

William Peter Leverett, son of Harrison O. (1896-1964) and Eunice Myrtle (Dayton) (1900-1974) Leverette, was born 6 February 1918, Michigan. William's parents, married in 1916, were divorced by 1921 when Eunice remarried Arthur J. Keyes. William was raised by Mr. Keyes who was worked for the Lansing Fire Department and later Lansing Drop Forge. The 1940 US Federal Census for Ingham County, Meridian Township recorded the Keyes family, which included William age 21. William was living at home and listed 3 years of high school education.

William enlisted in the US Navy December 1941 and served as a hospital

Discharged Lansing Sailor Recalls North Africa Battle

The war is over for William P. Leverett, 26-year-old hospital apprentice, now but he has many souvenirs of his voyages to remember it by. Leverett, honorably discharged from the navy because of illness, has returned to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Keyes, 6089 Hardy avenue, East Lansing.

He is a veteran of the battle of Safi, in North Africa, and vividly recalls the surprise night attack of the Vichy French in November, 1942, against the U. S. S. Merrimac aboard which he was serving.

The ship, he related, had circled near the coast of North Africa for about three days, waiting for a cloudy night, when it might unload its crash boats, gas and oil. The crew had had no trouble on the way over, despite the fact that they had sighted a couple of submarines. But apparently the subs had radioed to the enemy on shore, for they had no more than unloaded the boats, when they were attacked. Immediately the ship was ordered to full speed ahead, and all men available to gun positions, Leverett said. They did not dare to retaliate, for if the boat, with all of the gas and oil aboard, was hit, it would explode. There were several destroyers, a battle wagon, and aircraft carrier nearby, who took up the battle, de-

stroying radio towers, and causing great damage to the city. Three days later, when the Merrimac returned, the land forces had the situation well in hand, and everything was quiet again.

In his travels with the navy, Leverett has made three trips to Safi, Casablanca, and the Rock of Gibraltar. He has also sailed to Bermuda, Trinidad, Bahai, Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Brazil, and Malavadao, Uruguay. He then returned to the United States to attend hospital corps school at Norfolk, Va., after which he served as a corpsman at the hospital at Corpus Christi, Tex., and also Fort Worth, Tex. Becoming ill, himself, he entered the hospital at Norman, Okla., where he was discharged from duty, June 20.

Among his souvenirs are coins from many countries, coin purses, a letter opener, camel skin pocketbook, an elaborate sewing box, African turban, a French newspaper, and a book of the old history of Africa, a bracelet made from a cow horn, a stamp collection, and many other things, including the doll which he is holding in the picture, from Rio de Janeiro.

A brother, Clifford J. Keyes, 18, seaman second class, is serving aboard mine sweeper in San Francisco, Cal.

apprentice sailing into World War II's North African conflict. Unfortunately, William became ill and was honorably discharged from the Navy 10 June 1944.



MISS ELLENORE M. TOBIAS

Mr. and Mrs. Ray E. Tobias, 2032 Sunnyside avenue, announce the engagement of their daughter, Ellenore Maribel, to William Leverett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Keyes, 6089 Hardy avenue, East Lansing. The wedding will take place March 24.

On 24 March 1945 in East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, William wed Ellenore Maribel Tobias.

Ellenore lost her brother, Staff Sergeant Ellwood Tobias during in the war. Ellwood, a 1942 graduate of Eastern High School, Lansing, was a radio operator on a B-17 Flying Fortress. The complete crew aboard the aircraft was listed as MIA on an 11 April 1944 mission over Pozen, Poland. By October 1945 all the men on the B-17 were presumed dead although there was a report stating 5 parachutes had been seen descending from the attacked aircraft.

William went back to school and satisfied all the requirements for completion of his high school diploma. He graduated

1947 Okemos Tomahawk, Senior Pictures Class of '47 page

V E T E R A N G R A D U A T E S

The following veterans, who for various reasons had not completed their high school work before entering the armed service, have now satisfied all requirements for graduation. They shall be considered members of the class of 1947 and will receive their high school diplomas with the other members of the class at Commencement time.

Joseph Griffith	United States Marines	1943-46
Russell R. Leach	United States Marines	1941-46
William Leverett	United States Army	1942-46
Clarence Robinson	United States Marines	1943-46
Ronald Sweetland	United States Navy	1943-46
Gerald Thiel	United States Navy	1945-46
Martin Wunkel	United States Navy	1945-46

with the Okemos High School class of 1947 and went on to work many years for the Lansing School District.

He and Ellenore celebrated 2 children and 36 years of marriage before William died 25 May 1983, Lansing. Ellenore, born 17 March 1920, Adrian, Lenawee County, Michigan, died 30 January 2003, Lansing. William and Ellenore were interred Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan.

Okemos Class Night Program Is Unusual

(Special to The State Journal)

OKEMOS, May 26—Seven young men, who were entered in the United States armed forces before receiving their complete high school work, will receive diplomas Thursday evening at the annual commencement program of the Okemos high school. They have completed their courses since leaving the service, returning to school to do the work. Those completing are: Joseph Griffith, Russell Leach, William Leverett, Clarence Robinson, Ronald Sweetland and Martin Munckel. An unusual presentation of the

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WILLIAM P. LEVERETT

East Lansing

Age 65, died Wed., May 25, 1983 at a local hospital. Mr. Leverett was born Feb. 6, 1918 and was a lifelong resident of East Lansing. He was a veteran of W.W. II. He retired from the Lansing School District. He is survived by his wife, Elleore; 1 son; 1 daughter; 8 grandchildren; 3 sisters and 3 brothers. Funeral services will be held Fri., May 27 at 11 a.m. at the Palmer Bush Funeral Home with Elder James McKinley of the East Lansing seventh Day Adventist Church officiating. Interment will follow at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.