



### **Lt. John Philip Sanderson, Jr. U.S. Navy (1918-1944)**

Lieutenant John Philips Sanderson Jr. was a pilot in Composite Squadron Ten (VC-10) at the time of his death. On July 26, 1944 Lt. Sanderson was killed along with the crew of his Torpedo Bomber (TBM) "Avenger" during a launch from the USS Gambier Bay (CVE-73). When the aircraft impacted the water, depth bombs aboard the aircraft exploded killing the crew. Lt. Sanderson's two crew members were ARM3 J. L. Richards and AOM3 William (Bill) Zanon. At the time USS Gambier was part of Carrier Division 26 operating off the island of Tinian. Air operations during this period included preparations of the invasion of Tinian. USS Gambier was a Casablanca Class carrier with twin screws, two elevators and one catapult. She was sunk October 25, 1944 by gunfire during the battle of Leyte Gulf. A great many crew lives were lost when the ship went down. A USS Gambier Bay and VC-10 memorial monument at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Point Loma San Diego California honors those lost. A web site ([www.ussgambierbay-vc10.com](http://www.ussgambierbay-vc10.com)) provides details of the ship and squadron operations.



USS Gambier Bay CVE-73

Lt. Sanderson and his wife Jane Collins Sanderson lived at 219 Fourth Avenue Chula Vista, California. His parents were John Philip Sanderson and Mary H. Sanderson. Lt. Sanderson's brother Robert C. Sanderson served in U.S. Army Air Force during WW II. Both brothers were born in Hartford Connecticut. Lt. Sanderson wrote a poem "Carrier Life". The poem is provided on the USS Gambier web site.

Photos and ships information courtesy of USS Gambier web site.