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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Johnstone, Ralph

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Brookins, Curtiss, Willard, C. Grahame-White, A. V. Roe and Clifford Harmon also flying. Cromwell Dixon was there with his airship and several amateur aviators also entered special events in their class. On September 12th Johnstone set a new American endurance record of 3 hours, 6 minutes, and also established a distance record of 101 miles, as well as landing accuracy event when he stopped within 5 feet of the pre-established point.

On September 19th to 25th Johnstone flew at the State Fairgrounds, Detroit, Michigan, with Hoxsey, Brookins and Parmelee. They all did sensational flying and put on a great show for the Motor City. Unknown to them Wilbur Wright was in the stands as a spectator, and as usual Johnstone and Hoxsey were carrying their aerial rivalry far beyond strict orders for exhibition flying. When the show was over Mr. Wright gave the fellow quite a lecture on their risky misconduct. September 26th to the 30th Johnstone was the Trenton, New Jersey alone. He made spectacular flights there every day and received great response from the crowds. October 3rd to 8th he flew at Richmond, Virginia. There on the 5th he carried the Mayor of the city as a passenger, who accidentally [[accidentally]] grabbed the motor cut-out wire in flight causing a forced landing. Following this he flew at the St. Louis, Missouri Meet October 8th to 18th. Flying there also were Brookins, Hoxsey, Welsh, Pamela, Turpin, Ogilvie and LeBlanc. This event was held at the newly established Kinloch Flying Field and immense crowds witnessed several days of wonderful flying. It was here that Hoxsey gave Colonel Theodore Roosevelt his first ride.

Johnstone was then a contestant at the large International Meet at Belmont Park, Long Island, New York where all of the worlds leading aviators put on a great show. At this event Johnstone was one of the headliners. He was an almost daily winner of the most time in the air and here the Johnstone-Hoxsey flying rivalry was at its peak. Close buddies on the ground, they were real hair-raising rivals in the air and the Wrights had difficulty trying to keep them in check. Both were bent on duration and altitude records, as well as

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