

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

Lieutenant Preston threw a hand grenade through the window of the house from which more of the enemy were firing, silencing the fire and capturing a German who ran out of the house after single-handedly overpowering him in hand to hand struggle."

On May 18, back at Anzio, he wrote in his last letter home: "I went back to duty on the 15th. . . . This place is a madhouse now. New faces, new jobs, new work and new ideas. I have been given an important and exciting assignment. There is some chance that it will work out well. There is not much I can say. Don't worry about me."

The drive from Anzio that took Rome June 4 began May 23. On June 1, at 11 P.M., Morgan Preston left his command post near Valmontone in charge of a battle patrol of thirteen men whose objective was a cross-roads in enemy territory east of Palestrina. At 3:30 on the morning of June 2, the greater part of its mission accomplished, the patrol emerged from a lightly wooded area it had been traversing into a large clearing, planted with wheat, then already high.

"It was awful dark that night," one of the enlisted men wrote later, "we were out on a patrol into Jerries' territory. We walked into an ambush that took us by surprise more or less. The Lt. was a very brave and calm man. He was leading the column ahead of his scouts. The Lt. was well liked in the patrol. He was just another one of the fellows."

The ambush in the wheat field consisted of about sixty German riflemen supported by three tanks and three machine-guns. The patrol attempted to get by unnoticed, but the Germans began to fire. Preston was heard to give the order "Open up" and immediately afterwards a burst of machine-gun fire was seen to strike near where he had been heard. There is no question now but what he was killed then, instantly. The sergeant took command, and, as he said afterwards, the patrol "decided to shoot it out." The field was lit up as bright as day by flares, and there would have been no chance of escape, had not two men, each later awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously, got up and attacked the German detachment with Tommy guns, inflicting a score of casualties and causing such confusion at the cost of their own lives, that the sergeant could withdraw what was left of the patrol.

Rome fell two days later, but it was three weeks before Preston's body was found, so bitter had been the fighting in this area and so numerous were the German mine-fields.



JONATHAN STONE RAYMOND, JR.

1936

Jock Raymond spent five years at St. Paul's. He played football and hockey, took a lively interest in many other school activities, was a Supervisor in his Sixth Form year, had many friends and was greatly respected. His recommendation for college described him as "a boy of quiet influence, high intelligence and sound principles." He graduated *magna cum laude* in 1936. Eight years afterwards, when he was reported missing in action, his Commanding Officer wrote of him that he had been "a courageous leader, an efficient naval officer and a gentleman in every sense of the word."

Commissioned Ensign in June, 1940, on graduation from Yale, where he had taken the R.O.T.C. Naval Science course, Raymond was on active duty in the Navy more than a year before Pearl Harbor, as Gunnery Officer of U.S.S. *Lea* (DD-118). The *Lea* was in the first convoy to Iceland, continued in the North Atlantic for almost a year and was then assigned to convoy duty in the Caribbean. Raymond was appointed Lieutenant (j.g.) in April, 1942, and Lieutenant the following October. In August, 1943, he went to the South Pacific with Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Twenty.

The Squadron was assigned to patrol duty in the Solomon Islands Area to prevent the enemy from reinforcing and supplying garrisons. Raymond was Executive Officer, painstaking in regard to his records, reports and other data, all of which were found in perfect order when it became necessary to select his successor. He was twice cited, the second time posthumously, for heroic achievement as Boat Captain

and Section Leader in action against superior forces: on the night of 26 Feb., '44 and on the night of 5 May, '44.

The second of these actions occurred at about 11 P.M., two miles north of Rantan Island, just off Bougainville. Raymond's boat, leading the section he was commanding, opened fire on two Japanese barges, and was in turn attacked, from another direction, by two more barges, very heavily armed, that had apparently been lying in wait. At the same time, two or more enemy shore batteries on Bougainville opened fire. While the other two PT boats of the section were coming up, Raymond's boat sustained a direct hit at or near the gasoline tank and burst into flames. The inevitable explosion was delayed, it is believed approximately two minutes, by the engineer's pulling the lever that released the fire extinguishing equipment. Raymond gave the order "Abandon ship." Another shell struck the mast, which fell, critically wounding the boat's executive officer, who later died, after being rescued from the sea. All hands had gone over the side on receiving Raymond's order; none saw him leave the boat. He was last seen walking aft, apparently uninjured, to a point abaft amidships.

The boat then exploded, and disappeared completely. It had drifted far enough so that the men in the water were not injured by the concussion. Flaming gasoline was spread on the surrounding water. The other two boats of the section drove off the second pair of Japanese barges (the first pair had either sunk or fled), in an action lasting fifteen minutes, then returned and picked up all the officers and men of Raymond's boat, except Raymond. An area of two square miles was searched that night for three hours by four PT boats, the two of Raymond's section and two from another squadron. At dawn next day the search was resumed by a flying boat under fighter escort. No sign of Raymond was found either in the water or on the beaches near the scene of the action.