

Lieutenant Commander John Austin COLLETT, U.S. Navy. John Collett (Coll'ett) was born in Omaha, Nebraska on 31 March 1908. He attended Swaveley Prep School in Washington, D.C. prior to entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 1925. He was graduated and commissioned with the Class of 1929.

John became a naval aviator in 1932 and in the years to follow, he served in the USS CHESTER CL-27, USS SARATOGA CV-3, and with various patrol plane squadrons based in Hawaii. During World War II, he served in and commanded Torpedo Squadron NINE in the carrier SARATOGA and later skippered Torpedo Squadron TEN in the carrier ENTERPRISE CV-6.

It was while the U.S. Navy was trying desperately to hold the newly won Guadalcanal Islands in October, 1942 that the HORNET and ENTERPRISE task groups opposed the Japanese carrier groups of the SHOKAKU, ZUIKAKU and ZUIHO. The engagement took place near the Steward Islands northeast of the Solomon Islands on 26 October 1942. Twelve Zero fighters, type 2, pounced upon the ENTERPRISE attack group which included LCDR Collett's squadron. In the melee that ensued the ENTERPRISE group lost five fighters, two divebombers and all the torpedo bombers although all of the Zeros were shot down.

Lieutenant Commander Collett is survived by his mother, Mrs Baughman, wife of Commodore C.C. Baughman (Ret) of 737 Guadalupe Avenue, Coronado, California, and his brother, Captain James D. Collett, U.S Navy