



SIDNEY FREDERICK TYLER BROCK, JR.

1930

When Sidney Brock was a boy, the football coaches wrote of him in the *Horae* that he played, "so intensely that while in a game he was inclined to forget all that had been told him." He won his S.P.S., nonetheless, and throughout his life, overcoming difficulties and disappointments, gained coolness and self-control without losing the physical energy of his boyhood.

A serious illness forced him to withdraw from St. Paul's in April of his Sixth Form year and he had no sooner recovered than his father's death necessitated his going immediately to work, though he was a good scholar and wanted very much to go to college. He worked at first in a construction company in Philadelphia, and later, for six years, as salesman for an oil company.

In 1941, eight months before Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Army. He served six months in Panama, then was sent to Fort Benning and commissioned Second Lieutenant. In 1943 he was married to Sophia Morris.

Brock then volunteered for the Paratroops. After training, and taking the Officers' Communications Course at Fort Benning, he joined the 503rd Parachute Regiment in New Guinea in March, 1944.

He took part in the invasions of Numfor, Mindoro, Corregidor and Negros. He was injured on Corregidor, where there were many casualties due to the high wind in which the landing had to be made. On Negros he was wounded in April and he had been discharged from the hospital only ten days before he was killed in action. The

circumstances of his death are described in the citation which accompanied the posthumous award of the Silver Star.

"On May 11, 1945, First Lieutenant Brock's company was in a defensive position on the right flank of the regimental sector. A patrol was sent out to find a trail to the enemy positions in the mountains to the south. As the patrol approached a shelled, partially cleared area, it was fired upon by a machine gun and a rifle. One man was wounded and was believed to be lying in some dense undergrowth on the edge of the cleared area. The remainder of the patrol reached safety and reorganized.

"Immediately upon hearing that one wounded man was still under enemy fire, Lieutenant Brock ran to the exposed position to aid the casualty. Even though he was fired at several times as he approached the enemy positions, he never hesitated until he reached the place where the man had been wounded. . . . He was last seen alive as he crossed an enemy fire lane."