



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Johnson, Walter

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 12:42:15

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

[[stamped]] FROM THE FLYING PIONEERS BIOGRAPHIES OF
HAROLD E. MOREHOUSE [[/stamped]]

WALTER E. JOHNSON
Early Thomas Brothers Pilot- Instructor

[[image]]

Walter S. Johnson was born at Pittsford, near Rochester, New York, on September 7th, 1888. Son of a physician he graduated from East High School, Rochester, in 1908. There he was an active leader in various sports programs. In the fall of 1908 he entered the College of Applied Science in Civil Engineering at Syracuse University, where again he was active in sports, winning letters in both track and football, and became a member of Zeta Psi Fraternity. After two years in college Johnson became so interested in aviation he decided to quit school and get into the flying game.

As a result he started to work for Glenn Curtiss as a mechanic at Hammondsport, New York in June, 1910. Johnson was eager to learn to fly but did not get his opportunity to do so there. However, while working with Curtiss and watching him fly he did learn how to move the controls to make various maneuvers in flight.

Johnson soon heard that the Thomas Brothers had an experimental aeroplane at Cornell, New York and wanted to get some one to fly it, so he contacted them and as a result left Curtiss and joined the Thomas Brothers

1



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Johnson, Walter
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-19-2024 12:42:15



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)