

Simons, Austin H.

Seaman Simons Now Listed As Dead By Navy

Seaman Second Class Austin Henry Simons, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Simons, 526 Carlton Avenue, who on March 4, 1943, was reported missing in action in the Middle Atlantic, is now presumed to be dead, according to a letter received from Secretary of Navy Frank Knox, Washington, D. C.

The letter states that their son, Austin, a member of the U. S. N. R.,



AUSTIN H. SIMONS

was named in a passenger status on board a merchant ship and that the vessel was sunk after being torpedoed without warning between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock on the morning of February 7, 1943. The sinking occurred in the Mid-Atlantic.

At the time of the torpedoing the sea had moderately swelled and the visibility was fair to poor, due to an overcast sky and no moon shining. Rescue operations were carried out by American and Allied vessels, the letter states.

Seaman Simons, was born in Bethlehem, July 14, 1925, a son of John A. and Lillian (Fischer) Simons. He was confirmed a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, whose first fatal casualty he becomes in World War II.

He was graduated from Liberty High School in the class of 1942. Following his graduation he was employed by the Hauser Chevrolet Company until his enlistment in the Navy Oct. 7, 1942. He received his initial training at the Great Lakes Naval Base, Great Lakes, Ill. He was transferred to Long Beach, N. Y. He left on his first vessel Jan. 24, 1943, and the following Feb. 7 the vessel was torpedoed by an enemy submarine.

Surviving are his parents, one brother, Gerald J., and two sisters, Kathryn L., and Beverly Jean, all at home.

February 28, 1944