



JOHN GEORGE MILBURN

1936

At St. Paul's, Jack Milburn played football and hockey, rowed two years on the Shattuck crew and also won his S.P.S. twice in rowing. He wrote for the *Horae*, was on the Cadmean debating team, and in his Sixth Form year was three times elected to the School Council. At Oxford he rowed on the Isis Crew and was President of the Lincoln College Boat Club.

Milburn joined the U.S.A.A.F. more than a year before Pearl Harbor, and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in July, 1941. During his training he was married to Miss Ruth Harris of Albany, Virginia.

After instructing for a short time at Maxwell Field, he was assigned as pilot to the 153rd Observation Squadron, which was engaged in anti-submarine patrol off the Atlantic Coast. Then he had a tour of duty in Louisiana and Mississippi, was promoted First Lieutenant and joined another Observation Squadron, the 23rd, based at Polk Field, North Carolina.

On December 2, 1942, Milburn was flying an A-20 in a severe storm. His radio had been rendered useless and his gasoline was running low. Seeing that disaster was imminent, he ordered the two men seated behind him to bail out. Though his interphone was not working, he next succeeded in communicating with the man in the nose of the plane, who, like the first two, made a successful parachute landing. Shortly thereafter the plane crashed near Waterford, Virginia, and Milburn, whose presence of mind, devotion to duty and disregard of his own danger had saved three lives, was killed.