

OPERATIONAL FILE

REFNO: 0287-0-01

NAME: TAPP JOHN B  
 LAST FIRST MI

PHOTOGRAPH



TAPP

CLASS	DOCUMENT	DATE/DTG
(U)	PHOTOGRAPHS: ( ) Facial ( ) Full ( ) Aircraft	N/A
(U)	MAP NUMBER: None	N/A
(U)	RPT: BIOGRAPHIC/SITE	CURRENT
(U)	DD FORM 1300	24 MAR 66
(U)	ONI EXTRACT	UNDATED
(U)	MSG: USS ENTERPRISE	080515ZAPR66
(S)	RPT: ONI 3-1A	UNDATED
(S)	RPT: DA04 MASTER LIST	UNDATED

000062



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96611

CASE: 0287-0-01

NARRATIVE

On 23 March 1966 an A4C aircraft, serial number 147738, crashed in the Gulf of Tonkin in the vicinity of coordinates BK 049 664. A subsequent search resulted in the recovery of the pilot's helmet and parts of the aircraft, but LCDR John B. Tapp could not be located.

Data pertaining to this individual are as follows:

Name : Tapp, John Bethel  
Rank : LCDR, US Navy  
Date of Birth: 6 September 1933  
Race : Caucasian  
Height: 1.67 Meters  
Weight: 65.6 Kilos  
Hair : Blond  
Eyes : Blue



3

001 53-1A

0287-0-01  
ACTIVE  
**KILLED**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. DATE: 23 March 1966                                  | 9. NAME: TAPP, John B.  |
| 2. BASE: Enterprise (CVA(N)-65)                         | 10. RANK/SER/DESIG: LCDR/565678/1310  |
| 3. UNIT & TYPE A/C: VA 93/A4C                           | 11. VOICE CALL: Raven 302   |
| 4. A/C BUREAU NO: 147738                                | 12. INITIAL STATUS: Killed  |
| 5. MISSION: Rolling Thunder                             | 13. AUTHORITY FOR STATUS CHANGE:<br>N/A   |
| 6. TYPE MISSION: Armed Recce                            | 14. REPORTS RECEIVED:<br>SAR INCIDENT REPORTS<br>OPREP 4<br>PERSONNEL CASUALTY REPORT |
| 7. LOCATION: At Sea<br>(a) COUNTRY:<br>(b) COORDINATES: | 15. BLOOD CHIT NO: None   |
| 8. A/C LOSS CODE: Unknown                               |   |

-----  
CHRONOLOGICAL SYNOPSIS OF REPORTS

CTG 77.7 SAR INCIDENT REPORT 222204Z Mar : Enterprise CCA lost radar and radio contact with aircraft nine miles from ship. Aircraft had reported no difficulty prior to loss of contact.

CTG 77.7 SAR INCIDENT REPORT 230255Z Mar (C): Crash scene positively identified with oil slick, pilot's helmet, oxygen tank, electronics equipment from aircraft and parts of drop tank. Datum searched with over 100 percent coverage and nearly 100 percent probability of detection. Results negative. Pilot not considered to have egressed from aircraft. No chance of survival.

Enterprise PERSONNEL CASUALTY REPORT 230605Z Mar : Essentially the same information plus status listed as killed in action.

ORIGINAL  
(REVERSE BLANK)

C-70

000063

JCRC BIOGRAPHIC REPORT AS OF 10 MAR 1985

REFNO: 0287-0-01 NAME: TAPP JOHN BETHEL

JTD DATE BLK COMMENTS

A001 11 MAR 76 01 ON 23 MARCH 1966 LCDR JOHN B. TAPP WAS THE PILOT OF AN A4C AIRCRAFT, (BUNO 314238, CALL SIGN RAVEN 302). RETURNING TO THE CARRIER USS ENTERPRISE FROM A NIGHT ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH HE HAD OBSERVED GROUND FIRE, THE PILOT HAD NOT REPORTED ANY DIFFICULTY, AND A ROUTINE VISUAL CHECK BY ANOTHER PILOT REVEALED NO APPARENT DAMAGE TO LCDR TAPP'S AIRCRAFT. RADAR AND RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH THE TAPP AIRCRAFT WHEN IT WAS ABOUT NINE MILES FROM THE CARRIER.

A001 11 MAR 76 02 A SUBSEQUENT SEARCH POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED THE CRASH SCENE (AT GRID COORDINATES BK 049 6647, WITH AN OIL SLICK AND THE RECOVERY OF THE PILOT'S HELMET, OXYGEN TANK, ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT FROM THE AIRCRAFT, AND PARTS OF THE DROP TANK. NO REMAINS WERE RECOVERED. REF 1 & 2)

A001 11 MAR 76 03 AN OVERWATER/AI-SEA CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE PERIOD OF JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1973 TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY/DESIRABILITY OF EXPANDING SUCH OPERATIONS TO BE USED IN CASES SUCH AS THIS. BASED ON THE COMBINED FACTORS OF COST AND LACK OF ANY POSITIVE RESULTS WHATSOEVER, THE AI-SEA OPERATIONS WERE TERMINATED. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. LCDR TAPP IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE STATUS OF DEAD. REMAINS NONRECOVERABLE.

A002 11 MAR 76 40 REFERENCES USED: 1. RPT , USS ENTERPRISE, 23 MAR 66. 2. LTR , JCRC-CDD-CP, 6 SEP 74.

REPORT 55 REFNO: 0287-0-01 NAME: TAPP JOHN BETHEL

PAGE NO 323

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 10 MAR 1985

\*\*\*\*\* BIOGRAPHIC SECTION \*\*\*\*\*

STATUS: (A) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED

DATE STATUS ASSIGNED: 24 MAR 76

NAME: TAPP JOHN BETHEL

NATIONALITY: UNITED STATES

SERVICE: NAVY

GRADE: 04

SSAN: 565678

SERIAL NO: 06 SEP 33

BIRTH DATE: 02 APR 72

CREAT DATE: 02 APR 72

DUTY POS: PILOT

UNIT ASGD: VA 93 USS ENTERPRISE CVA N 65

PW CAMP: \$

RECOVERY PRI: 4

HOME STATE: KENTUCKY

WEAPON SERIAL: #

WEAPON TYPE: #

RELIGION: PROTESTANT

COMPLEXION: FAIR

HEIGHT: 67 INS 1.70 METRS

WEIGHT: 145 LBS 65.5 KILOGS

HAIR: BLOND

EYES: BLUE

SEX: MALE

RACE: CAUCASIAN

ED1300: YES

DEN XRAY: NO

PHOTO: NO

DIA FILE NO: #

PERS AUTH NO: #

BLOOD CHIT NO: \$

WEAPON TYPE: #

WEAPON SERIAL: #

RELIGION: PROTESTANT

COMPLEXION: FAIR

HEIGHT: 67 INS 1.70 METRS

WEIGHT: 145 LBS 65.5 KILOGS

HAIR: BLOND

EYES: BLUE

SEX: MALE

RACE: CAUCASIAN

ED1300: YES

DEN XRAY: NO

PHOTO: NO

DIA FILE NO: #

PERS AUTH NO: #

BLOOD CHIT NO: \$

ACCNO 6055

\*\*\*\*\* SITE SECTION \*\*\*\*\*

INCIDENT LOCATION: \*\*\*\*\*

SITE DATA: \*\*\*\*\*

VEHICLE DATA: \*\*\*\*\*

MISSION NAME: RAVEN 302

CALL SIGN: \$

CRASH TYPE: 1

VEHICLE TYPE: A4C

YEAR: 142738

SERIAL: ACCURATE

ACCY: MA

OTHER INSPECTION: YES

JCRC INSPECTION: NO

INSPECTION: NO

WITNESS STATEMENT: NO

BOARD ACTION: 1 SERIAL

2 SERIAL

3 SERIAL

4 SERIAL

5 SERIAL

6 SERIAL

7 SERIAL

8 SERIAL

9 SERIAL

10 SERIAL

11 SERIAL

12 SERIAL

13 SERIAL

14 SERIAL

15 SERIAL

16 SERIAL

17 SERIAL

18 SERIAL

19 SERIAL

20 SERIAL

21 SERIAL

22 SERIAL

23 SERIAL

LAST KNOWN LOCATION: SAME AS INCIDENT LOCATION

REPORT 55 REFNO: 0287-0-01 NAME: TAPP JOHN BETHEL

PAGE NO 322

000064

John B. TAPP

CVA PASSENGERS

DATE: 23 March 1966  
BOY STATION: VA 93 on board USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)-65)  
TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: A4C  
MISSION & VOICE CALL: Rolling Thunder Raven 302  
TYPE OF MISSION: Armed Recce  
LOCATION: At Sea  
COORDINATES: Unknown-174600 10.81300

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

Enterprise CVA lost radar and radio contact with aircraft nine miles from ship. Aircraft had reported no difficulty prior to loss of contact. Crash scene positively identified with oil slick, pilot's helmet, oxygen tank, electronics equipment from aircraft and parts of drop tank. Datum searched with over 100 percent probability of detection. Results negative. Pilot not considered to have egressed from aircraft. No chance of survival.

NAVAL MESSAGE  
OPNAV FORM 1076 (REV 3-61)

RELEASED BY	L D MILLER	DRAFTED BY	G231/DEPRIEST	PHONE EXT NR	42746	PAGE		PAGES	
DATE	23 Mar 1966	TOR/TOD		ROUTED BY		CHECKED BY		OF	
MESSAGE NO		DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)		PRECEDENCE		FLASH		EMERGENCY	
				ACTION				OPERATIONAL W/M DATE	
				INFO				PRIORITY	
								ROUTINE	
								DEFERRED	

FROM: BUPERS  
TO: MRS MARGARET TAPP  
DATA  
INFO: COMTWELVE

UNCLAS

CONFIRMATION TO PRIMARY NOL TAPP, J B

WESTERN UNION  
SENDING BLANK

CALL LETTERS  LGG 010 GOVT CHARGE TO CNO  
Washington, D. C. 23 Mar 1966 3:50 PM  
Mrs Margaret Tapp

DATA

SHEET ONE OF TWO  
REPORT DELIVERY  
DON'T PHONE

I deeply regret to confirm on behalf of the United States Navy that your husband LCDR John Bethel Tapp, 565678/1310, USN died 23 Mar 1966 at sea as a result of an aircraft accident. It is with further regret that I must advise you that your husband's remains were not recovered. Your husband died while serving his country. I wish to assure you of every possible assistance together with the heartfelt sympathy of myself and your husband's shipmates. A letter from his commanding officer setting forth the circumstances of death will follow. If I can assist you please write or telegraph the Chief of Naval Personnel, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C. 20370.  
(DEATH - no remains - Primary) # 7

Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER—DO NOT FOLD  
1269—(R 4-59)

000065