

Thaddeus Theophilus Trzebuchowski

Born: January 29, 1919
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
Class: 1941 - USMCC Cadet Officer
1940 - New York MMA
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Chief Mate
Date / Place of death: December 11, 1943 / 40-43N,
71-58W
Date / Place of burial: December 11, 1943 / Lost at
Sea -- 40-43N, 71-58W
Age: 24



The *SS Suffolk* foundered and sank in a heavy gale about 20 miles south of Montauk Point, Long Island, on December 11, 1943. There were no survivors among the 36 merchant marine crew and 6 Naval Armed Guard on board. One of those lost in the sinking was Chief Mate Thaddeus T. Trzebuchowski, a 1941 Cadet Officer. The *Suffolk* was traveling between Norfolk, Virginia and Boston, Massachusetts carrying a cargo of coal.

The vessel was able to send a last communication to shore station at midday on December 11th, stating that the ship was foundering in the heavy weather. The Navy sent out several vessels to try to aid the crew of the *Suffolk*, but these were unable to reach the vessel. The search was abandoned several days later when neither wreckage nor survivors had been sighted. However, on December 31st, the *USS Reeves (DE 156)* came upon a raft from the *Suffolk*. Tragically, the only two occupants of the raft, a Navy Sailor and an merchant mariner had died days earlier from exposure.

Thaddeus T. Trzebuchowski had previously served as Second Class Deck Cadet aboard the *TV Empire State* (1939). He graduated from New York Merchant Marine Academy on September 27, 1940. Afterward he secured employment as a Cadet Officer (Deck) aboard the *MS Exton* (1940). After his service as Cadet Officer he was employed as Third Mate aboard the *SS Gatun* (1941), *SS Atlantida* (1941), *MS Idaho* (1942). Crew lists for these ships describe him as being 5' 7" tall and weighing 135 pounds with his next of kin identified as his father M. Trzebuchowski. He left at least one sibling, his brother Francis A. Trzebuchowski, who sought additional information about his brother's death in 1944.