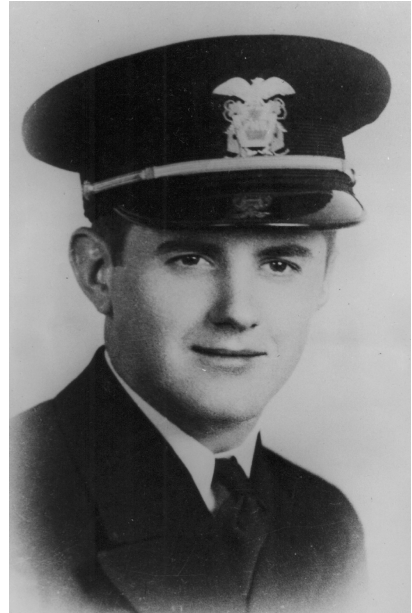


Harry Arthur Wolfe, Jr.

Born: October 26, 1920
Hometown: Kingston, PA
Class: 1942 - USMMCC Cadet Officer
1941 - Pennsylvania Nautical School
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Third Mate
Date / Place of death: January 9, 1943 / 56-15N,
22-00W
Date / Place of burial: January 9, 1943 / Lost at Sea –
56-15N, 22-00W
Age: 22



Harry A. Wolfe signed on aboard the *SS Louise Lykes* on November 7, 1941 as a “Cadet Officer” in the ship’s Deck Department. The ship completed a voyage to South Africa and returned to New York on March 31, 1942. Six weeks later, on May 9, 1942 Harry Wolfe was promoted to Junior Third Mate for a voyage to South Africa and the Red Sea. He continued as the *Louise Lykes*’ Junior Third Mate for a voyage to North Africa, from which the ship returned to New York on December 12, 1942.



SS Louise Lykes

The *SS Louise Lykes* sailed without escort from New York on January 2, 1943 carrying a cargo of ammunition and other war supplies bound for Belfast, Northern Ireland. The ship was hit by four torpedoes fired from the surfaced U-384 at 2025 on the evening of

January 9, 1943. According to German Navy records, the *Louise Lykes'* cargo exploded with what was described as "a terrible blast" forcing U-384 to dive to avoid being struck by pieces of the wreckage. There were no survivors among the 50 merchant crew, 34 Naval Armed Guard, and 10 U.S. Army personnel aboard.

Another former U.S. Maritime Commission Cadet Officer, Frederick Baumann and five Cadet-Midshipmen from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; Michael M. Chrobak, Charles C. Gassner, Allen G. Miller, Robert C. Vancure, and Eugene W. Walters, were all killed, making the sinking of the *SS Louise Lykes* the single deadliest sinking in the Academy's history, in terms of cadet losses.

Based on his merchant marine service, Harry A. Wolfe was posthumously awarded the Mariners Medal, Combat Bar with star, Atlantic War Zone Bar, Mediterranean - Middle East Bar, the Victory Medal and the Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Harry Wolfe was the only son of Harry A. Wolfe, Sr. and Emily Wolfe. The Wolfes had an older daughter, Margaret. According to the 1940 U.S. Census, Margaret and her husband, Robert Bell, were living with the Wolfes. At that time Harry Sr. was employed as an electrician at a local iron works.