



WHITNEY WALDO BANGS

1943

Whitney Bangs spent five years at St. Paul's. He was a quiet and pleasant boy, imperturbable, genuine, very friendly, a steady worker, with much more influence than he ever knew. He took part in numerous school activities and was a particularly effective stage manager of the Dramatic Club.

One month after his graduation from the School, he was inducted into the Army, and after basic training was assigned to A.S.T.P. at the University of Florida. When A.S.T.P. was discontinued, he was transferred to the Infantry. He went overseas in August, 1944, in Company B, 1st Battalion, 301st Infantry, 94th Division. In November, he was wounded, but he returned to his unit after a short period in a hospital.

In February, 1945, Whitney Bangs was reported missing in action since January 21. Later he was reported a prisoner of war, and still later to have died in Germany March 5, 1945. After the war, one of his form-mates wrote:

"Here is an account of Whitney Bangs' capture and I believe it to be quite accurate. 'Our battalion (1st Bn., 301st Inf., 94th Div.) in early January relieved units of the 90th Div. thus freeing them to be sent north into the center of the Bulge. Our area was in the vicinity of the German-held town of Orscholz in the Saar-Moselle triangle, i.e., the area to the west of the junction of the Saar-Moselle rivers. On the evening of January 19, our battalion (of which Whitney was a member) received orders to take the town and the surrounding high

ground. . . . B Co., Whitney's outfit, and a portion of A Co., acting as a Commando group, were to take the pill-boxes before the town in order that the remainder of the battalion could enter by the rear. This commando group were to have completed their job before daylight so that the main attack could also begin under cover of darkness. The Germans, however, sensing the plan, abandoned the pill-boxes and allowed the commando group to come to the edge of the town itself. The enemy then re-entered the pill-boxes, surrounded the force and exposed them to a horrible concentration of point-blank fire which our men withstood for almost three days before the remnants gave up. My part of the battalion, the main force, undertook three attacks to the relief of the commando group, but each attempt was beaten off with terrible loss, until we were forced to retire. Our opponents, erroneously believed to be German home guard, were in actuality the 11th Panzer or "Ghost" division with a battle history a mile long. . . . As we retired, our entire battalion numbered just under 160 men. . . ."

Whitney Bangs was the only brother of Francis Nathan Bangs, Jr., '40, who died in his country's service in Belgium, December 18, 1944.