



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - MacGordon, W. Stevenson

Extracted on Apr-23-2024 10:52:52

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.

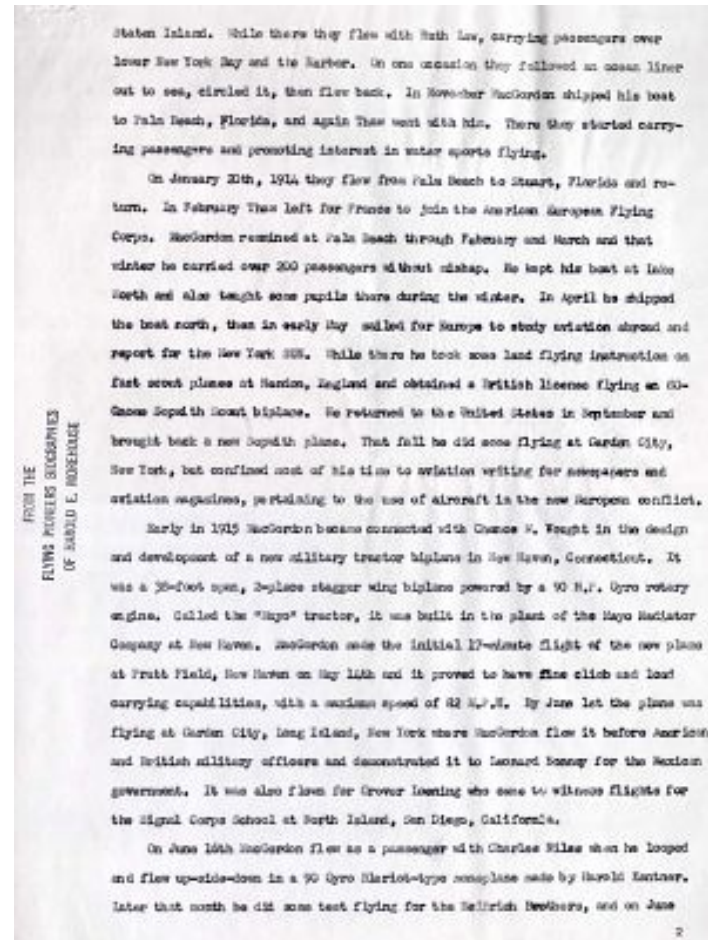
[[margin]] FROM THE FLYING PIONEERS BIOGRAPHIES OF
HAROLD E. MOREHOUSE [[/margin]]

Staten Island. While there they flew with Ruth Law, carrying passengers over lower New York Bay and the Harbor. On one occasion they followed an ocean liner out to sea, circled it, then flew back. In November MacGordon shipped his boat to Palm Beach, Florida, and again Thaw went with him. There they started carrying passengers and promoting interest in their water sports flying.

On January 20th, 1914 they flew from Palm Beach to Stuart, Florida and return. In February Thaw left for France to join the American European Flying Corps. MacGordon remained at Palm Beach through February and March and that winter he carried over 200 passengers without mishap. He kept his boat at Lake Worth and also taught some pupils there during the winter. In April he shipped the boat north, then in early May sailed for Europe to study aviation abroad and report for the New York SUN. While there he took some land flying instruction on fast scout planes at Hendon, England and obtained a British license flying an 80-Gnome Sopwith Scout biplane. That fall he did some flying at Garden City, New York, but confined most of his time to aviation writing for newspapers and the new European conflict.

Early in 1915 MacGordon became connected with Chance M. Vought in the design and development of a new military tractor biplane in New Haven, Connecticut. It was a 38-foot span, 2-place stagger wing biplane powered by a 90 H.P. Gyro rotary engine. Called the "Mayo" tractor, it was built in the plant of the Mayo Radiator Company at New Haven. MacGordon made the initial 17-minute flight of the new plane at Pratt Field, New Haven on May 14th and it proved to have fine climb and load carrying capabilities, with a maximum speed of 82 M.P.H. By June 1st the plane was flying at Garden City, Long Island, New York where MacGordon flew it before American and British military officers and demonstrated it to Leonard Sonney for the Mexican government. It was also flown for Grover Loening who came to witness flights for the Signal Corps School at North Island, San Diego, California.

On June 16th MacGordon flew as a passenger with Charles Niles when he looped and flew up-side-down in a 90 Gyro Bleriot-type monoplane made by Harold Kantner. Later that month he did some test flying for the Heinrich Brothers, and on June



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - MacGordon, W. Stevenson
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-23-2024 10:52:52



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)