

Lieutenant Commander William Edward Hall, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant j.g. William Hall received his Medal of Honor citation for the Battle of the Coral Sea World War II in 1942: "For extreme courage and conspicuous heroism in combat above and beyond the call of duty as pilot of a scouting plane in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Coral Sea on 7 and 8 May 1942. In a resolute and determined attack on 7 May, Lt. (j.g.) Hall dived his plane at an enemy Japanese aircraft carrier, contributing materially to the destruction of that vessel. On 8 May, facing heavy and fierce fighter opposition, he again displayed extraordinary skill as an airman and the aggressive spirit of a fighter in repeated and effectively executed counterattacks against a superior number of enemy planes in which three enemy aircraft were destroyed. Though seriously wounded in this engagement, Lt. (j.g.) Hall, maintaining the fearless and indomitable tactics pursued throughout these actions, succeeded in landing his plane safely."

Biography: Hall joined the Navy from his birth state of Utah in 1938 and by 7 May 1942 was a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, serving as a scout plane pilot with Scouting Squadron 2, flying the SBD Dauntless. On that day, over the Coral Sea, he dive-bombed a Japanese aircraft carrier, Shoho, contributing greatly to its destruction. The next day, he attacked a superior number of Japanese planes and shot down three. Although his craft was damaged and he was seriously wounded in this attack, he managed to land safely. For these actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

While in the hospital he met his wife, a navy nurse, and they married in September 1942. Hall reached the rank of lieutenant commander before leaving the Navy in 1946. He died 15 November 1996 at age 83 and was buried in Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Military Awards: Medal of Honor

Masonic History: Carbon Lodge #16 in Price, UT and National Sojourner