FREDERICK GARDINER BART BERGER
1907-1912

FREDERICK GARDINER BART BERGER was born in New Castle, Pa., on November 10th, 1895. He was the third son of George Bart Berger and Rebecca Gardiner. He entered St. Paul’s from Shadyside Academy, Pittsburgh, and went to the Lower School. When he first came he was a very shy, quiet boy, but as he had had two brothers at St. Paul’s ahead of him, the associations left by them made his life an easier one than often falls to the lot of a timid new boy, and it was not long before he was a perfectly happy member of the School. He became popular at once because of his perfectly straightforward, simple, sincere character. He was very fond of athletics, and became prominent in football, hockey and track athletics. It was in the last sport that he showed exceptional ability. He seemed to be like the best of the English runners, good at all distances, but though he was a sprinter of more than average ability, it was in the middle distances that he excelled. Owing to the fact that he left the School before finishing his course, his running was never fully developed, but his name still stands as the holder of the record in the Junior half-mile run, the longest run that the younger boys are allowed to enter. This record he made at Anniversary, in 1909. In his sports he showed the best qualities that the School system of athletics develops; thorough enjoyment of the contest, but always a seriousness, a courtesy, and a self-control and balance that made him as pleasant to compete with as to watch.

He left St. Paul’s in his Fifth Form year, and finished his preparation for Yale at Hazstrom’s School in Norwalk, Conn. He entered the class of 1917 at Yale, Academic, and the following year transferred to the Sheffield Scientific School. In the middle of his Senior year he volunteered for service in the New York Naval Militia, shortly after the United States entered the war, and on April 16, 1917, his unit became a part of, and he was enrolled in, the Aerial Section of the National Naval Volunteers, as aero-mechanic abroad the U. S. S. Granite State. After a course of instruction and training he was discharged as chief mechanic, and was enrolled in the Naval Reserve with the rank of Ensign, designated as Naval Aviator for duty involving flying in aircraft, including dirigibles, balloons and airplanes.

He then acted as instructor of flying in Naval Seaplane and Flying Boats at Key West, Miami, and Pensacola, and on July 27th, 1918, was ordered to Paris for duty with the U. S. Naval Aviation Forces in France. He was stationed at Paullac and at Montich, Gironde, where he was trained.
for night bombing, and the delivery of air and sea planes by flying them to their destination. At these stations he made and held the record for the endurance test in sustained flight.

On October 8th, 1918, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant (J. G.) Naval Reserve Flying Corps, Class 5, G. S. When President Wilson first sailed for France on the U. S. S. George Washington, the duty of greeting him at sea was assigned to Lieutenant Berger, who was the first American to meet him. He then escorted the President's ship into Brest.

Lieut. Berger returned to the United States in February 1919, and was first stationed at Bay Shore, Long Island. He was then transferred to the Naval Air Station at Cape May, N. J. Here he was second in command and supervised and instructed in a series of "submarine spotting" manoeuvres. It was while acting as observer and completing these manoeuvres that his flying boat fell, and he met his death on April 20th, 1919.