EDWARD McGUIRE GORDON
1934

McGuire Gordon came to St. Paul's from Savannah, at the age of twelve, to enter the First Form in 1928. At that time an eager, happy, enthusiastic little boy, he quickly made his way in the School, of which as he grew older he became a most intelligent and respected citizen. In his Sixth Form year he played on the Delphian hockey team, was an editor of the Horae, secretary of the Cadetian Literary Society, a member of the Council and a Supervisor. He was graduated cum laude in 1934.

Graduated from Yale in 1938, Gordon went to New York, where he worked two years in the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company. He also studied at the New York University School of Commerce and Finance, from which he was graduated in 1939. Much of his spare time during these two years Gordon devoted to work for St. George's Church, at Rainsford House, of which he was the first head. Dr. McKee, the Rector, writes that Gordon “embodied its spirit in a very wonderful way” and that “it will always be a living memorial to his friendliness, earnestness and vision.”

Returning to Savannah, Gordon was associated in business there with A. Minis and Company, investment counsellors, until, in September, 1940, he was ordered to active duty in the Naval Reserve, in which he had been commissioned Ensign on graduation from college. He served as Executive Officer of the Naval Recruiting Office in Savannah until March, 1941. Then, for over a year, he was Executive Officer of the Inshore Patrol Section Base at South Jacksonville, Florida. In May, 1942, he went to the Southwest Pacific as Gunnery Officer, U.S.S. Marcaite [a converted yacht]. From U.S.S. Marcaite he was reassigned to U.S.S. Hilo, of which latter ship, a PT-boat tender, he was Executive Officer for over a year, October, 1942 to November, 1943.

After nineteen months' continuous sea duty, during which he participated in the New Guinea and Papuan campaigns, Gordon had a two months' leave. He felt ill, and was checked by the doctors at the naval hospital in Washington, and also on the West Coast. No definite illness was discovered, and he returned to duty.

He had been promoted Lieutenant Commander and assigned as Executive Officer of U.S.S. Wachapreague, another PT-boat tender, but larger and more heavily armed than the Hilo. After six months of duty in Seattle connected with the construction and commissioning of the Wachapreague, Gordon sailed again for the Southwest Pacific on July 6, 1944. About two weeks later, he was taken ill. The doctors were baffled by his malady; it may have been some obscure tropical infection that began on his first tour of sea duty. The ship broke radio silence to call for insulin; but nothing could be done, and he died aboard ship, August 18, 1944.