

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

On May 28, 1945, his course at Hutchinson nearly completed, Sefton was taking part in a night training flight. Visibility was poor. A dozen planes were already in the traffic pattern, when Sefton's B-24 and another, having just taken off, were making their initial turns at the up-wind end of the field. They failed to establish a proper interval between them and collided in mid air. Every man in both crews was instantly killed.

The fact that Sefton was undoubtedly chosen for the course at Hutchinson on account of his good record on active service in the Pacific, heightens the tragedy of his death at twenty-three.



ALBERT LAWRENCE SMITH

1940

Albert Smith entered the First Form in 1934. While still a Fourth Former he played on the Old Hundred football team and won the hammer throw at Anniversary. The following year he won his S.P.S. in football and was elected Old Hundred captain. He had a good mind, great courage and unusual vitality. For three summers he worked on ranches in Wyoming. He loved the West and he loved horses. In his Fifth Form year he left St. Paul's, and went to a school out West. He was admitted to the University of Arizona in the autumn of 1939. Planning to go into ranching, he majored in animal husbandry. He was on the University polo, football and hockey teams. In his spare time, he also worked on ranches, broke horses, and at rodeos took part, with great success, in calf-roping contests. Somehow, he managed to find time to take up acting, at the Tucson Little Theatre, where he starred in "Mr. Jordan." Few people lived life with such zest. At one time he received an offer from the movies, but turned it down, because by then the war had begun.

At the outbreak of war, Smith tried to join the Marines and then the Army Commandos, but was refused by both because of a shoulder operation he had had the year before. He was finally accepted by the Air Corps, but was not called up immediately. Commissioned Second Lieutenant in May, 1944, he remained at Childress Field as Bombar-dier Instructor until November. Then he went to Davis-Monthan Field for B-29 training. On June 11, 1945 he went overseas. He served on Saipan in the 877th Bomb. Squadron, 499th Bomb. Group, 2nd Air Force.

On July 19, 1945, Smith flew his only combat mission, an incendiary raid on Hitachi, seventy miles from Tokyo. Six hundred B-29's participated, flying from Tinian, Guam and other bases, as well as from Saipan, in complete darkness, without visual or radio contact, and not in formation. Reconnaissance photographs showed the raid to have been a complete success. The plane of which Smith was bombardier is believed to have reached and bombed its target, and to have crashed on its return trip.

In 1944, shortly after receiving his commission, Albert Smith had married Geraldine Ward. Their son, Michael Harrison Smith, was born August 21, 1945, a month after his father's death.