

ALABAMA VETERAN JOHN DONOVAN

After his death in 1942, John Donovan's mother received a telegram from him, to be sent home in the event of his death:

"Dear Folks, You must not feel badly about my death. The small part that I have played in the war, though it cost me my life, I am happy to give that. Life has meant much to me, but not so much that I am too distressed at leaving and neither must you be. I had only a few things planned for the future. One of the most important was a nice home. It will please me much if everyone can make sure [Momma] always lives in a comfortable home with many flowers and trees. I am happy and so must she be. Love to all, John Junior"

A wingman for his squadron in the flying tigers, Donovan died over a Japanese airfield at Hanoi on May 12, 1942. According to friends, he had such a strong premonition before the raid that he composed the telegram and left it, along with postage, with a friend.