



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Fort Myer Army Trial Flight Photographs

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2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Fort Myer Army Trial Flight Photographs
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0904
Date:	1908-1909
Creator:	Clime, W. S.
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The US Army Signal Corps advertised for bids for a two-seat observation aircraft and in 1908 and 1909, the Wrights flew the Wright 1908 Military Flyer at official Army trials at Fort Myer, Virginia. This collection consists of 45 black and white photographs, of varying sizes and including some duplicates, taken by photographer W. S. Clime at the 1908-1909 official army trials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

A. S. Clime, Gift, Unknown, NASM.XXXX.0904

Processing Information

Arranged and described (2009) and encoded (2020) by Jessamyn Lloyd.

Preferred Citation

Fort Myer Army Trial Flight Photographs, NASM.XXXX.0904, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

This collection consists of 45 black and white photographs, of varying sizes and including some duplicates, taken by photographer W. S. Clime at the 1908-1909 official army trials at Fort Myer, Virginia. Shown in the images are the Wright 1908 Military Flyer in flight and on the ground; the crash that injured Orville Wright and killed Thomas Selfridge; and Thomas S. Baldwin with an Army dirigible. Other persons shown in the photographs include mechanic Charles W. Taylor; Major George O. Squier; Lieutenant Frank P. Lahm;

Lieutenant Benjamin D. Foulois; Augustus Post; and Mrs. M. Longworth. The collection also contains one unrelated photograph of A. Roy Knabenshue making a flight over Washington, DC.

Scope and Contents

The US Army Signal Corps advertised for bids for a two-seat observation aircraft and in 1908 and 1909, the Wrights flew the Wright 1908 Military Flyer at official Army trials at Fort Myer, Virginia. On September 17, 1908, Orville Wright and Lieutenant Thomas Etholen Selfridge made a flight as a part of these trials. While in the air, a blade on the propeller broke and the aircraft fell from 75 feet up and landed on Wright and Selfridge. Both men sustained severe injuries. Wright broke a leg and several ribs, and Selfridge was taken off the field unconscious. Selfridge died shortly after the accident from his injuries and became powered flight's first fatality. The Army was to purchase the Wright (Co) Type A Military (Signal Corps No. 1) for \$30,000 in 1909.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Wright (Co) Type A Military (Signal Corps No. 1)

Types of Materials:

Photographic prints

Names:

Knab, Frederick, 1865-1918
Lahm, Frank Purdy, 1877-1963
Selfridge, Thomas Etholen
Taylor, Charles Edward, 1868-1956
Wright, Orville, 1871-1948
Wright, Orville, 1871-1948

Places:

Fort Myer (Va.)