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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Parmelee, Phillip O.

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 04:22:58

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melee was an active contestant in most events and won some firsts. On December 26th he was up to 6,625 feet in a new Wright plane, a single seat Wright Roadster. From there he went to the San Francisco Meet, held at Selfridge Field January 7th to 25th, 1911. Flying there also were Brookins, Beachey, Ely, Wiseman and Radley.

This meet was somewhat of a military nature and Parmelee made a number of flights carrying army officers on experimental military exercises. During the meet Parmelee carried Lt. Myron Crissley of the U.S. Coast Artillery on several bomb dropping tests. Live bombs, weighing about 12 pounds, were used and the tests were highly effective and surprisingly accurate. This was undoubtedly the first time live bombs were ever dropped from an aeroplane. On January 22d Parmelee broke the American Endurance Record when he remained aloft for 3 hour, 39 minutes to win a \$5,000 prize.

In February Parmelee was sent to the Army Base at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas to demonstrate the use of a Wright plane before army officers and carry out serial exercises. The plane he used was loaned to the army by Robert Collier of New York. Flying began about the end of February and continued past mid-March, and Parmelee carried out many serial exercise missions, wireless experiments and photographic tests. On March 3d he carried Lt. B.D. Foulois from Laredo to Eagle Pass, Texas over 106 miles of uninhabited territory in 2 hours, 10 minutes, with the plane loaded to 1,400 pound. On this flight there was no possible landing place except the Rio Grande River for practically the entire distance. The return flight was made March 7th with an additional load of 50 pounds - a wireless set. During his stay at the base Parmelee also gave Lt. Foulois some additional instruction and a number of officers their first ride.

April 5th to 12th Parmelee flew at Salt Lake City with Brookins, Curtiss and Willard. May 29th to June 3d he flew in a meet at the Driving Park, Columbus, Ohio with Earl Ovington, Tom Baldwin and Tom Sopwith. The planes were housed in a tent and one night bad storms raised havoc, somewhat damaging the planes. On July 25th he flew at Grand Forks, North Dakota at a local fair, then August 1st to 4th he was at Colorado Springs, Colorado with Turpin. They then went Chicago where Parmelee

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3

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