



THOMAS ADDISON LANAHAN

1943

Tim Lanahan entered the Second Form in 1938. He was two years on the Delphian football team and three years on the Delphian track and baseball teams. He won the mile at Anniversary in 1943. He received his S.P.S. in both baseball and track. He won the Keep Prize in English History and was twice awarded St. Paul's Honor Scholarships. As a Fifth Former he was three times elected to the Council. He was President of the Sixth Form, and he graduated *summa cum laude*. "Indefatigable in attention to his duties," said the Rector on Last Night when awarding the President's Medal, "intelligent and firm in his leadership of the Council, as the chief representative of student opinion, clear-headed, and, as a moulder of that opinion, mature and skilful, he quietly and amply met the responsibilities of an arduous office."

That office was naturally more arduous in 1943 than ever before, for not only were the ranks of the masters and of the Sixth Form depleted by the war, but manpower shortages in other departments of the School necessitated extension of the boys' indoor and outdoor work programs for all of which Lanahan assumed a very large share of responsibility in addition to his normal duties as President. That he should have done all this work successfully, at the same time maintaining a very high academic standing, amid all the personal excitements and uncertainties of a boy about to be drafted for the Army, with two elder brothers already in combat, testifies to high qualities of mind and heart.

After graduating, Lanahan, in order not to be turned down by

his draft board, had an operation for a varicose vein. He was then inducted, received his basic training at Fort Benning, and was sent to Virginia Military Academy in the A.S.T.P. Three weeks later the program was discontinued and he went to Indiantown Gap as a private in a rifle company of the 378th Infantry. He went overseas in August, 1944, with the 95th Division, which was first attached to the Ninth Army and later transferred to the Third Army. In November he wrote home from France:

"As you have probably guessed, we are in action. . . . The holy terror of our outfit is being assigned to outpost duty . . . a twenty-four hour stretch in mud holes near the enemy lines. We go out after it gets dark, sit in the mud all night on the alert and stay in one spot all day because movement is apt to attract enemy mortar fire. It's very chilly here, about equal to December in Maryland. (*Two weeks later*) We got to Metz as the mopping up was proceeding. . . . Strange to say, life has been a little more comfortable since the 'push' started than when we were holding the line. We've been able to get indoors in some of these captured towns. The couple of days and nights that I spent in pillboxes taken from the Germans were comparative Heaven."

After Metz, he went on to Saarlautern. On December 2, 1944, his platoon attacked the town of New Forweiler, and there, a year and a half after the Memorial Day exercises when as President of the Sixth Form he had stood on the Library steps to read the Gettysburg Address, Tim Lanahan, at the age of nineteen, himself gave the last full measure of devotion.