



FLETCHER LADD GILL, JR.

1943

Fletcher Gill was an alumnus of two boarding schools. He spent one year at St. Paul's and three at Brooks, where he graduated in 1942, a year ahead of the Form he had been in at St. Paul's. Shortly after Gill's death, Brooks School paid tribute to him in a memorial service at which Mr. Ashburn said:

"Those who knew Fletcher Gill would agree, I think, that he would want no elaborate eulogy and no flowery praise. He was essentially a modest, quiet person, somewhat shy. . . . He loved his duty as it came to him and died doing it. . . . From the beginning he loved to fly and found genuine happiness in his work. . . . He learned the hard way, entering the ranks and working his way up steadily through them until he became a sergeant. . . . We saw him last at school when his training was nearly done and were struck by his satisfaction in his work, his soldierly bearing, full of dignity and confidence."

Fletcher Gill was engineer and co-pilot of a B-25, in the VIII Bomber Command. He had entered the Army in January, 1943, from Williams College, had been assigned to the Air Corps and after a year of training in this country had been ordered with his crew to the Pacific. On March 15, 1944, in an accident that occurred during operational formation flying near Pokia Bay, in the Hawaiian Islands, Gill's plane crashed into the sea, and all the members of the crew were killed.