

AIR FORCE COLONEL RETIRES

He'll Stop Flying and Start Making Airplanes

Col. Donald P. Hall, vice commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base for the last four years, will pack his bags today and head for Torrance.

Col. Hall, decorated 14 times during World War II and a near double ace, retires today after 25 years in the service. He will be coming to Torrance to begin a new career.

The new career will be as systems management advisor in advanced program planning for Northrop Corp.'s Norair Division in Hawthorne. The 52-year-old Texan begins work in aircraft manufacturing after 26 years of active duty during which he flew 211 bomber and fighter missions in the Southwest Pacific.

COMING WITH Col. Hall to Torrance are his wife, Dorothy, and three children, Cynthia, 17, Lawrence, 15, and Gerald, 12. The family will move into a new home at 20441 Madison St.

Replacing him as vice commander will be Col. Ray Vandiver, center chief of staff for nearly four years.

Colonel Hall's four years of combat—13 major Southwest Pacific campaigns—were called "exceptionally brilliant from the start" by McGen. George C. Kenny, then

Southwest Allied Air Forces commander.

He downed nine enemy planes, blasted 60 to bits on the ground, sank 11 ships, including a destroyer whose anti-aircraft fire caught him in the shoulder, and, as General Kenny put it:

"I don't know how many luggers and barges because I haven't got an adding machine."

THOSE EXPLOITS won Colonel Hall two Distinguished Service Crosses, Distinguished Service Medal, three Silver Stars, Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Air Medals and a Distinguished Unit Citation.

The mild mannered Texan "who knows aircraft and engines from the ground up," moved to Edwards July 6, 1961, after five years at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.

The last two years at Wright-Patterson, he was Air Force Command maintenance engineering deputy director. For a year, he was head of the Aircraft, Missiles and Equipment Division.

Colonel Hall also put in two two-year stints as deputy commander of two Air Defense Command air divisions—the 58th, headquartered at Wright-Patterson (1956-58) and the 25th (1954-56) at McChord AFB, Tacoma, Wash.

HE ALSO WAS in Korea for a year (1953-54) as commander of Far East Air Force's famed 4th Fighter Wing and earned a Commendation Medal for remodeling the truce transitioning offensive combat unit into a highly-trained defensive one.

His military career began in 1937 as a Texas National Guard artillery lieutenant while at Kingsville's Texas College of Arts and Industries. But artillerymen don't fly. He'd learned at 15, had a

small plane of his own and couldn't see himself doing anything else.

So he enlisted as an aviation cadet in what was then the Army Air Corps. He got his pilot wings and commission May 11, 1940.

COLONEL HALL has a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology (1947) at Wright-Patterson and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College (1949), Norfolk, Va., and Air War College (1953), Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala.

His brother, retired Air Force Col. Leonard R. Hall, lives at 5381 Reckledge Rd., Buena Park.

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SHE IS WEARING GLASSES



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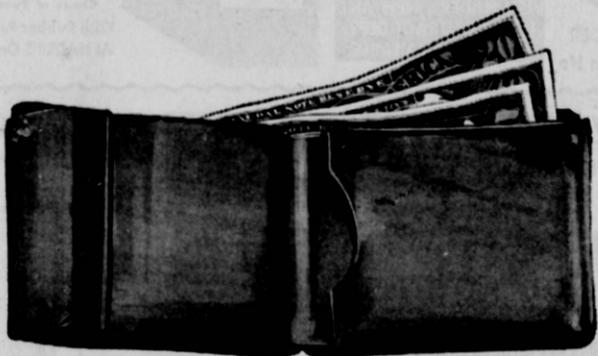
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