



ROGER DERBY BLACK, JR.

1926

Roger Black entered St. Paul's in 1921. In his Sixth Form year, he rowed No. 6 in the Halcyon crew and he was a Supervisor in Twenty House. After graduating in 1926, he worked in a bank in New York, joined Squadron A and through its competitive examinations won an appointment to West Point.

Black was the son, grandson and great-grandson of Army officers and his own tragically short record was to be a brilliant one. He was one of the three battalion commanders in his first class year and he won a Rhodes Scholarship. The next three years he studied Physics at Magdalen College, Oxford. He also rowed on his college crew and won his "blue" in ice hockey. In 1935, his last year in England, he married Ruth Tovey. They had two children, Wilson Murray Black and Susanna Derby Black.

Returning to the United States, Black was stationed for a year at Madison Barracks, New York, with the 5th Field Artillery. He was then sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for a year at the Field Artillery School, and in 1937 to Paris to study at the Sorbonne. Appointed Instructor at West Point, he taught French for two years and then joined the Department of Chemistry and Electricity.

In April, 1942, Black was assigned to the Military Intelligence Division of the General Staff. He became Chief of the British Isles Branch, and was made a Lieutenant Colonel, at thirty-four.

On November 14, 1942, in Washington, while riding a bicycle home from his office, he was struck by an automobile and instantly killed.