

JAMES NORMAN HALL

CAPTAIN, A.S.A., U.S.A.; ESCADRILLE LAFAYETTE (SPAD 124);
FRENCH SQUADRON, SPAD 112; ONE HUNDRED THIRD PURSUIT
SQUADRON, U.S.A., FLIGHT COMMANDER, NINETY-FOURTH PUR-
SUIT SQUADRON

SON of Arthur Wright and Ella (Young) Hall, of Colfax, Ia.; was born in Colfax, April 22, 1887. He attended the Colfax High School; Grinnell College, from which he graduated in 1908; and the University of Chicago. For five years he made his home in Boston.

In the spring of 1914 he went to England, intending to spend a year in traveling and cycling, but on the outbreak of the war he enlisted with the 9th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (British), London, on Aug. 18, 1914.

He spent the following winter in Aldershot and Folkestone drilling, and went on active duty in France with the 9th Royal Fusiliers on May 30, 1915. Throughout the summer he was in the trenches of Flanders, at Messines, Ploegsteert Wood, Loos, and Armentières. In Sept., 1915, he narrowly escaped death by stepping into a dugout just a moment previous to the explosion of a large German shell which killed seven men in his squad. He was shortly promoted to be Lance Corporal in charge of a machine-gun section, and was starting for an officers' training camp on Dec. 1, 1915, when he was presented with his discharge from the British Army, which, unknown to him, his friends in Boston had been active in securing for him because of the illness of his father in Colfax, Ia. He returned to the United States immediately, visited Iowa, found his father much improved, and settled in Boston where he spent the winter lecturing and working on his book "Kitchener's Mob." In June, 1916, he attended the Officers' Training Camp at Plattsburg, N.Y.

He returned to England in July, intending to continue literary work, but instead enlisted in the French Aviation Service on Oct. 13, 1916. He trained in the French aviation schools at Buc (Seine-et-Oise), Avord (Cher), and Le Plessis-Belleville (Oise), and was assigned to the Lafayette Escadrille. On June 26, 1917, he had an encounter with seven German airplanes, was shot through the shoulder and lungs, and fell 12,000 feet to what seemed certain death. But fortunately he was picked up alive and taken to a hospital near Paris, where he soon recovered. Reports of his death reached



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America, but he wrote from the hospital at Neuilly to a friend that he was alive.

When he left the hospital on Sept. 22, 1917, he returned to the front as a pilot in the French Squadron, Spad 112. A fortnight later he was transferred to his old unit, the Lafayette Escadrille, with which he served, with the rank of Sergeant, until his transfer to the United States Air Service. He was commissioned Captain, A.S.A., U.S.A., on Jan. 26, 1918, and was kept on active duty with the Escadrille Lafayette which had just become the 103d Pursuit Squadron, U.S.A.S. On March 29, 1918, he was assigned to the 94th Pursuit Squadron as Flight Commander. He was shot down in combat on May 7, 1918, near Pagny-sur-Moselle, back of the German lines. He tells the story of this encounter in his book, "High Adventure."

Again it was reported that he was dead. But on May 8, a German airman flew over the Allied lines, and dropped a note saying that Hall was safe.

Capt. Hall returned to America shortly after, and on March 10, 1919, was discharged from the service at Garden City, N.Y.

Citations

Médaille Militaire

HALL, JAMES NORMAN (active de l'Escadrille N 124)

Réformé, après avoir été mitrailleur dans une armée Alliée, s'est engagé comme pilote à l'Escadrille La Fayette. Dès son arrivée a montré un courage splendide et le plus pur esprit de sacrifice. Le 26 juin 1917 a foncé seul sus sept avions ennemis, faisant l'admiration des témoins du combat, blessé grièvement dans la lutte a réussi à ramener son appareil dans nos lignes.

(Pour prendre rang du 29 juin 1917)

La présente nomination comporte l'attribution de la

Croix de Guerre avec palme

Signé: MAISTRE

Médaille Militaire

Monsieur HALL, JAMES, Caporal pilote (active) à l'Escadrille N 124, est informé que par arrêté ministériel du 13 septembre, à 1917, rendu en application du décret du 13 août 1914, la MÉDAILLE MILITAIRE lui a été concédée.

Il aura droit au port l'insigné de la décoration et aux arrérages attachés à celle-ci à compter du vingt-neuf juin 1917.

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La présente concession sera régularisée ultérieurement par une loi spéciale.

Paris, le 29 octobre 1917

*Pour le Président du Conseil
Ministre de la Guerre, et par son Ordre
Le Lieut. Colonel, S/Chef du Cabinet
Signé: F. JODINOT*

Au G.Q. le 21 janvier 1918

Le Général Commandant la IV^e Armée cite à l'Ordre de l'Armée:
Excellent Pilote de chasse, déjà blessé en combat aérien, revenu au front, y fait preuve des plus belles qualités de hardiesse et d'allant. Le 1 janvier 1918, a descendu un monoplace ennemi dont une aile s'est détachée et est tombée dans nos lignes.

*Le Général Commandant le IV^e Armée
Signé: GOURAUD.*

le 4 avril 1918

Le Général Commandant la IV^e Armée cite à l'Ordre de l'Armée,
Capitaine HALL, JAMES NORMAN, de l'Escadrille Lafayette

Pilote d'une grande bravoure, qui livre journellement de nombreux combats. A abattu deux avions ennemis.

*Le Général Commandant le IV^e Armée
Signé: GOURAUD*

D.S.C.

G.H.Q. American Expeditionary Forces

April 10, 1918

The Commander-in-Chief has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to James Norman Hall, Captain, Air Service, Flight Commander 103d Aero Squadron. On March 26, 1918, while leading a patrol of three, he attacked a group of five enemy fighters and three enemy two-seaters, himself destroying one and forcing down two others which were very probably destroyed, the fight lasting more than twenty minutes.

*By Command of General Pershing:
Signed: FRANK C. BURNETT
Adjutant General*

Capt. Hall has also been awarded the Croix de la Légion d'Honneur.

le 9 mai 1918

Le Général Commandant la VIII^e Armée, cite à l'Ordre de l'Armée
Capitaine HALL, JAMES NORMAN, à pilote à l'escadrille américaine, 94.

Brilliant pilote de chasse, modèle de courage et d'entrain qui a abattu récemment un avion ennemi, a trouvé une mort glorieuse dans un combat contre quatre monoplaces dont un a été descendu en flammes.

Le Général Commandant la VIII^e Armée