

118TH AVIATION COMPANY (AIR MOB) -
APO 27, San Francisco, California

5 September 1963

Mrs Blanche P Wenzel
651 Gull Drive
Santa Rosa Island
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Dear Mrs Wenzel,

You no doubt have been informed of the death of your husband, Captain James E Wenzel, in Vietnam, on the thirtieth of August.

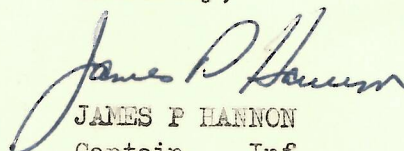
The report of the accident reveals that James was piloting a CH-21 on a Combat Assault mission against communist inspired Viet Cong. Flying from Bien Hoa to the troop pick up area James' aircraft was hit by automatic ground fire. The aircraft went out of control and crashed into a open area. Another aircraft of the same flight immediately landed to offer assistance, however, despite every effort to save his life James died at the site of the accident.

James was a platoon leader in this company and, serving in that capacity, I came to know him very well. He was well liked by me personally and by all his associates. He served me faithfully and honorably for the period he was here and his excellence as an officer is unparalleled in this company. His death came as a great shock to all of us, and I trust that you will find a measure of consolation in the knowledge that your grief is shared by the officers and men of this organization who feel the loss of one of our most cherished comrades. Plane side services for James will be conducted by Chaplain T. E. Waldie, the Catholic chaplain of The Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam at Tan Son Nhut Airport, Saigon.

The personal effects of your husband have been collected and will be forwarded to you. I know his personal possessions will be treasured by you and hope they reach you without undue delay.

The sincere sympathy of the personnel of this company is extended to you in your bereavement.

Sincerely,


JAMES P HANNON
Captain, Inf
Commanding