



PHILIP OVERTON MILLS

1896-1901

PHILIP OVERTON MILLS was born at Fortress Monroe, Va., on December 10th, 1882. His father was an officer in the regular army and he grew up in the atmosphere of the service.

He entered St. Paul's School in 1896, following his two elder brothers who had entered the School several years before. One of Phil Mills' chief characteristics was his abounding vitality and vigor. He was the embodiment of health and spirit, possessed of a keen sense of humor, which it was difficult for him always to restrain in the schoolroom, or in class, and he won the affection of all his masters and fellow students by his high spirits, his amiability and his sunny humor. He was one of St. Paul's

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preëminent athletes, the best football player of his day, a member of the Isthmian track and hockey teams, a member of the Shattuck Crew in 1901 and a member of the School Crew and School Teams in football and hockey. He was honored by election to various School positions and served as Field Marshal of the Athletic Association in 1901 and in the same year he received the Gordon Medal as all-round athlete. He was a splendid sportsman.

At Harvard he rowed on his Freshman crew and was a member of the Varsity football teams of 1904 and 1905, and many of us can remember a Yale-Harvard game in which Yale was plainly Harvard's superior, but in which Phil Mills' dashing spirit was maintained to the end, and he was the only consistent ground gainer for Harvard in the final periods of the game. His popularity at college was as great as it was at School.

With the traditions which he inherited and with his own mental and physical makeup, it was inevitable that he should take part in the World War almost from the start. Early in 1915 he joined the Norton Harjes Ambulance Service and served on the French front at Verdun during 1915 and 1916. He returned to this country and took his training for the Army at Plattsburg, later obtaining his commission as captain in the Three Hundred and Eighth Infantry, 77th Division. He went abroad with this division in April, 1918, and served in Flanders the early part of 1918. The 77th Division was attached to the British Second Line support. He served in the Baccarat Sector front line during June and July, 1918. After an active period on the front he was sent back to training quarters at Baccarat, and it was there, on July 25th, 1918, that he was killed by the premature explosion of a rifle grenade.