



## **BG (Ret) Henry Williams “Hank” Hise**



Brigadier Henry W. Hise, United States Marine Corps, who flew combat missions in three wars, began his distinguished military career as a cadet at North Texas Agricultural College from 1938-40 and retired from the Marine Corps as a Brigadier General in 1971 having served 30

years. General Hise was a member of the football and boxing teams during his five semesters at NTAC before leaving to attend The University of Texas at Austin.

In the summer of 1941, he began Navy flight training at Hensley field. Hise was a member of the first dive-bomber squadron on Guadalcanal during World War II in August 1942. He served as commanding officer of four different squadrons during the war and made three combat tours into the Pacific. The first tour was the capture and defense of Guadalcanal, the second was the air assault on Rabaul and the third was as squadron commander aboard CVE-109. The ship was operating in the western pacific off China ready for the invasion of Japan when the atomic bomb ended the war. During the Korean War, General Hise was executive officer of Marine Fighter Squadron 311. He flew 66 missions in the F9F-2 fighter-bomber. He also was commanding officer of Marine Air Control Squadron 1 at Kunsan, Korea.

General Hise returned from Korea to head the Division of Aviation Intelligence Branch at the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters. After several other appointments, Hise was assigned to J-3, Current Operation, and Pacific Division of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in June 1966. He conducted a loss study of all aircraft in the Vietnam Theater, making several trips to Southeast Asia. The following summer he was selected for Brigadier General and was first assigned as Assistant Wing Commander at El Toro, California. From there, he became Assistant Wing Commander of the Marine Wing at Danang I Corps in Vietnam. He returned from Vietnam in 1969 to be CG of Marine Corps Air Bases West until he retired from the Marine Corps in 1971 after completing 30 years of service. His decorations include the **Distinguished Flying Cross**, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and three awards of the Legion of Merit.

Following his military service, General Hise worked at U.T. Permian Basin and was a founder of the Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers. General Hise, a Shamrock, Texas native, has a Bachelor's Degree from George Washington University and a Master's Degree from U.T. Permian Basin. General Hise and his wife, Mary Frances, reside in Elgin, Texas. They have six adult children.

## Obituary

Hise, Henry Williams "Hank"

Henry Williams "Hank" Hise, Brigadier General, U.S.M.C. (Retired), the last remaining member of the first Marine squadron to land on Guadalcanal, passed away in Lubbock, Texas, from complications of a hip fracture on October 15, 2010. The son of Henry Luther and Stella Marie Hise, he was born July 7, 1920, in Shamrock, Texas.

After attending North Texas Agricultural College (currently the University of Texas at Arlington) and the University of Texas at Austin, he entered the Marine Corps and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in July 1941. His first combat tour was as a pilot in VMSB 232, flying against Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands. He was wounded at Guadalcanal and evacuated to New Zealand. Of the original fifteen pilots in his dive bomber squadron deployed to Guadalcanal, only the commanding officer, Major Richard Mangrum, was able to walk off the island under his own power.

General Hise returned to the South Pacific in December 1943 as the squadron commander of VMTB 143. He was deployed to the Northern Solomon Islands, where he led air strikes against the Japanese naval base at Rabaul Harbor. His final combat tour in World War II was as the commanding officer of Marine Torpedo Squadron VMTB 132, flying off the USS *Cape Gloucester* in support of Marine operations around Okinawa.

Flying F9F Panther jets, Hank Hise returned to combat in Korea, where he flew 66 bombing missions as a member of VMF 311. His final combat tour was as the Assistant Wing Commander, First Marine Air Wing, Vietnam. His combat awards included the Distinguished Flying Cross (1942), the Air Medal (1944), and two Legions of Merit (1967 and 1969).

After completing his tour of duty in Vietnam, General Hise returned to California to command Marine Corps air bases on the West Coast. In November 1971, having completed a thirty-year career in the Marine Corps, Hank came home to Texas, where he taught international relations and foreign policy at the University of Texas Permian Basin in Odessa. In 1977, he moved to Austin to become the Executive Director of the Community Mental Health Centers of Texas, serving until his retirement in 1985.

Hank Hise said on several occasions that his time on Guadalcanal removed any notions about the glamour of flying. A man of considerable insight, he had only two rules when faced with a combat mission: "Never fly a bad airplane and accept any risk necessary to accomplish the mission—but not one iota more." Of the 26 second lieutenants who accompanied him to Hawaii in the spring of 1942, only seven survived World War II.

General Hise returned once more to Guadalcanal in 1995, accompanied by one of his sons and two grandsons. He remarked that if the ball had bounced a little differently, none of us would be standing here now. Raised in the Dust Bowl and having survived three wars and five combat tours, he possessed a great wit and numerous aphorisms. Perhaps his favorite saying was,

“Luck counts.” Hank never forgot his good fortune in surviving a thirty-year career as a Marine aviator.

A competent and kind man, he enjoyed a long retirement. He was a talented sculptor, avid gardener, highly skilled woodworker, and student of philosophy. From astronomy to zoology, his passion for learning was a lifelong pursuit; Hank faithfully read *Scientific American* for more than fifty years.

Hank and his wife of over 60 years, Mary Frances Halcum Hise, enjoyed traveling and visiting with their six children and eight grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he is survived by Lewis and Hazel Hise of Austin; Barbara and Ralph Desselles of Virginia; Nancy and Franklin Lilly of Austin; Martha and Jon Cieszynski of Lubbock; Joe and Beth Hise of Dallas; and Mary and Jack Brown of Chicago. Grandchildren are Josh Sheppard of Virginia; Matthew Phipps of Austin; Tim Hise of Dallas; Emily Hise of Austin; Luke Hise of Lubbock; Alan and Greg Hise of Dallas; and Martha Elizabeth Penturf of Oklahoma City.

Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, 825 College Boulevard, Suite 102, PMB 609, Oceanside, CA 92057, 760-725-3680, <https://semperfifund.org>.

To offer condolences, please visit [www.memorialdesigners.net](http://www.memorialdesigners.net).  
Lake Ridge Chapel & Memorial, 806-698-8085.