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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Rader, Phillip D.

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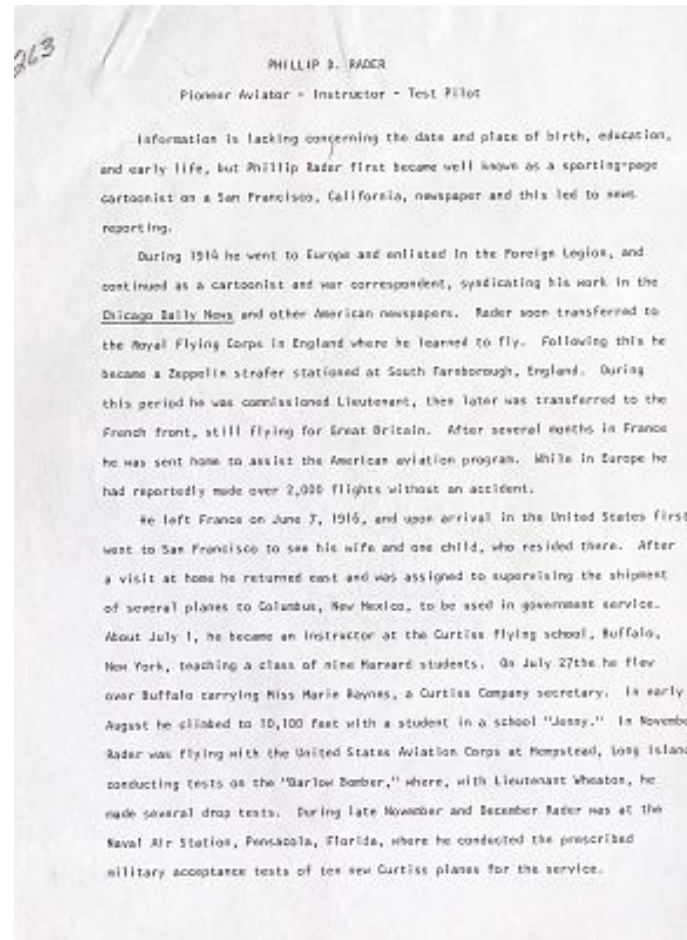
PHILLIP D. RADER

Pioneer Aviator - Instructor - Test Pilot

Information is lacking concerning the date and place of birth, education, and early life, but Phillip Rader first became well known as a sporting-page cartoonist on a San Francisco, California, newspaper and this led to news reporting.

During 1914 he went to Europe and enlisted in the Foreign Legion, and continued as a cartoonist and war correspondent, syndicating his work in the Chicago Daily News and other American newspapers. Rader soon transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in England where he learned to fly. Following this he became a Zeppelin strafe stationed at South Farnborough, England. During this period he was commissioned Lieutenant, then later was transferred to the French front, still flying for Great Britain. After several months in France he was sent home to assist the American aviation program. While in Europe he had reportedly made over 2,000 flights without an accident.

He left France on June 7, 1916, and upon arrival in the United States first went to San Francisco to see his wife and one child, who resided there. After a visit at home he returned east and was assigned to supervising the shipment of several planes to Columbus, New Mexico, to be used in government service. About July 1, he became an instructor at the Curtiss flying school, Buffalo, New York, teaching a class of nine Harvard students. On July 27th he flew over Buffalo carrying Miss Marie Baynes, a Curtiss Company secretary. In early August he climbed to 10,100 feet with a student in a school "Jenny." In November Rader was flying with the United States Aviation Corps at Hempstead, Long Island, conducting tests on the "Barlow Bomber," where, with Lieutenant Wheaton, he made several drop tests. During late November and December Rader was at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, where he conducted the prescribed military acceptance tests of ten new Curtiss planes for the service.



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