STOCKTON RUSH BARTOL

1944

Co-pilot of a Liberator bomber, Stockton Rush Bartol, at the age of twenty-one, had, in five months, completed twenty-five missions over Europe. Then he volunteered for three more. He was killed in action over Hamburg on his twenty-sixth mission.

He enlisted in the Air Force in March, 1942, during his Freshman year at Princeton, was inducted the following August and commissioned Second Lieutenant in May, 1943. That September he went to England assigned to the 44th Bombardment Group.

In March, he took advantage of some “bad weather” to send some “news,” news not about himself, but about friends and formmates of his:

“Bigelow Watts is instructing flying somewhere in the States, as is Francis Bohlen, who is a Lt. (j.g.) in the Naval Air Corps. Francis Coleman is in some highly combative unit of assault troops and writes that he expects to see action soon. Billy Bohlen, who was in the Naval Reserve training unit at Princeton, is either about to or just has received his commission. Don Dodge is still at Camp Hale, Colo., with the ski troops and is now a S/Sgt. . . . I just received a letter from Louis Russell who just arrived in Bougainville in the Southwest Pacific. He is flying pursuits and was the first member of his group to shoot down a Jap plane, a Zero. He too is now a 1st Lieutenant, in the Marine Air Corps. . . .”

1Louis Russell was killed in action five days after this letter was written, and Bartol himself in less than a month.