

# Navy Report Omits Suicide Notes

Published: November 2, 1996

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—** The Navy today released a report of its investigation into the suicide of Adm. Jeremy M. Boorda but withheld two notes he wrote shortly before his death.

The inch-thick report by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service said Admiral Boorda, the Chief of Naval Operations who committed suicide on May 16 by shooting himself in the chest in his home, makes no conclusions about a motive.

After Admiral Boorda's death, two notes were found side by side on the desk in his study, the report said.

One was addressed to Admiral Boorda's wife, Bettie. The other was a two-part note addressed to the Navy's Chief Information Officer, Rear Adm. Kendell Pease, with a subsection, "To My Sailors."

However, the report -- provided in response to a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act -- did not release the contents of the notes.

The Navy Department decided not to make the notes public, a Navy spokesman said. He cited exemptions under the act that allow records to be withheld if they "constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy," among other reasons.

Many other items in the report are blacked out, like the autopsy report and the identities of people interviewed by investigators.

The four-star admiral killed himself the day he was to have been interviewed by Newsweek magazine about whether he was entitled to wear Vietnam combat decorations for valor.

Someone in the Government who read the notes shortly after Admiral Boorda's death said one note expressed concern about a possible scandal over the combat decorations. The New York Times reported at the time that the notes suggested that Admiral Boorda had been driven to take his life by fear that the reputation of the Navy, already battered by a series of scandals, would be further harmed by the disclosures about his medals.

Admiral Pease, the Navy information officer, was with Admiral Boorda a little over an hour before the suicide and had scheduled the Admiral's meeting with Newsweek.

Admiral Boorda, several people interviewed for the report said, had not seemed upset or distraught in discussing the medals. "We'll just tell him the truth," several individuals quoted Admiral Boorda as saying in regard to the medals.

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