

Edward Stanley Sherman, Jr.

Born: September 22, 1923
Hometown: Port Jefferson, NY
Class: 1943
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Second Mate
Date / Place of death: January 15, 1945 / Norfolk, Virginia
Date / Place of burial: Unknown
Age: 21



Edward S. Sherman was sworn in as a Midshipman, MMR, USNR on September 18, 1942. During his Sea Year Edward Sherman and his classmate, Arthur Forsyth, signed on as Deck Cadets aboard the *SS Caleb Strong* on November 5, 1942. Upon signing off of the *Caleb Strong* on March 2, 1943, Edward Sherman returned to Kings Point and graduated on December 10, 1943. On December 15, 1943 he was commissioned an Ensign, USNR. He received his U.S. Coast Guard License as Third Mate, Ocean, Unlimited on December 30, 1943.

Following graduation Edward Sherman signed on as Acting Second Mate aboard the *SS Robert F. Stockton* at New York, NY on January 20, 1944 and signed off on November 15, 1944. As with his previous ship, Edward Sherman was joined by Arthur Forsyth, who signed on and off on the same days as Third Mate. At the time they signed on aboard the *Stockton* Edward Sherman is shown as having one month more sea time than Forsyth, which is perhaps why Sherman was designated as Acting Second Mate.

The two men signed on as Second and Third Mate again aboard the *SS Zebulon Pike* on December 28, 1944 at the port of New York. The ship sailed from New York to Norfolk, VA on January 1, to load cargo. On January 15, 1945 at 1900, Edward Sherman and Arthur Forsyth left their vessel. According to the *Zebulon Pike's* Official Log Book, at 0245 on January 16, the Master was informed by Norfolk Police that the two men apparently commandeered a taxi, drove the taxi into a body of water and drowned. According to an account of the incident published on January 16, 1945 in the *Norfolk Virginia Pilot*, the taxi containing the two men drove off the Chesapeake and Ohio Terminal at the foot of Brooke Avenue into the Elizabeth River shortly before 10pm. A rescue boat was on the scene within fifteen minutes of the accident, but neither man was found in the water. With the assistance of Navy Diver Mack

McKesson and a floating crane, which arrived on the scene at 11:30 p.m., the car was brought to the surface at 12:25 a.m. At that time Edward Sherman's body was found to be floating face up outside the car with his coat caught in the door of the cab. Arthur Forsyth's body was still inside the cab when the car was brought to the surface. Edward Sherman's body was taken to the Ewell & Williamson Funeral Home while Forsyth's body was taken to the Cox Funeral Home for preparation for burial. Before the ship sailed on January 18, the personal effects and wages of Edward Sherman and Arthur Forsyth were left at the U.S. Shipping Commissioner's office, for return to their families.

For his service aboard the *SS Caleb Strong* and *SS Robert F. Stockton* Edward S. Sherman was awarded the Atlantic War Zone, Pacific War Zone and the Mediterranean-Middle East War Zone Ribbons, the Victory Medal and the Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Edward Sherman was the only son and youngest child Edward Stanley Sherman, Sr. Edward's sister, Hope, was two years older. According to Edward's birth certificate his mother, and presumably Hope's, was Florence E. Wiemer Sherman. However, by 1940 Edward Sherman, Sr. was married to Edith Sherman, who is shown as Edward's next of kin in several documents. Edward, Sr.'s occupation in 1940 is shown as being a Teacher, although earlier documents indicate that he had been a Fire Fighter in the 1920's when Edward was born. Although the Sherman family spent most Edward's life living in Connecticut, the family moved to Port Jefferson, NY on Long Island which is where Edward graduated from High School in 1941.