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NAVY DEPARTMENT

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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Monograph Index Guide No. 515-500  
(To correspond with SUBJECT given below. See O. N. I. Index Guide. Make separate report for each main title.)

From U. S. NAVAL ATTACHE at CIUDAD TRUJILLO Date 10 MARCH, 1944  
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, office, station, or person)

Reference \_\_\_\_\_  
(Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)

Source PERSONAL Evaluation A-1  
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with— Identify where practicable, etc.) A-1 to E-O etc. AS/EN 3-10; SER. 4312416-11-18-42

Subject UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES  
(Nation reported on) (Main title as per index guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

BRIEF—(Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.)

U. S. TANKER "DIXIANO" SLIGHTLY DAMAGED WHILE DOCKING AT BARAHONA. THREE LIVES LOST IN WELDING ACCIDENT. MR. LOY LEMONS, ORDINARY SEAMAN, DESERVES RECOGNITION FOR HEROIC CONDUCT.

The American tanker "DIXIANO", while docking at Barahona, D.R., on the afternoon of 20 February during a very strong easterly wind, drifted on the end of the Sugar Central's trestle, hit the end rail of the railroad line, and punctured a hole in the plate of the No. 1 tank.

On 21 February a welder from the Barahona Company welded a steel plate over the hole from the outside; and later the Chief Engineer of the Barahona Company and a helper went down inside the #1 tank to weld a plate from within. However, soon after they entered the tank both were overcome and dropped asphyxiated at the bottom. Mr. Ernest E. CRISP, 2nd Officer of the "DIXIANO", in a heroic effort to try to rescue the men, rushed down to the bottom of the tank, but he also was overcome and fell unconscious.

At this point Mr. Loy LEMONS, Ordinary Seaman, No. Z396666, tied a rope around himself and went down to try to rescue the three men. He was asphyxiated as soon as he reached the bottom, and was pulled out unconscious. A laborer from the Barahona Company was able to go down in the tank and recover the body of the Company's Chief Engineer, but came up so badly shaken he had to be hospitalized.

Volunteers were asked for to rescue the other two men still in the tank, but none were forthcoming. At this point Mr. LEMONS, who had been revived, again immediately volunteered, and went

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Am. Cons., C.T. (2)

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down two more times, finally being pulled out nearly unconscious.

Those who lost their lives in this accident were:

Mr. Ernest L. CRISP, 2nd Officer of the "DIXIANO";  
Mr. Christian SOMMERVIG, Chief Engineer of the  
Barahona Sugar Company;  
Mr. Isidoro FELIZ (Dominican), welder, of the  
Barahona Sugar Company.

Naval Attache's Comment:

The conduct of Seaman Loy LEMONS is considered heroic, and meritorious of special recognition. His unselfish act of three times risking his life voluntarily in an attempt to save others was above and beyond the call of duty, and in keeping with the highest traditions of the Merchant Marine. This is forwarded that the Navy Department may make such recognition of subject's bravery as is seen fit.

Name:	LOY LEMONS
Number:	Z396666
Occupation:	Ordinary Seaman
Nationality:	U. S. citizen
Age:	20
Birthplace:	West Virginia
Next of kin:	Mother, Nellie LEMONS, West Huntington, West Virginia.