



CHARLES DUNCAN LEVERICH HARRISON

1937

Charles Harrison entered the Second Form in 1932 and graduated in 1937. An excellent gymnast, he won the Jefferys Medal three years in succession. He was much liked at the School for his gentle charm of manner, his kindness and his thoughtfulness.

He enlisted in September, 1940, in the 207th Coast Artillery, the old New York 7th Regiment, and transferred to the Army Air Forces a year later. In October, 1942, during his training, he married Martha S. Stearns of Montgomery, Alabama. Commissioned Second Lieutenant in January, 1943, he served four months in the Caribbean with a patrol squadron based at Trinidad. He went to England in February, 1944, a B-24 pilot in the 788th Bomb. Squadron, 467th Bomb. Group.

On May 8, 1944, returning from his ninth mission, his Liberator was seen from other planes in the American formation to be under attack by eight ME-109's, and it soon disappeared in the clouds, losing speed and altitude rapidly, but still under control. Four of the ten men in the crew survived and from them it was later learned that Harrison had ordered the crew to bail out after three of his engines had been shot out. "Despite the critical situation and repeated attacks from the enemy in the air," states his posthumous citation for the Distinguished Flying Cross, "this officer elected to remain at the controls in order that his comrades might safely abandon the aircraft." The plane exploded in mid-air and crashed near the village of Hoxter, about thirty miles north of Kassel. Harrison and five of the crew were killed.