

Ellstrom, George O.

LT. ELLSTROM DIES IN ACTION

Dec 22 41
**First Bethlehemite Reported to
Have Lost Life in War
Against Japanese.**

Second Lieut. George Oliver Ellstrom, 26 years of age, a graduate of Lehigh University and former resident of Bethlehem, was killed in action in the Philippine Islands on December 8, according to a telegram received by his mother, Mrs. Victor E. Ellstrom, Sellersville R. D. 1, Sunday morning.

As far as is known now he is the first Bethlehemite and first Lehigh graduate reported to have lost his life in defense of his country in the present American-Japanese war.

The message brought to an end days of anxiety over his probable fate but the sorrow over the knowledge of his death was tempered with pride that it was in the service and defense of his country that he had gone "all out."

Last word received from him had arrived December 5 or 6, and in that letter he spoke of being "on patrol" and taking gunnery practice at Iba, site of Fort Stotenberg.

Lieut. Ellstrom was the son of Victor E. and Eva Roberts Ellstrom, who resided at Tenth Avenue and West Market Street until last year, when they moved to Sellersville R. D. 1. He was born July 23, 1915, in Evanston, Ill., and is survived by his parents, two brothers, Robert E. Ellstrom, East Liverpool, Ohio, and John R. Ellstrom, and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Marna Roberts, both of Sellersville R. D. 1.

He was graduated in 1933 from Bethlehem High School, where he was a member of the football and wrestling teams. He attended Pennsylvania State College for one year and Lehigh University for four years, graduating from the latter institution as a metallurgical engineer. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, of which his father and brothers are also members.

At Lehigh, Ellstrom was an outstanding member of the varsity football team and was captain of the golf team. He will be remembered for his final football game,

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when he crossed Lafayette's goal line untouched after a long run only to have the apparent touchdown nullified as he was ruled to have stepped out of bounds during his spectacular dash down the sidelines. But for that, Lehigh might have tied or defeated Lafayette that year, 1937, as the Easton eleven won the game by a 6 to 0 score.



Lieut. George O. Ellstrom

He was a member of Saucon Valley Country Club, and was one of the club's outstanding young golfers.

Upon graduation from college, he entered the employ of the Latrobe Electric Steel Company and was associated with that firm until he joined the Flying Cadets May 15, 1940. He was graduated from Kelly Field December 30, 1940, and was sent to the Philippine Islands with the Third Pursuit Squadron January 18 of this year. He had expected to receive his first lieutenancy in January.

No details of his death except that "he was killed in action in defense of his country" were received Sunday. The telegram read as follows:

"The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son, Second Lieutenant George Ellstrom, United States Army, was killed in action in defense of his country in the Philippine Islands December 8. Letter follows. Delay in reporting facts to you caused by communications difficulties."

(Signed) Adams.

December 22, 1941