

**Harold Ralph Mazza**

Date of birth: November 15, 1912

Place of Birth: California, Petaluma

Home of record: Petaluma California

**AWARDS AND CITATIONS****Navy Cross**[See more recipients of this award](#)*Awarded for actions during the World War II*

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Ensign Harold Ralph Mazza (NSN: 0-83984), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Torpedo Plane in Torpedo Squadron TWO (VT-2), attached to the U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV-2), in action against enemy Japanese forces over enemy-controlled waters near Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea on 10 March 1942. Ensign Mazza participated in a vigorous and determined dive-bombing attack, in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire, on enemy ships, and as a result of this attack at least one ship was sunk. His outstanding courage, daring airmanship and determined skill were at all times inspiring and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**General Orders:** Commander in Chief Pacific: Serial 6 (April 27, 1942)**Action Date:** March 10, 1942**Service:** Navy**Rank:** Ensign**Company:** Torpedo Squadron 2 (VT-2)**Division:** U.S.S. Lexington (CV-2)



## Navy Cross

See more recipients of this award

*Awarded for actions during the World War II*

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Award of the Navy Cross to Ensign Harold Ralph Mazza (NSN: 0-83984), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Torpedo Plane in Torpedo Squadron TWO (VT-2), attached to the U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV-2), in action against enemy Japanese forces on 8 May 1942, in the Air Battle of the Coral Sea. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire and concerted enemy fighter opposition, Ensign Mazza closed to within a few hundred yards of the target to execute a fearless and determined attack. Scoring a hit on an enemy aircraft carrier, he thereby contributed to the severe damage and probable destruction of the vessel and aided materially in the success of the operation. His outstanding courage and determined skill were at all times inspiring and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**General Orders:** Commander in Chief Pacific: Serial 2050 (May 8, 1942)

**Action Date:** May 8, 1942

**Service:** Navy

**Rank:** Ensign

**Company:** Torpedo Squadron 2 (VT-2)

**Division:** U.S.S. Lexington (CV-2)

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## Navy Cross

See more recipients of this award

*Awarded for actions during the World War II*

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting a Second Gold Star in lieu of a Third Award of the Navy Cross to Ensign Harold Ralph Mazza (NSN: 0-83984), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Torpedo Plane in Torpedo Squadron FORTY-SEVEN (VT-47), attached to the U.S.S. BATAAN (CVL-29), in action on 7 April 1945, while deployed over the East China Sea. As Squadron Commander he led his carrier based torpedo bomber planes in the East China Sea off the coast of the Japan mainland in the vicinity of Kyushu. He led the attack in, while under intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire and heavy gun fire. His tactics, skill and alertness brought the attack in from the disengaged side of the target and enabled his squadron to score several torpedo hits on a Japanese heavy battleship which was later seen to sink. His skill and courage were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**General Orders:** Commander 1st Carrier Task Force Pacific: Serial 0920 (July 6, 1945)

**Action Date:** April 7, 1945

**Service:** Navy

**Rank:** Ensign

**Company:** Torpedo Squadron 47 (VT-47)

**Regiment:** Air Group 47 (AG-47)

**Division:** U.S.S. Bataan (CVL-29)

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## Navy Cross

See more recipients of this award

*Awarded for actions during the World War II*

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting a Third Gold Star in lieu of a Fourth Award of the Navy Cross to Ensign Harold Ralph Mazza (NSN: 0-83984), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Torpedo Plane and Commanding Officer of Torpedo Squadron FORTY-SEVEN (VT-47), attached to the U.S.S. BATAAN (CVL-29), in action against the enemy on 28 July 1945. As Squadron Commander he skillfully and courageously led his carrier based torpedo bombers in a bombing attack against units of the enemy fleet in Kure Harbor on the Japan mainland island of Honshu. In the face of intense and accurate anti-aircraft gunfire from fleet units and shore installations, he nevertheless pressed home his attack, scoring two bomb hits on a Japanese heavy cruiser, and contributed materially to the sinking of that vessel immediately after the attack. His professional skill, alertness, and courage were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**General Orders:** Commander 2d Carrier Task Force Pacific: Serial 01900 (September 22, 1945)

**Action Date:** July 28, 1945

**Service:** Navy

**Rank:** Ensign

**Company:** Torpedo Squadron 47 (VT-47)

**Division:** U.S.S. Bataan (CVL-29)

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## Silver Star

See more recipients of this award

*Awarded for actions during the World War II*

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander Harold Ralph Mazza (NSN: 0-83984), United States Naval Reserve, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Torpedo Plane and Commanding Officer of Torpedo Squadron FORTY-SEVEN (VT-47), attached to the U.S.S. BATAAN (CVL-29), in action while participating in an aerial flight on 19 March 1945. As Squadron Commander and Flight Leader of carrier based torpedo bombers he led a coordinated squadron bombing attack against enemy shipping located in Kobe Bay on the Japan mainland island of Honshu. Flying through intense anti-aircraft fire, he pressed home his hits and inflicting extensive damage, to remove the latent menace to our own fleet operations. His courage, determination and skill in the execution of this mission were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**General Orders:** Commander 1st Carrier Task Force Pacific: Serial 0920 (July 6, 1945)

**Action Date:** March 19, 1945

**Service:** Navy

**Rank:** Lieutenant Commander

**Company:** Torpedo Squadron 47 (VT-47)

**Division:** U.S.S. Bataan (CVL-29)

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## Distinguished Flying Cross

See more recipients of this award

*Awarded for actions during the World War II*

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Lieutenant Commander Harold Ralph Mazza (NSN: 0-83984), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in operations against the enemy in the vicinity of the Japan mainland Island of Kyushu and in the Nansei Shoto. As Squadron Commander and Pilot of a carrier based torpedo bomber plane during the period 18 March to 14 May 1945, he participated in twenty strikes against enemy shipping, airfields and installations, inflicting extensive damage. His skill and courage were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**General Orders:** Commander 1st Carrier Task Force Pacific: Serial 0925 (July 27, 1945)

**Action Date:** March 18 - May 14, 1945

**Service:** Navy

**Rank:** Lieutenant Commander

**Company:** Torpedo Squadron 47 (VT-47)

**Division:** U.S.S. Bataan (CVL-29)

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