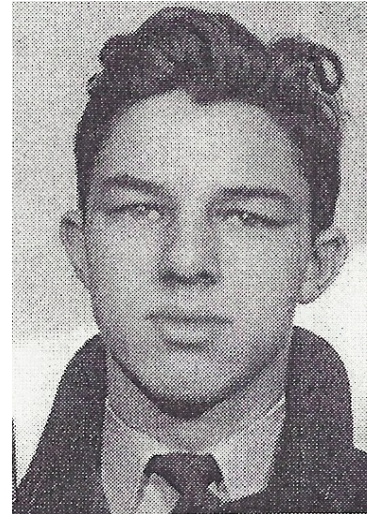


James LeRoy Maloney

Born: November 20, 1924
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
Class: 1944
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Third Assistant Engineer
Date / Place of death: April 9, 1945 / 37-31N, 64-26W
Date / Place of burial: April 9, 1945 / Lost at Sea --
37-31N, 64-26 W



Age: 21

Based on his U.S. Coast Guard records, James Maloney applied for his Certificate as Lifeboatman on April 29, 1942 but his Merchant Marine Document as Engine Cadet was not issued until February 3, 1943. Crew lists on file in New York indicate that he signed on as Engine Cadet aboard the *SS Kemp P. Battle* on September 23, 1943 at Baltimore, MD. The ship arrived in New York from Algiers on February 5, 1944.

After graduation from Kings Point, James L. Maloney signed articles on March 19, 1945 as Third Assistant Engineer aboard the brand new T2-SE-A1 tanker, *SS Saint Mihiel*, at Sun Shipbuilding in Philadelphia, PA. The *Saint Mihiel* was James Maloney's first ship as a licensed officer. A few days later the *Saint Mihiel* sailed in ballast to Corpus Christi, TX where it picked up a full load of aviation gasoline bound for Cherbourg, France. After leaving Corpus Christi the *Saint Mihiel* was ordered to New York where convoy CU-65, a fast convoy of tankers and other high value ships, was forming. On April 8 the *Saint Mihiel* and the other ships of the convoy sailed from New York and began forming the convoy.

On the night of April 9 the *Saint Mihiel* and another tanker, *SS Nashbulk*, collided. Part of the *Saint Mihiel*'s cargo of gasoline immediately burst into flame, destroying the navigating bridge located amidships and killing most of the deck officers. The surviving crew abandoned ship as soon as possible and were picked up by the *USS Stewart (DE 238)* after about two hours in the water. Of the 50 crew members and 29 Naval Armed Guard members, only 23 of the crew and 19 Navy sailors survived. Among those missing and presumed dead were Third Assistant Engineer James LeRoy Maloney and Cadet-Midshipmen John W. Artist and Dante L. Polcari. The two Cadet-Midshipmen were the last Cadet-Midshipmen to die in World War II.

On the morning of April 10 the *Saint Mihiel* was still afloat, although some of the cargo was still burning. The ship's senior surviving deck officer, Second Mate Bruno Baretich, assembled some of the *St. Mihiel's* survivors to board the *Saint Mihiel* to see if it could be salvaged. Aided by crewmen from the *Stewart* and another escort, Baretich re-boarded the ship, put out the fires and got the ship underway for New York. Although the ship was ultimately a constructive total loss, over 80% of the gasoline cargo was saved. For his actions, Baretich, a former vaudeville performer and song arranger for Irving Berlin, received the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal.

Based on the above James L. Maloney was awarded the Atlantic and Mediterranean-Middle East Bars. For his service aboard the SS *Saint Mihiel* he was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal and Presidential Testimonial Letter.

No information was located regarding his next of kin.