Early Life

James Marion Gale was born on November 10, 1915, in Davenport, Washington.[1] His father Henry Gale was the son of a farmer and born in Ohio. Henry later moved to Davenport, where he also worked as a farmer.[2] Henry married James' mother Helen Laughbon, who was raised in Davenport, on February 24, 1914.[3] The Gale family had a second child, Alma Verl.[4]

WSC Experience

Gale attended Washington State College in the Fall of 1937. He took a full course load for Freshmen, including English composition, trigonometry, and chemistry. His intended major was Agriculture, a common major for WSC students at this time. He left WSC in good standing at the end of the semester.[5]

Military Service

After leaving WSC, Gale enlisted in the United States Navy. He earned the rank of Petty Officer First Class, with a specialty in Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class.[6] He served in the Pacific Theater, near the Phillipines. Gale went missing in action during this time. Although the cause is not known, Gale was declared as killed in action on May 6th, 1942.[7]

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[1] James Marion Gale, Washington State Archives; Olympia, Washington; *Washington State Births 1907-1920,* https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6493/records/555378 (accessed August 2025).
[2] Henry Gale, Year: *1900*; Census Place: *Milford, Butler, Ohio*; Roll: *1244*; Page: *7*; Enumeration District: *0023,* https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7602/records/38948979, (accessed August 2025).
[3] "Church and Wedding Banquet: Ceremony at Davenport Draws Large Audience," *The Spokesman-Review,* February 25 1914, https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62116/records/3651864 (accessed August 2025).
[4] Verl A Gale, Year: *1930*; Census Place: *Larene, Lincoln, Washington*; Page: *1A*; Enumeration District: *0026*; FHL microfilm: *2342242,* https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6224/records/112305902 (accessed August 2025).
[5] Gale, James Marion, The State College of Washington, Year 1-1937-1938, Registrar's Office.
[6] James Marion Gale, World War II Gold Star Veteran, https://www.honorstates.org/profiles/122193/, (accessed August 2025).
[7] James Marion Gale, Social Security Administration; Washington D.C., USA; *Social Security Death Index, Master File, https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3693/records/74753950* (accessed August 2025).

Postwar Legacy

Gale's remains were never recovered, but he is memorialized at the Tablets of the Missing, at Manila American Cemetery, Philippines. He was also awarded a Purple Heart.[8]

[8] James Marion Gale, World War II Gold Star Veteran

Pictures:



Citation: AMM3 James Marion Gale, Find a Grave Memorial, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56782444/james-marion-gale.