

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



Lieutenant Warren P. Lutey Dive Bomber Pilot Naval Air Corps WWII

Warren Lutey was born in Marquette in 1921, graduating from Graveraet High School in 1939. He had early flight training with Sig Wilson's flight school associated with Northern State Teachers College in Marquette under the Civilian Pilot Training Program. Under this program, graduates were prepared to either join the Army or Navy Air Corps. Warren chose the Navy and ultimately advanced to training in

SBD Navy Dive Bombers.

By August 1943, when he was allowed a short furlough home, he had already put in 150 combat hours in the central and south Pacific. He put his furlough to good use; he married Dorothy Marks, sister of Alan Marks who was serving as a navigation officer in a B-25 Mitchell Bomber in the Army Air Corps, also operating in the Guadalcanal area.

After returning to duty, Lutey's dive bombing score climbed to 20 direct hits by October of 1943 at which time he ended up on the receiving end. He was wounded in the thigh by a 20 millimeter shell while on a combat mission providing naval support to General Douglas MacArthur's attack on Formosa.

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR

He supplied his own account of what happened to the local paper:

“I had just released my bomb when I heard a lot of racket and saw that blood was pouring through a hole in my trouser leg. I stuck my hand in the hole to slow down the rush until I was clear of the target area. Unable to reach my tourniquet, I applied a compress from my first aid pack and revived myself with ammonia to maintain consciousness.”

At this point, Lutey notified the flight leader to keep watch on his plane. Each time Lutey's wing dropped a bit and his plane appeared to be going down, the leader yelled over the radio “Lutey, wake up!” At that, the wounded pilot would sniff more ammonia allowing him to regain fuller consciousness and bring his plane on track. He kept doing this until it was gone. By that time, he had gradually lost sufficient attitude so that when he finally crash landed in the sea, he was near one of our destroyers and subsequently rescued. Transfer to a hospital ship made for a happy ending. The story so impressed the naval surgeon who treated him, that he wrote an article suggesting pilots should be made more aware of the presence of ammonia (smelling salts) in the first aid kit and use that instead of a morphine syrette under similar circumstances. It was undoubtedly life saving in Lutey's case.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Lieutenant Lutey received the Distinguished Flying Cross which accompanied the following attached letter.

TJ Mudge, May 2004

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS** to

LIEUTENANT WARREN PAUL LUTEY
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as Section Leader in Bombing Squadron SEVEN, attached to the U.S.S. HANCOCK, during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area on October 12, 1944. Undaunted by withering antiaircraft fire, Lieutenant Lutey conducted devastating strikes against hostile warships and shore installations to inflict extensive damage on the enemy and, although severely wounded and fighting unconsciousness, retained control of his plane with determination and skill to effect a safe water landing near his carrier. His aggressive spirit, indomitable courage and intrepid airmanship throughout reflect the highest credit upon Lieutenant Lutey and the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

James Forrestal

Secretary of the Navy

