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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Beech, Alexander C.

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on March 27th made eight flights for a movie for the Crystal Film Company. On March 31st he had a smashup when the fuel line failed causing a forced landing. In getting down without power he hit a big wave and a wing was torn off. Following repairs he flew again on April 7th. About that time he was trying to organize an Aviation Corps of the State Naval Militia.

Beech remained at the Savannah beaches until May when he moved to Tybee Island, Georgia for a month's engagement. After completing his engagement, but while still there, he had another smashup when he stalled in landing and overturned, badly damaging his plane, but he and the passenger were not injured. He remained in the South through 1915 and was at Jacksonville, Florida, for some time toward the end of the year.

In March, 1916, Beech was employed as a pilot by the Grinnell Aeroplane Company of Grinnell, Iowa, taking the place W. C. Robinson after he was killed. Later that year Beech toured the Midwest again on exhibition engagements. In July he flew for the 28th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, during their summer maneuvers at Waukesha, Wisconsin.

After the start of World War I in 1917, Beech was employed by Moler Aviation Instructors, Incorporated, of Chicago, in charge of construction classes and motor rebuilding. This appeared to be a ground school training operation and while there Beech devised a flying control training rig to teach students all the rudiments of flying on a ground trainer apparatus. Evidently this was quite successful, for in 1918 he had apparently left Moler and established ground trainer schools at Wichita, Kansas, and Cherokee, Oklahoma.

He ran ads for his schools in Aerial Age through 1918 but then faded from the aviation scene.

Flying Pioneer Alexander Beech carved a place for himself in American aviation history and did a lot of flying in the United States from 1912 through 1917.

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