Stephen Neuman Siviglia

Born: May 28, 1924

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Class: 1944

Service: Merchant Marine

Position / Rank: Engine Cadet

Date / Place of death: April 23, 1943 / 57-30N, 43W

Date / Place of burial: April 23, 1943 / Lost at Sea –
                                            57-30N, 43W

Age: 19

Stephen Siviglia signed on as Engine Cadet aboard the *SS Robert Gray* on April 3, 1943 at Baltimore, MD. He was joined by Cadet-Midshipman Aubrey Connors who signed on as Deck Cadet. A week later, on April 12, 1943 the ship sailed from New York with a number of other ships in Convoy HX 234 bound for Liverpool, England, apparently loaded with a cargo that included ammunition or explosives. For unknown reasons the *Robert Gray* fell back from the convoy on the night of 13/14 April. Although ordered to return to Halifax, the ship apparently attempted to follow or re-join the convoy, but was never heard from again.

After the war, German Navy records told the rest of the story. The ship was spotted by U-108 at a little before 3am on April 19th while the submarine was running on the surface about 125 miles south of Cape Farrell, Greenland. The submarine fired four torpedoes and heard two explosions. However, the ship did not sink immediately and its gun crews began firing at the surfaced submarine, forcing it to dive. While submerged U-108 fired two more torpedoes, with the final torpedo hitting the *Robert Gray* a little after 5am local time. This caused an fire and explosion in the ship's cargo, sinking the ship quickly by the stern. There were no survivors among the crew of 39 and the 23 Naval Armed Guard.

Cadet-Midshipman Stephen N. Siviglia was posthumously awarded the Mariners Medal, Combat Bar with star, Atlantic War Zone Bar, the Victory Medal, and the Presidential Testimonial Letter.

According to the 1940 U.S. Census, Stephen Siviglia was living with his mother, Rose Siviglia Zagorski, step-father Stanley Zagorski and their young son Victor Zagorski. The Census noted that the family had been living at the same address in Brooklyn, NY since 1935. Stanley Zagorski worked as a Rigger at the New York Naval Shipyard.