JOHN THOMAS FELTS, Jr.

2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps, WWII

Service # O-026187

John Thomas Felts, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Felts, Sr., Clarksville, Red River County, Texas, graduate of Clarksville High School.

In a book titled “For Love of Country” The Price of Freedom by Martha Sue Stroud is a story, based on an interview with James Ellis Goodman, a friend and fellow marine, that sheds some light on the military career of John T. Felts, Jr. The story is about four guys from Clarksville (John T. Felts, Jr., David J. Weaver, James W. “Buddy” Vaughan, and James Ellis Goodman) who enlisted as Aviation Cadets in the Navy in May or June 1942. Since Buddy already had a pilot’s license he was the first to report for duty. The other three of us ended up in Texarkana taking civilian pilot training, then on to University of Georgia for pre-flight training. On graduation from there John T. and James Ellis volunteered for Navigation School in Hollywood, Florida. On graduation the two of them were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Each of them was assigned to a crew as navigators and ferried DC-3 aircraft to the South Pacific.

On Monday, September 27, 1943, 2nd Lt. John Thomas Felts, Jr., serving as navigator, departed on a flight from New Caledonia delivering air crews to duty stations in the Pacific. The plane went down at sea with no survivors or bodies found. A number of search efforts were made including some by crews including his friend, 2nd Lt. James Ellis Goodman.
2nd Lt. John Thomas Felts, Jr., was declared as Killed in Action on 27 September 1943 and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal posthumously. He served in the Solomons and Asiatic-Pacific Theater and was awarded one battle star. He is memorialized at Honolulu Memorial in Honolulu, HI, USA. He is also honored on the Red River County Memorial Monument in Clarksville, Texas. Also, there is an American Legion Post in Clarksville, Texas named John T. Felts, Jr., Post No. 45, named in his honor. His father, John T. Felts, Sr., a WWI veteran, served as Post Commander on three occasions.