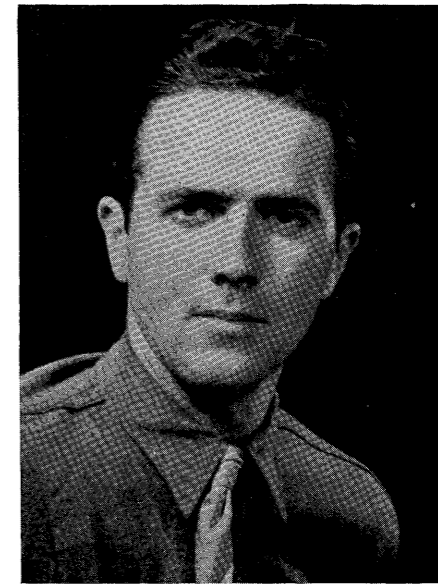


He was married in 1936 to Elizabeth Swift McMillan. They had two children, Frank Wilks Brooks, 4th, and Frederika Swift Brooks.

When, as a result of world conditions, the export business began to deteriorate, Brooks, who had held a private pilot's license since he was eighteen, joined George Arents, his friend and distant cousin, as manager of the latter's private airport at Armonk, N. Y. Both men were in the Naval Reserve. In December, 1941, they gave up the airport and were commissioned Ensigns. Brooks took a three months' course at Pensacola, was promoted Lieutenant (j.g.) and assigned to the Navy Ferry Command.

On Sunday morning, May 2, 1943, orders came to the Floyd Bennett Field to deliver a Navy Scout Bomber to Jacksonville, and the duty was assigned to Brooks. He obtained permission to stop at the Washington Airport for thirty minutes to see his mother, whom he had not seen for over a year. After telephoning her that he was coming, he took off and almost immediately afterwards was observed to be in trouble. He attempted to return to the field for an emergency landing; but his altitude was not sufficient and he crashed in the meadow adjacent to the station.



GUY REMINGTON

1933

Leaving St. Paul's in 1929, Guy de Zerman, who afterwards changed his name to Guy Remington, studied first at the Gunnery School and then at the Valley Ranch School in Wyoming, from which he graduated. He worked in a lumber camp and later on a horse ranch out West, returned to New York, wrote a novel and then tried his hand at various occupations, including journalism.

In 1941, he was twenty-nine years old and had been working three years for the advertising firm of Young and Rubicam in New York. He tried to get into the Paratroops, but was refused because he was too tall, 6 feet 4 inches, and because he had a slight defect in one eye. He also tried to get into the Marine Corps, without success. Finally he was accepted by the Army and after a year's training he went overseas with the 26th Field Artillery Battalion in time to take part in the North African invasion. At Kasserine Pass he "demonstrated outstanding ability to command in actual combat," and was accordingly recommended for appointment to a Second Lieutenancy. Before he got his commission, he had been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in Sicily: he was cited for carrying a telephone and wire to a highly exposed point of observation, where he stayed for two days under severe artillery fire.

After the Sicilian campaign, Remington was sent to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion. More paratroops were urgently needed. Remington volunteered and this time he was accepted. The training had to be carried on at night, on account of the Luftwaffe, and it had to be completed in about a quarter of the time previously

considered necessary. On the night of June 5, 1944, at seven minutes after midnight, Remington landed in Normandy with the 1st Battalion of the 501st Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. He came down through machine-gun fire that tore his canopy and made seven bullet holes in his uniform; he was unhurt, but he had a "bad drop," landing in a small garden at the back of a German barracks. He threw a hand grenade, scaled the garden wall, escaped in the dark along a canal, and rejoined his unit, which fought eight days behind the German lines until it was relieved by our seaborne troops.

After that, Remington returned to his Field Artillery battalion. In the Cherbourg campaign and in the drive across France and Belgium, he served as a forward observer, until October 13, 1944, when he was killed in action near Aachen. His commanding officer wrote afterwards: "He was with a forward platoon of infantry when it was surrounded by a surprise attack of the enemy. He and his party were immediately under fire. He ordered his men to withdraw, while he, without regard for his own danger, tried to recover his radio, to prevent it from falling into enemy hands and thereby compromising the entire radio net of his battalion. Although he could not reach the radio, he was successful in destroying it by firing into it with his pistol. In so doing, he lost his life. Words cannot express what his loss has meant, but his memory will always be an inspiration to the men and officers of this battalion."

Note: Passages from letters of Guy Remington are printed on pages 12-13 and 18-20 of this book. The first describes the landing of airborne troops in Normandy and the second his entry into newly-liberated Paris.