



GILMAN DORR BLAKE, JR.

1941

If one adds together all the first Delphian and S.P.S. football, hockey, baseball and track teams of which Gilman Blake was a member, one reaches the astonishing total of twenty-four. He won his S.P.S. letter ten times. He was captain of many of these teams and a vital force on all of them. His time of 26 seconds in the senior 220-yards low hurdles in the meet against Concord High School in 1940 is the School's record for that event. In the Anniversary track meet of 1941, which the Delphians lost by a narrow margin, Blake and his younger brother Richard between them scored 34 of their team's 67 points. Blake was President of the Athletic Association, and he was awarded the Franchot Medal and the Gordon Medal.

Strenuously as he played them, sports by no means absorbed all of his strength or interest. He was an occasional contributor to the *Horae*, secretary of the Missionary Society, a member of the Concordian. He was three times elected to the Council and he was an unusually effective supervisor. His vitality, his warmth of heart and his interest in others caused him to have a great and useful influence throughout the School.

In February, 1943, after completing his Sophomore year at Yale, Blake enlisted in the Air Corps. Commissioned Second Lieutenant May 24, 1944, he was assigned to a Bomber School. Then, after three months' final training at Boise, Idaho, he and his friend J. C. Hoagland, '41, went overseas, both co-pilots in the same squadron. On January 14, Hoagland and Blake managed to get a pass to go and see Richard Blake, whose infantry outfit was then in England, and to-

gether the three went to London for an evening. Less than a week later, Gilman Blake was killed in line of duty. During a routine practice flight over England, his plane was badly damaged in a storm. He bailed out, and his parachute failed to open.

Blake had been married the previous May, just after receiving his commission, to Wynanda Bulkley. Their son, Gilman Dorr Blake, 3rd, was born July 14, 1945, six months after his father's death.

A simple memorial stone has been erected on the spot where Blake fell, on the property of Mr. Arthur East, "Highbarns" Saw Mill, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.