

INFAMOUS SPIES

An
Espionage
Series



NATHAN HALE



AN AMERICAN HERO

Nathan Hale (1755-1776) is widely considered America's first spy. He was a soldier for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War who volunteered for an intelligence-gathering mission but was captured and killed by the British.

On September 12, 1776, Hale was ferried behind enemy lines, an act immediately punishable by death. Accounts differ as to how he was exposed, but on the morning of September 22, Hale was hung for the crime of espionage at what is now East 66th Street and Third Avenue in New York City. He was just 21 years old.

He is widely attributed to have said before his hanging, "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." Speculations arose as to whether the quote attributed to him was actually uttered, as there was no official record kept of the execution.

In 1985, Hale was designated the state hero of Connecticut. A statue of him stands outside CIA headquarters as well as other locations across America.



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