
HERO OF SINKING HONORED

American Legion Medal Awarded to Merchant Marine Captain

The Robert L. Hague Post of the American Legion yesterday presented the American Legion Medal for outstanding heroism to Captain Edward V. Peters, master of an Esso tanker, in a ceremony at the Maritime Exchange, 80 Broad Street. Rear Admiral Stanley V. Parker, U. S. C. G., captain of the Port of New York, made the presentation. It was the first time the Legion had so honored a member of the Merchant Marine.

Captain Peters earned the award when his vessel, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey tanker Esso Nashville, was torpedoed on March 21, 1942. The torpedo had broken his tanker amidships and he ordered the crew to abandon ship. In attempting to board the last lifeboat Captain Peters slipped and fell into the sea, his leg being broken and his chest injured.

Fearing that the lifeboat might be crushed, he ordered its crew to pull away, thus preventing the loss of many lives, the citation pointed out. Captain Peters swam back to his ship, the midship section of which was then awash.

A naval vessel later arrived and Captain Peters was picked up by a lifeboat.
