

## VETERAN PATCO PILOT LOST

A tragic accident, the details of which will probably never be known, is believed to have taken the life of Burton H. Hall, veteran pilot of the Philippine Aerial Taxi Company, early in March—the first serious mishap to befall the company since its organization in 1931. Although the plane in which Pilot Hall took off from Grace Field in Manila the morning of February 28 has not been found, pieces of wreckage found a week later along the coast of Tayabas made it almost certain that he had been obliged to make a forced landing of the southeastern coast of Tayabas. A careful search of the many islands in the vicinity is being made, and the waters are being explored for further traces of the plane, but the chances of finding the pilot alive are considered extremely remote.

Every effort was made by the company, by the United States and Philippine Army Air Corps, the United States Navy, and by private planes, to locate the missing plane. As many as 26 planes were in the air at one time during the week following the disappearance. Fog and rain, which are blamed for the disaster, hindered the search considerably.

Reports were received a few days after the plane left Manila that it had been seen flying low along the coast near barrio Talaan, Sariaya, Tayabas, apparently in trouble. The entire Tayabas peninsula was covered by searching parties, with no results. Finally, a week after the disappearance, bits of wreckage were found on the beach near Capaluhan. Within the next few days other pieces

which were later identified as coming from an airplane of the same type as that flown by Hall, were found.

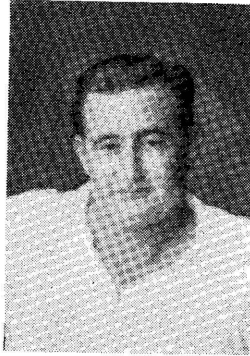
The news of the loss of Pilot Hall came as a shocking blow to all who knew him. "Burt" Hall was one of the most popular pilots ever to fly in the Philippines. His friends were legion, and he was respected by all who had ever flown with him as a most competent pilot.

Hall was one of the first to land at Paracale, when the district was revived in 1933, and he had been making regular flights to that district since. He flew the Manila-Baguio run regularly with the other Patco pilots, and with them did considerable charter flying for various mining executives. Until his disappearance he had never had a serious accident.

Hall was born in Tucson, Arizona, and was about 32 years old. He received his early flying training at the March and Kelly flying fields in the United States, and was a reserve officer in the United States Army Air Corps. He flew in China for the China National Aviation Corporation before coming to the Philippines in 1933. He came to the Philippines highly recommended, and added to his reputation as a thoroughly reliable flyer by his work for Patco.

Mr. Marsman, president of Patco, said of him: "I am grieved beyond words at the tragedy. Burt Hall had the respect and friendship of all of us who knew him, and it is hard to believe that he has gone. He did his job well, and his loss leaves a vacancy that will be hard to fill."

Hall was married, Mrs. Hall coming with him to the Philippines.



Burton H. Hall

The accident which took the life of Burton H. Hall was the first to be suffered by PATCO in its six years of operation. During that time some 30,000 passengers were flown 1,540,404 miles in safety to Baguio, Paracale and other points in the Philippines. Regular mail schedule to Baguio and Paracale have been maintained, four years to Baguio and two to Paracale, with but few cancelled flights a year. The policy of Baguio that safety comes first has made this excellent record possible.

Since regular flights were started in Paracale, in October, 1935, there has been 858 flights, during which 222,620 miles were flown in 1800 hours and around 5,000 passengers carried.

While the exact cause of the accident can not be determined, it is believed that heavy fog and rain caused Hall to fly off his course in search of better flying conditions.

There were no passengers in the plane with Hall.