



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

## **Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McGee, John F.**

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 09:10:33

**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](https://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](mailto: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.

211  
221

FROM THE  
FLYING PIONEERS BIOGRAPHIES  
OF HAROLD E. MOREHOUSE

JOHN F. "JACK" McGEE

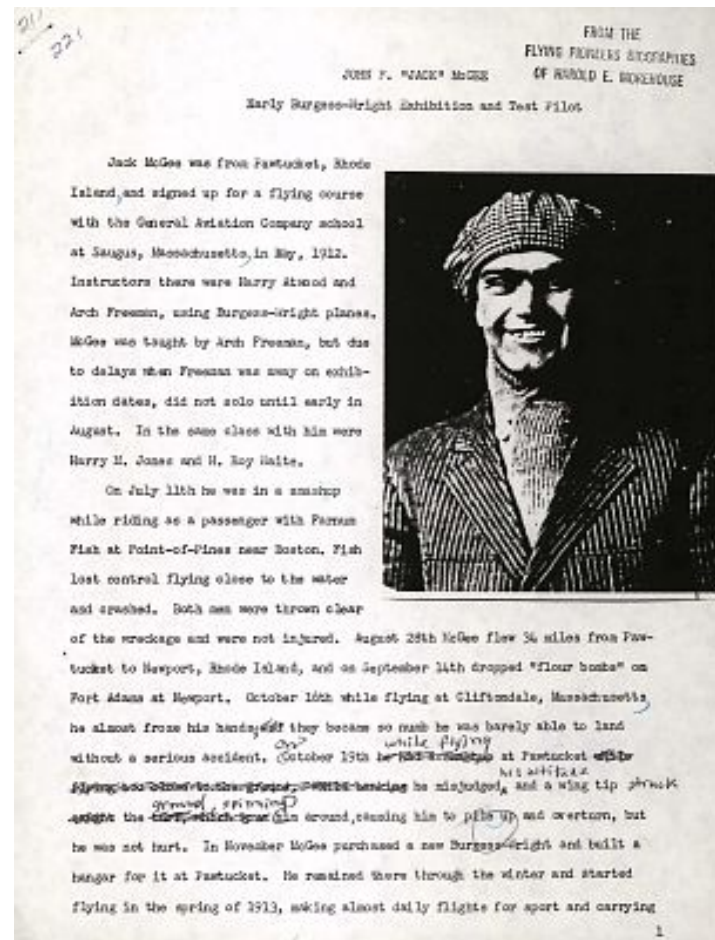
Early Burgess-Wright Exhibition and Test Pilot

[[image]]

Jack McGee was from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and signed up for a flying course with the General Aviation Company school at Saugus, Massachusetts, in May, 1912. Instructors there Harry Atwood and Arch Freeman, using Burgess-Wright planes. McGee was taught by Arch Freeman, but due to delays when Freeman was away on exhibition dates, did not solo until early in August. In the same class with him were Harry M. Jones and H. Roy Waite.

On July 11th he was in a smashup while riding as a passenger with Farnum Fish at Point-of-Pines near Boston. Fish lost control flying close to the water and crashed. Both men were thrown clear of the wreckage and were not injured. August 28th McGee flew 34 miles from Pawtucket to Newport, Rhode Island, and on September 14th dropped "flour bombs" on Fort Adams at Newport. October 16th while flying at Cliftondale, Massachusetts, he almost froze his hand; ~~[[cross out]]~~ and ~~[[/cross out]]~~ they became so numb he was barely able to land without a serious accident. On October 19th ~~[[cross out]]~~ he had a smashup ~~[[/cross out]]~~ while flying at Pawtucket ~~[[cross out]]~~ while flying too close to the ground. While banking ~~[[/cross out]]~~ he misjudged his altitude and a wing tip struck ~~[[cross out]]~~ caught ~~[[/cross out]]~~ the ground, spinning ~~[[cross out]]~~ turf, which spun ~~[[/cross out]]~~ him around, causing him to pile up and overturn, but he was not hurt. In November McGee purchased a new Burgess-Wright and built a hanger for it at Pawtucket. He remained there through the winter and started flying in the spring of 1913, making almost daily flights for sport and carrying

1



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McGee, John F.  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Mar-29-2024 09:10:33



## 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](http://www.si.edu)

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

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