



THOMAS HITCHCOCK CLARK

1940

At the age of nineteen, Thomas Hitchcock Clark left Harvard, after a year and a half there, to join the U.S.A.A.F. Turned down because he failed the eye test, he applied through the Clayton Knight Committee in New York for enlistment in the R.A.F. and was accepted in May, 1942. In Oklahoma, he joined a group of R.A.F. trainees who had three months' head start of him, caught up and passed with distinction, first in night flying. Having received his wings and a rating of Flight Sergeant, he arrived in England early in 1943.

After final training in Scotland, he was posted in February, 1944, to a Spitfire Squadron, the 132nd. He flew but one combat mission. On March 30, 1944, his Squadron was flying low over France, engaged in strafing, and Clark's plane developed engine trouble; he turned and headed for England. He was killed near the village of Evreux, where his plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

Clark spent five years at St. Paul's. Younger than the average of his Form, he graduated at seventeen. In his Sixth Form year he played guard on the Delphian football team, which won the championship. At Long Pond, though never on a first crew, he was a faithful and effective member of the Halcyon Boat Club. At seventeen, he already possessed quiet and cheerful determination.