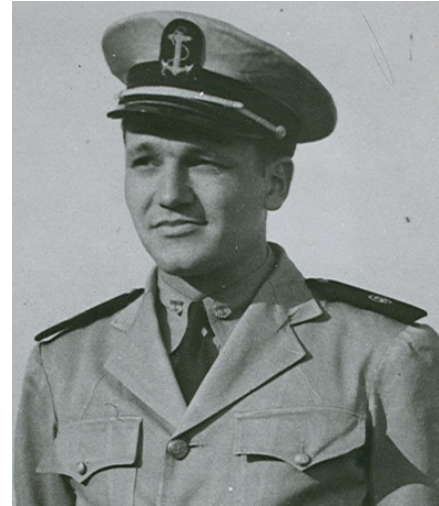


Keith William Treseder

Born: January 20, 1921
Hometown: Magna, UT
Class: 1944
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Third Mate
Date / Place of death: April 6, 1945 / Kerama Retto, Okinawa
Date / Place of burial: April 6, 1945 / Lost at Sea - Kerama Retto, Okinawa
Age: 24



Keith W. Treseder, a 1944 graduate of Kings Point signed on as Third Mate aboard the *SS Logan Victory* before it sailed from San Francisco, CA on February 18, 1945. Also on board were Cadet-Midshipmen William W. Lau (Engine) and John R. Hawken (Deck). Treseder had previously sailed as Junior Third Mate aboard the *SS Guatemala Victory* on a voyage to the South Pacific from September to December 1944. Cadet-Midshipman Treseder began his Sea Year aboard the *SS President Tyler* in February 1943. He subsequently served aboard the *SS Jane Adams* and then signed on as Deck Cadet aboard the *SS John G. Brady* on October 12, 1943 for the ship's maiden voyage to the South Pacific. He signed off in June 1944 to return to Kings Point and the completion of his training.

The *SS Logan Victory* sailed from San Francisco without escort to bases at Eniwetok and Ulithi delivering Army ammunition. From Ulithi the *Logan Victory* sailed in a convoy to Kerama Retto, the logistics base for the invasion of Okinawa. At 0100 on April 6, 1945, shortly after arriving at Kerama Retto the *Logan Victory* was ordered to shift to an explosives anchorage which had been established between Hokaji Shima and Koba Shima. At 0700 the *SS Logan Victory* anchored between the *SS Hobbs Victory* and the *SS Pierre Victory* in a triangular formation with the *Logan Victory* at the northern apex. The *Logan Victory's* crew and Armed Guard detachment had been at "battle stations" off and on since 0330.

According to eye-witness accounts and after action reports, an attack by approximately eight kamikaze aircraft began at 1640 with an attack by a single engine plane on the *SS Pierre Victory*. According to Cadet-Midshipman Hawken's report on the loss of the ship, the Master, Chief Mate and Second Mate were all on the bridge when the attacks began. It is unknown where Third Mate Keith Treseder was. Gun crews from the three

ships in the explosives anchorage, and other ships in the vicinity, began firing at the attacking planes. The Commanding Officer of the *Logan Victory's* Armed Guard unit claimed that the aircraft was destroyed by the *Logan Victory's* 5" gun. Immediately afterward (1645), a second kamikaze was sighted coming in from north end of Koba Shima. Although the kamikaze was seen to be hit numerous times by the *Logan Victory's* machine guns they failed to disable the airplane. The kamikaze struck the ship on the port side, just aft of the deckhouse, at 1647.

Gasoline and incendiaries aboard the kamikaze caused the *Logan Victory* to burst into fire. Spread by exploding ammunition, the fire was soon out of control. As a result, the ship was abandoned at 1657 in the one surviving lifeboat and several rafts. The ship sank at 1902, about 2 ½ hours after being hit. The survivors were picked up by the *USS Strategy (AM 308)*, *YMS 86* and other small naval craft.

Cadet-Midshipman William A. Lau, the ship's Engine Cadet recounted the attack in his report on the loss of the *SS Logan Victory*,

"The writer's watch was from four to eight in the engine room. About 1615, the Chief Engineer came down and told those in the engine room that a Japanese suicide plane had crashed into an LST. The guns of subject vessel were firing continuously. About 1645, a loud explosion aft of the deck house was heard. The writer was standing by the throttle. Flames and large pieces of white hot metal came tumbling down on top of the turbines. The lights went out immediately. The only light came from the flames.

The fireman was first up the ladder, then the Second Assistant Engineer shut off the throttle and the writer followed him up the ladder and came out on the main deck passageway on the port side. The entire after part of the deck house was a mass of flames so the writer ran through the passageway to the forward part of the house and up the ladder to the boat deck. On the ladder were all types of wood and debris that had been blown through the passageway. The writer was trying to get to his room but as the flames were coming down the passageway it was apparent that he could not, so he ran to the port side of the boat deck. Both lifeboats were on fire. The Second Mate was seen to jump over the side and many more were doing the same. The writer followed and was soon swimming faster than he ever had before. His first thoughts were that the ship would blow up any minute and to get away as far as possible.

Keith Treseder was one of twelve members of the *Logan Victory's* 56 man crew killed in the attack along with three members of the Naval Armed Guard and an Army Officer.

For his merchant marine service Keith W. Treseder was posthumously awarded the Mariners Medal, Combat bar with star, the Pacific War Zone Bar, the Victory Medal and the Presidential Testimonial Letter.

According to records of Utah Servicemen in World War II, and U.S. Census data, Keith W. Treseder was the second of William Q. Treseder and Julia Worthen Treseder's five sons. Keith's father was a Deputy U.S. Marshall. Ernest was Keith's older brother. His little brothers were Rex, Glen and Gordon. Keith entered the San Mateo Basic School on January 18, 1943 and graduated from Kings Point in 1944.