

Sept 14, 1963  
**D. A. HALL ENDS CAREER**

# Lindbergh Plane Designer Retires

The designer of the Spirit of St. Louis retired yesterday and spent 13 years with Convair.

Donald A. Hall, who grew up with American aviation, ended a 44-year career in aircraft design when he retired from an aerospace engineering group at North Island Naval Air Station.

With the North Island Overhaul and Repair Department for the last 14 years, Hall was honored in a ceremony attended by fellow engineers. A few parting gifts and a certificate of appreciation marked the end of his career.

## WORKED TOGETHER

The easy-going draftsman worked hand in hand with Charles Lindbergh in designing and preparing the "Spirit" for its flight over the Atlantic Ocean.

Hall recalled yesterday:

"I can remember the take-off from North Island. I was more worried about the flight from here to St. Louis than the flight across the Atlantic."

"He (Lindbergh) had to fly over some 13,000-foot peaks in Arizona and we didn't know if it would fly that high—but we found out."

Lindbergh flew from here to St. Louis, then to New York before his trip to Paris.

Hall, of 3330 Xenophon St., started his career with the Curtiss Airplane & Motor Corp. in 1919. He later worked for the old Ryan Airlines—when he designed the Spirit—

He and his wife, Elizabeth, have a son, Donald Jr. He is, as should be expected, an aerospace engineer.

## FUTURE UNLIMITED

Hall says the future of aircraft is unlimited.

Hall will turn 65 Dec. 7. Before then he will have traveled through much of Europe. He leaves Sept. 22 for Paris for the 22-day International Conference of Astronautics.

His flight to France from New York will take about eight hours — one-fourth the time it took the Spirit of St. Louis.



**DONALD A. HALL**  
... leaves North Island