



MAJOR HENRY TALMAGE ELROD, USMC

Major Henry T. Elrod U.S. Marine Corps, was born September 27, 1905, in Turner County, Georgia. He attended the University of Georgia, and the Yale University until his Father passed away in 1927. He enlisted in the USMC in December 1927, and was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in February 1931. On December 4, 1941 Capt. Elrod flew onto Wake Island with 12 Aircraft, 12 Pilots, and a VMF-211 ground crew. During the defense of Wake Island, Capt. Elrod repeatedly displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life. On the 12th of December he single-handedly attacked a flight of 22 enemy planes and shot down two. On several flights he executed low altitude bombing and strafing runs on enemy ships. On one of these runs he became the first man to sink a major warship with small caliber bombs. When his plane was destroyed by hostile fire. He organized a group of ground troops into a beach defense unit. And repeatedly repulsed Japanese attacks. On 23 December 1941 Captain Elrod fell mortally wounded while protecting his men who were carrying ammunition to a gun emplacement. He posthumously promoted to Major on November 8, 1946. His widow was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor. This posthumous medal was awarded to her husband for his heroic actions during the last bitter days of Wake Island. His Widow is now Mrs. Elizabeth Carleson.