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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Ely, Eugene B.

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October 12th Ely flew at Youngstown, Ohio, and on the 22nd to the 30th at the Belmont Park International Meet in New York. There he was competing with the big name aviators of the world, but for a novice ~~new man~~ he made a very good showing. ~~In~~ November 2nd to 12th, he flew in an air meet at Halethrop, Maryland, near Baltimore. Also flying at this event were Hoxsey, Willard, DeLesseps, Drexel and Radley. On the 14th and 15th Ely was at Norfolk, Virginia, where on the 14th he made the first of two historically notable flights during his fabulous flying career.

For some time Curtiss had been trying to convince the United States Navy that an ~~aeroplane~~ ~~airplane~~ could takeoff and land on board ship, and knowing that a takeoff would be less hazardous than a landing, he wanted to try to accomplish that first. He finally received Naval approval and preparations were made. On November 14th Ely flew off a platform on the deck of the U.S. Cruiser Birmingham at anchor in Hampton Roads, and landed ashore on the beach at Willoughby Spit near Ft. Monroe. This notable achievement was made on a foggy miserable day when success seemed most improbable. Reportedly this first ~~aircraft~~ ~~carrier~~ ~~achievement~~ ~~in history~~ takeoff with an airplane from a ship was made with the same plane Curtiss had used on his famous flight from Albany to New York earlier that year.

Ely then flew an exhibition at Norfolk on the 15th, and was at Raleigh, ~~South~~ ~~North~~ Carolina, on the 16th and 17th. He flew at Birmingham, Alabama, on November 21st and 22d, and at Jackson, Mississippi, on the 28th and 29th. In December 1st ~~first~~ to 3rd, ~~he was at~~ New Orleans, Louisiana ~~with McCurdy and Ward, on the first to 3rd, Columbia, South Carolina, with McCurdy the 7th to 10th, and Atlanta, Georgia the 15th to 18th. He was then a contestant in the second annual Flying Meet at Dominguez Field, Los Angeles, California, on December 21st to January 2, 1911. There, also on the Curtiss Team, were Curtiss, Willard, Robinson and Beachey. On the Wright Team were Hoxsey and Parmelee. From Europe were Latham and Radley. It was at this Meet that Glenn Martin made his public flying debut. Ely made second best showing of the Curtiss men.~~

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