

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

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.



CHARLES LEIDY SNOWDON, III

1940

Charles Leidy Snowdon, III, entered the Fourth Form in 1937 and graduated in 1940. In the spring of 1942, after two years at Wesleyan University, he enlisted as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Forces. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant at Columbus Army Air Field, on October 1, 1943. He then went to Hendricks Field, for transition to four engine bombers as pilot, and to Avon Park Bomb Range for assignment of his crew.

Snowdon and his crew went overseas in March, 1944, assigned to the Eighth Air Force in England, 336th Bombardment Squadron, 95th Bombardment Group. They named their Fortress, "Bust'r." Their first mission was to Berlin on April 29, 1944, and they revisited this target on three later occasions. During D-Day week they flew six missions in seven days, against German transportation centers and strong points, including Caen and Falaise. Snowdon was promoted First Lieutenant in June, 1944.

Their hardest mission was the triple shuttle to Russia to Italy to England in July. On the way to Russia they were designated to leave their formation and to drop propaganda leaflets over various cities, including Lublin. On July 28, on a strike at the synthetic oil refinery at Merseburg, Snowdon's plane received severe damage from anti-aircraft fire, which wounded one member of the crew. He maintained his position, went on to bomb the target successfully, and returned to his home field. There, since the wounded man could not bail out, Snowdon crash-landed the B-17, so skillfully that only one crew member was injured, and he only slightly. For "superior air-

manship" displayed on this occasion, Snowdon was cited by Major General Partridge, commanding the 3rd Bombardment Division.

In September, 1944, the crew of the "Bust'r" having completed their combat tour of duty, were returned to the United States.

After reporting at Reclassification Center, Atlantic City, Snowdon was sent to the Four Engine Instructors School, Hendricks Field, Sebring, Florida. There he served as instructor, until July 14, 1945, when he was killed in a crash during a routine night training flight.

Killed at twenty-three, after more than three years of service in the Air Corps, and after flying thirty-five missions in the European Theatre, Snowdon at least had the satisfaction of knowing that victory had been won in one half of the conflict and that in the other it could not be much longer deferred.