

11-17-42

ENSIGN FREDERICK THOMAS WEBER, U.S.N.R. (DECEASED)

Ensign Weber was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on February 4, 1916. He attended Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, and graduated from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. On August 30, 1938, he entered the U.S. Naval Reserve in Kansas City, Missouri, and had preliminary flight training at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base at Kansas City, Kansas. He was appointed Aviation Cadet July 27, 1939, and had flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. He was commissioned Ensign, U.S.N.R., June 12, 1940, and was ordered to active duty in a bombing squadron attached to a carrier.

The Navy Cross was presented posthumously to Ensign Weber, with the following citation:

"For extraordinary heroism and distinguished service as pilot of an airplane of a bombing squadron in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942. Flying at a distance from his own forces which rendered return unlikely because of probable fuel exhaustion, Ensign Weber participated in two dive-bombing attacks against Japanese naval units. In the first, launched in the face of concentrated anti-aircraft fire and overwhelming fighter opposition, he scored a direct hit on an enemy aircraft carrier. In the second, while pressing home a desperate and vigorous counterattack against Japanese fighters, he was shot down. His unflinching devotion to duty, maintained at great personal risk against tremendous odds, aided greatly in the success of our forces and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave up his life in the defense of his country."

He had the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp.

He was reported dead on Navy Department Casualty List #6, released July 3, 1942.

His mother is: Mrs. Matt Walsh
1089 Bateman Street
Galesburg, Illinois

* * * * *

DEAD
NOCK #6
RT

Pers-3654-21
23087

TRANSCRIPT OF NAVAL SERVICE

of

ENSIGN FREDERICK THOMAS WRESE, A-V(E), U. S. NAVAL RESERVE, DECEASED

Born February 4, 1916, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Aug. 30, 1938 Enlisted in U. S. Naval Reserve as Season second class at Kansas City, Kansas.

Sep. 15, 1938) Elimination flight training, Naval Reserve Aviation Base,
Oct. 17, 1938) Kansas City, Kansas.

July 26, 1939 Transferred to Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Robertson, Missouri.

July 26, 1939 Enlistment terminated under honorable conditions.

July 27, 1939 Appointed Aviation Cadet, U. S. Naval Reserve.

July 31, 1939 Reported for active duty undergoing training, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

May 10, 1940 Appointed Naval Aviator (Heavier than Air), No. 6415.

June 11, 1940 Released from active duty undergoing training.

June 12, 1940 Promoted to Ensign.

June 12, 1940 In an active duty status other than training from this date; assigned to Bombing Squadron Six (U. S. S. ENTERPRISE) for active duty involving flying.

June 4, 1942 Killed in enemy action (Pacific area), while on active duty attached to Bombing Squadron Six (U. S. S. ENTERPRISE).

Home address: 1089 Bateman Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

Next of kin: Mrs. Matt Walsh, mother,
1089 Bateman Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

Education: Knox College (Galesburg, Illinois), 1933-1934.
Iowa University (Des Moines, Iowa), 1935-1938.
A. B. degree.

Medals - Decorations: None of record at this date of writing.

Randall Jacobs,
The Chief of Naval Personnel.

H. McFee,
By direction.

75.

ENSIGN FREDERICK THOMAS WEBER, U. S. N. R.

Ensign Frederick Thomas Weber was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on February 4, 1916, and he was killed on June 4, 1942, in enemy action in the Pacific Area while on active duty attached to the Bombing Squadron Six.

Ensign Weber enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve as Seaman second class at Kansas City, Kansas on August 30, 1938 and he received his elimination flight training, Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Kansas City, Kansas, and on July 20, 1939 he was transferred to the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Robertson, Missouri.

On July 26, 1939 his enlistment terminated under honorable conditions, and on July 27, 1939 he was appointed an Aviation Cadet, U. S. Naval Reserve, and reported for active duty undergoing training, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. On May 19, 1940, he was appointed Naval Aviator (heavier than air) and on June 11, 1940 he was released from active duty undergoing training, and he was promoted to Ensign on June 12, 1940, and placed in an active duty status other than training from this date; assigned to Bombing Squadron Six for active duty involving flying.

Ensign Weber received the following decorations:

NAVY CROSS (Posthumously)

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism and distinguished service as pilot of an airplane of Bombing Squadron Six in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942. Flying at a distance from his own forces which rendered return unlikely because of probable fuel exhaustion, Ensign Weber participated in two dive-bombing attacks against Japanese Naval units. In the first, launched in the face of concentrated anti-aircraft fire and overwhelming fighter opposition, he scored a direct hit on an enemy aircraft carrier. In the second, while pressing home a desperate and vigorous counter-attack against Japanese fighters, he was shot down. His unflinching devotion to duty, maintained at great personal risk against tremendous odds, aided greatly in the success of our forces and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave up his life in the defense of his country."

Date submitted... 12 Nov. 1940

Name... Weber Frederick T. Hoan
(Surname) (First) (Middle)

Rank... ENSIGN A.Y. (N) USNR

Home address... 1089 BATEMAN ST Galesburg Ill

Date and place of birth... 4 Feb 1916 Des Moines Iowa

Father's name... MATT WALSH

Mother's name... OPAL WALSH

Mother's maiden name... OPAL MONCIEF

Schools attended prior to entering Naval service... Knox College 33-34

Drake University Des Moines Ia 35-38 Class of 1938

while attending college or university (athletics, special achievements, literary societies, etc.)

Married (Maiden name of wife).....

of..... at..... when.....

Names of children: _____

Member of the (clubs, societies, organizations, etc.)

Phi Gamma Delta

Note: This form should be submitted in duplicate to the Bureau of Navigation.

Brief biography of career which would be of interest for press releases. This to include also information relative to:

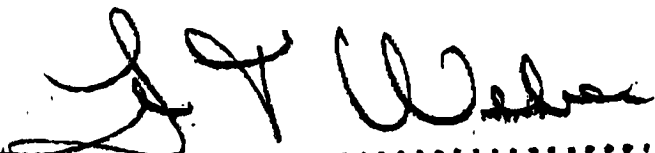
- (a) Unusual assignments to special duties.
- (b) Transcripts of letters of commendation of special interest.
- (c) Participation in any naval or military campaigns or engagements.
- (d) Date designated as Naval Aviator.

A -

B -

C -

D - 12 June 1940



Signature.....

The Bureau of Navigation is frequently called upon to furnish news releases for Reserve officers in connection with their service activities and assignments. It would therefore be highly appreciated if you would submit this form to the Bureau of Navigation, properly filled out, as soon as practicable.

Please submit in duplicate,

Date submitted 1 MAR 1942

Name Weber Frederick Thomas
(Surname) (First) (Middle)

Rank Ensign, A-V(N), USNR.
(Class) (File No.)

Home address 1089 Bateman St., Galesburg, Ill.

Date and place of birth February 4, 1916, Des Moines, Iowa

Father's name Matt Walsh

Mother's Name Mrs. Matt Walsh

Mother's maiden name Opal Moncrief

Schools or colleges attended prior to entering Naval Reserve _____

Knox College, Drake University Degree in Bachelor of Arts

N.R.O.T.C. graduate at _____; Class of _____

While attending school or college (Athletics, special achievements, literary societies, etc.)

Track and field manager of Drake Relays for 4 yrs. 1935-39. (under name of Fred Walsh).

Married (Maiden name of wife) _____ of _____

_____ at _____ when _____

Names of children:

Member of the (Clubs, societies, organizations, etc.)

Phi Gamma Delta (under name of Fred Walsh)

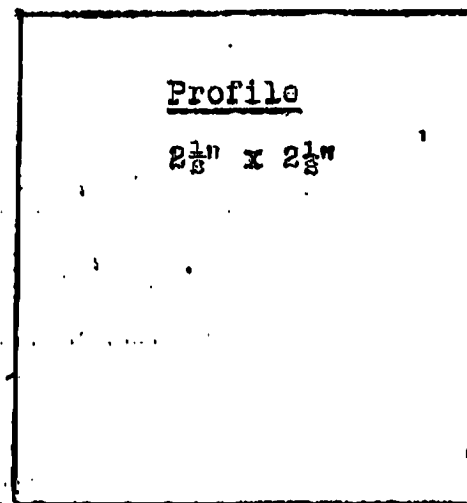
(See reverse side)

Brief biography of career which would be of interest for press releases. This is to include also information relative to:

- (a) Occupation and achievements in civil life.
- (b) Unusual assignments to special duties.
- (c) Transcripts of letters of commendation of special interest.
- (d) Participation in any naval or military campaigns or engagements.
- (e) List campaign badges or medals, citations and foreign decorations received.

Attach

Photographs



Signature Frederick Thomas Weber

BIOGRAPHY TO BE SUBMITTED BY GRADUATING STUDENTS

PM
128C

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION,
Pensacola, Florida,
Date: 20 FEBRUARY 1940

NAME (In full surname first): WEBER, FREDERICK THOMAS

RANK or RATE: Aviation Cadet Corps: USNR Signal or Service No. _____

Date of Birth: 4 FEB, 1916 Place of Birth: DES MOINES, IOWA

Home Address: 1089 BATEMAN ST GALESBURG, ILL.

NEXT OF KIN: Relationship: Mother Name: MRS MATT WALSH

Address of Next of Kin: 1089 BATEMAN ST GALESBURG, ILL

YEARS OF SCHOOLING: Grammar High Sch College 4 Tech Naval or Coast Guard Academy Class:

SUMMARY OF SERVICE: General: yr mo. AVIATION: yr mo. Reserve: yr 8 mo.

ASSIGNMENTS TO DUTY SINCE FIRST ENTRY INTO SERVICE: (If space insufficient continue on other side of this sheet.)

(Ship or Station)	(From)	(To)	(Duty)
<u>USNRAB KANSAS CITY Kan</u>	<u>SEP 15 1938</u>	<u>OCT 17 1938</u>	<u>Elimination Training</u>
<u>NAS PENSACOLA FLA</u>	<u>JULY 31 1939</u>		<u>Aviation Cadet</u>

PREFERENCE FOR DUTY AFTER GRADUATION:

First Choice: VB Hornet Norfolk, VA

Second Choice: VF Hornet Norfolk, VA

Third Choice: VS Wasp Norfolk, VA

(TO BE ANSWERED BY OFFICERS ONLY)

Date of graduation from Naval or CG Academy: _____ Standing in Class: _____ Date of first Commission: _____

(TO BE ANSWERED BY AVIATION CADETS ONLY)

College Attended: DRAKE UNIVERSITY Des Moines, Iowa Date Graduated: June 1938 Degree Obtained: A.B.

If college was not completed state reason briefly _____

I certify that the information I have given above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

(Signature in full) Frederick Thomas Weber

Ordered to Aviation Training: _____ DO NOT FILL IN THE FOLLOWING: _____

Commenced Training: 7-28-39 Completed Training: 6-12-40

Designated a NA on 5-10-40 and detached 6-12-40

Ordered to duty at or on board VB-6, USS Enterprise

NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS AND RADIO

NOVEMBER 14, 1942

NAVY AWARDS DECORATIONS TO 19

Fifteen officers have been awarded the Navy Cross by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. In addition, two enlisted men were awarded the Silver Star Medal and a like number were given the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

One of the recipients of the Navy Cross is listed as killed in action. He was Ensign Frederick T. Weber, U.S.N.R., 26 years old, the son of Mrs. Matt Walsh, 1089 Bateman Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

The remaining 14 awarded the Navy Cross are listed as missing in action. They are:

Lieutenant Commander Lance E. Massey, U.S.N., 33, son of Walter Griffith Massey, 241 Paddock Street, Watertown, New York. His wife, Mrs. Marjorie D. Massey, resides at Hubbard Grove Ranch, Descanso, California.

Lieutenant Martin Hasset Ray, Jr., U.S.N., 29, son of Martin H. Ray, 35 McIntyre Street, Bronxville, New York. His wife, Mrs. Georgiana S. Ray, lives at 366 Walnut Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Lieutenant Patrick Henry Hart, U.S.N., 27, son of Mrs. Emma Elizabeth Hart, 1275 Westchester Place, Los Angeles, California.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard W. Suesens, U.S.N., 27, son of John F. Suesens, 1143 Williston Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa. His wife is Mrs. Margaret Jean Suesens, 1327 North 6th Street, Burlington, Iowa.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Curtis W. Howard, U.S.N., 25, son of Mrs. Prudence W. Wohleb, 114 East 8th Avenue, Olympia, Washington. His father was the late Commander Jasper Victor Howard, Medical Corps, U.S.N.

Ensign Doyle C. Barnes, U.S.N., 30, whose wife, Mrs. Margie Florence Barnes, lives on Rural Route #1, Box 300A, Lemon Grove, California.

Ensign Harry L. Corl, U.S.N., 28, son of William L. Corl, 510 Johnson Street, Saginaw, Michigan.

Ensign Horace A. Bass, Jr., U.S.N.R., 27, son of Horace A. Bass, 520 Allison Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia, and the husband of Mrs. Sarah Miley Bass, 1969 Poplar, Memphis, Tennessee.

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Ensign Weber's citation:

"For extraordinary heroism and distinguished service as pilot of an airplane of a Bombing Squadron in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942. Flying at a distance from his own forces which rendered return unlikely because of probable fuel exhaustion, Ensign Weber participated in two dive-bombing attacks against Japanese naval units. In the first, launched in the face of concentrated anti-aircraft fire and overwhelming fighter opposition, he scored a direct hit on an enemy aircraft carrier. In the second, while pressing home a desperate and vigorous counter-attack against Japanese fighters, he was shot down. His unflinching devotion to duty, maintained at great personal risk against tremendous odds, aided greatly in the success of our forces and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave up his life in the defense of his country."

Lieutenant Ray's citation:

"For extraordinary heroism and extreme disregard of personal safety as Engineer Officer of the USS HAMMANN during action against enemy Japanese forces near Midway Island on June 6, 1942. After the vessel had been struck by enemy torpedoes, Lieutenant Ray capably and efficiently directed efforts at damage control, supervised evacuation of spaces below decks and assisted other personnel in leaving the ship. Despite the ever-increasing danger of remaining aboard the rapidly sinking vessel, he carried on, with unflinching courage and conscientious devotion to duty, until he died as the result of an underwater explosion. He gallantly gave up his life in the service of his country."

McLeod's citation states:

"For gallant and intrepid devotion to duty while serving as a member of the United States Navy Armed Guard on board a merchant vessel during an attack on that vessel. As a result of McLeod's alert and aggressive action in promptly manning an anti-aircraft gun when that vessel was subjected to a low level dive bombing attack while lying at anchor, one of a formation of 10 enemy planes was shot down. His effective fire, maintained throughout the attack, was instrumental in preventing damage to the ship."

The citation issued with Garner's medal:

"For gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a member of the United States Navy Armed Guard on board a merchant vessel when that vessel was subjected to enemy aerial bombing. Following the explosion of a bomb which struck the No. 6 hatch and started fires in all sections of the hold, Garner manned a machine gun and maintained constant fire on the enemy bomber during the attack. Tracer bullets were seen to enter the fuselage of the low flying bomber which dropped, swerved and was driven off, and later, when beached, was discovered to contain 1,200 rounds of ammunition and a crew of seven dead aviators."

WEBER, Frederick T (Deceased)

83087

USS ENTERPRISE

Midway

Recommended for NAVY CROSS by CInC Pac Serial 18a P15(1) of 7-18-42—Ref: CInC Pac Ltr P15(1)/QB/(05) Serial 3013 of 7-16-42—CInC Pac Ltr 8-1-42 P15(2)/(05) Serial 3144 Rec BuPers QB4(840) 8-7-42

Awarded 8-13-42 Bd Awards

For extraordinary heroism & distinguished service as pilot in VB-6, he took part in two dive-bombing attacks against Jap naval forces in Battle of Midway, June 4-6. Disregarding extreme danger from intense/a fire & enemy fighter opposition & at a distance from his own forces which rendered return unlikely because of probable fuel (over)

exhaustion, he pressed home his attacks. He scored a direct hit on an enemy aircraft carrier during his first attack & was shot down by an enemy fighter during the second. His inspiring conduct in these actions contributed in large measure to the decisive victory of our forces & was in keeping with the finest traditions of the naval service.

Receipt acknowledged by Mother 12/1/42