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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Welsh, Arthur L. "Al"

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meet Welsh remained at Kinloch for a few days and obtained F.A.I. Pilot License, No. 23, dated October 23, 1910, to become the first licensed American aviator of Jewish faith. From St. Louis he went to New York to enter the 1910 Belmont Park Meet already in progress and flew in that event until October 31st. This was a large meet and Wilbur and Orville Wright were there with Brookins, Hoxsey, Johnstone, Parmelee and Turpin. Six Curtiss pilots were also entered as well as a number of the leading aviators of Great Britain and France. This was a gala occasion and the Wright men put on a great show. Following the meet Welsh continued his flying activities at Dayton for the remainder of the season, and on December 24th took his sister, Mrs. Sidney Wiseman, for her first ride, undoubtedly, the first lady passenger of Jewish faith to fly in the United States.

The 1911 flying season was a very busy one for Welsh, and as the Wright School opened on April 1st he and Cliff Turpin were assigned as instructors. That year was the largest training period in the history of the school with a continuous line of students. Among some of their first that year were men whose names will forever be famous in the history of early aviation - Lt. John Rodgers, U.S. Naval Aviator No. 2, Cal Rodgers, Albert Lambert, Lieutenants Arnold and Milling, Oscar Brindley, Harry Atwood, Howard Gill, and Andrew Drew. On every available flying day the Simms Station training camp was a continuous aviation meet from early morning until dark, with new students up with instructors and the more advanced men practicing short flights, landings and takeoffs. Lieutenants H. K. Arnold and T. D. Milling arrived at the school in late April. Arnold was assigned there from the 23rd Infantry Division, and Welsh taught him to fly, starting May 3rd. His instruction was completed on May 13th after 28 lessons, with three hours and forty-eight ~~light~~ minutes total flying time. Turpin taught Milling during the same period. Lt. Arnold remained military career man throughout his life, attained the rank of General, and was Chief of the Army Air Force during World War II.

The second week in May Welsh started teaching Harry Atwood, who later gained fame for his daring, long, cross-country flights and his famous first landing on the White House lawn in Washington, D. C., to make a call on President Taft. It

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