

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

On his first mission, February 26, 1943, the B-24 in which he was flying was shot down by German fighter planes and flak over Oldenburg, on the way to the target, Wilhelmshaven. Two members of the crew survived. Bob Post and the eight others were killed.

He was thirty-one years old. Less than fifteen years had passed since, at seventeen, he had written in his Last Night poem:

"It matters not if beauty passes swift,
So it be beauty. If our lives but gleam
In beauty, let them die, as dies the soft,
Sweet touch of light along the chapel stalls.

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"The night is here by now. Black. Youth must end,
As life must end. Why grieve that youth is gone?
Here we have seen across the moonlit pond
The pines move wildly 'gainst the cloud-crossed sky
And caught the surging, glad, soul-smiting thrill
That comes when man first feels the loveliness
Of the whole world. We may have seen
One of us face injustice and go down
Before it, whining not, but laughing in its face.
Such things as these are given—a heritage:
And they can never pass. Deep in our hearts
They lie forever ours. . . ."



GRANT BARNEY SCHLEY, II

1927

Grant Barney Schley spent four years at St. Paul's, graduating in 1927. In his Sixth Form year, he played on the Delphian football team and was a Supervisor. He left Yale after one term to go into aviation. In California, he started an airline, between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. During the summer of 1933, he operated the Airport at Westport, on Lake Champlain. In 1935, he took a course in blind flying at the Boeing School at Oakland, California. Meanwhile, in Arizona, Schley owned and ran two cattle ranches thirty-five miles apart, with a summer range that took in part of "Bill Williams" Mountain and had an average elevation of 7,000 feet. In 1941, wishing to be nearer a school for his children, he moved to a small ranch in the Santa Ynez valley in California, where he was barely settled when the United States entered the war.

Schley joined the Air Transport Command soon after Pearl Harbor, at first as a civilian pilot. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in July, 1942, and promoted First Lieutenant the following December. He served as pilot in the Ferrying Division of the Air Transport Command, based on the Army Air Field at Long Beach, California, until April 28, 1943, when he was killed near Exeter, California, in the crash of a plane which he was to have ferried to the South Pacific the following day.

Schley was married in 1933 to Viola Tuckerman, and they had four sons, Bryant Turner, Wolcott Tuckerman, Grant Barney, Jr., and Kenneth Challoner Schley. Bryant Turner Schley is now in the Fourth Form at the School.