

Lieutenant Robert A. Haynes

On July 30, 1945, Lt. Robert A. Haynes went down with the proud cruiser, Indianapolis - just fifteen days before peace came. This sad news has struck K.U., and all of Lawrence, a body blow, for personable Bobby Haynes was a great favorite, a brilliant student, and a worthy friend:

Lt. "Bobby" Haynes was very dear to our family. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Haynes, our neighbors and friends for more than a quarter-century, lived and raised their three sons just around the corner from us.

Bobby Haynes and our Bobby Allen were the same age - 26 - with birthdays just a month apart. The two boys were friends even before Kindergarten days. They began their Kindergarten days together here in Pinckney School, and were never separated in grammar school, high school, nor in college until war came. Even after war cast its shadows, these two boys never lost each other. After "Bobby" Haynes entered the Navy in 1940; and "Bobby" Allen continued as a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, their furloughs, by sheer incident, seemed always to tally. More than thrice they happened home at the same time. There were never two better friends.

I remember so well Lt. Haynes next to the last visit to Lawrence. Bobby Allen, Bobby Haynes, and I had a fine game of golf at the Lawrence Country Club. I noticed with great satisfaction the maturation of the two boys. They had grown up. Yet that same boy's friendliness between the two had remained the same; mellow, friendly, and enduring. It is these durable satisfactions with which parents are always immensely pleased.

Even in San Francisco, before Lt. Haynes sailed with his noble crew on their last important mission of delivering the first atomic bomb, the two Bobs missed seeing each other only by chance.

Our daughter, Mary Allen Hamilton, who has just arrived from California for a visit, said that our Bob had wistfully remarked to her the night before she left, "I sure hope Bob Haynes makes it home this time. He certainly has been a game little guy and he deserves to get through!"

Lt. Haynes' father, in speaking of this tragic finality this morning, said, "If this had to be, I would rather have had Bob live the fearless, questing, purposeful life he did and die at twenty-six; than to have him live an impotent, inconsequential life, and die at eighty." Then he added, "But I'm glad they delivered their bomb." It takes brave men to rear brave sons.

The Haynes have enjoyed the significant honor of having had three sons in the fight in the Pacific: all Naval Lieutenants - Jean, Robert, and Marion - and all K.U. men.

Our hearts go out to this family in the inevitable loneliness which comes with such finality. Bobby has now, "outsoared the shadow of our night."