



Fort Myers, Virginia--Post Headquarters (Building #246)

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo 1972



Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia (site of Wright-Selfridge airplane crash)

U.S. Army Photo 1972



Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia (Officers' Quarters)

U.S. Army Photo 1972



Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia (Officers' Quarters), Lee Avenue)

U.S. Army Photo 1972



Fort Myer (parade ground), Arlington, Virginia.

NPS Photo 1972



Fort Myer (parade ground), Arlington, Virginia.

NPS Photo 1972



JANUARY 1972
ARLINGTON NATIONAL
SPR

Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia (Jackson Avenue, looking north--old Riding Rink at left) U.S. Army Photo 1972



Fort Myer, Virginia--Commissary Buildings

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo 1972



Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia (old Riding Rink)

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Fort Myer, Virginia--Stable

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Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia (Temporary Building)

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Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia (old Post Hospital)

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Fort Myer, Virginia--Quarters 6 ("Generals' Row")

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo 1972



Fort Myer, Virginia--"Generals' Row"

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo 1972

FIRST MILITARY OFFICER
IN THE WORLD TO PILOT
AN AIRPLANE, SOLO, IN FLIGHT
MAY 19, 1908
HAMMONDSPORT, NEW YORK



FIRST PERSON IN THE WORLD
TO LOSE HIS LIFE AS THE
RESULT OF AN AIRPLANE ACCIDENT
SEPTEMBER 17, 1908
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA

THOMAS ETHOLEN SELFRIE

BORN IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 8, 1882; GRADUATED FROM THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, 1903; FIRST LIEUTENANT, FIELD ARTILLERY, ASSIGNED TO THE SIGNAL CORPS FOR AERONAUTIC DUTIES, UNITED STATES ARMY. LT. SELFRIE HAD ENTHUSIASTIC INTEREST AND EXTENDED EXPERIENCE IN AERONAUTICS. IN 1907 HE ASCENDED 108 FEET IN A LARGE TETRAHEDRAL KITE DEVELOPED BY ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL. LT. SELFRIE MADE A NUMBER OF BALLOON ASCENSIONS, QUALIFIED AS PILOT OF THE ARMY'S FIRST DIRIGIBLE AIRSHIP, STUDIED THE SCIENCE OF FLIGHT, PARTICIPATED IN THE DESIGN OF FOUR AIRPLANES, AND WROTE DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF AVIATION PROGRESS. HE WAS AGE 26 WHEN HE DIED. HAD HE LIVED, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF OUR ARMY'S MOST BRILLIANT LEADERS IN AERONAUTICS. HE WAS BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS IN NEARBY ARLINGTON CEMETERY.

DEDICATED BY THE EARLY BIRDS OF AVIATION
AS A MEMORIAL TO LIEUTENANT SELFRIE
AND TO ALL WHO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN FLIGHT

OCTOBER 23, 1970



SCULPTURE BY
CAPTAIN RALPH S. BARNABY, USN

FAMOUS FIRSTS IN AERONAUTICS AT FORT MYER

HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE WORLD AN AIRPLANE FLEW OVER AN HOUR THAT WAS ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1908, WHEN A WRIGHT BROTHERS "FLYER" PILOTED BY ORVILLE WRIGHT TOOK OFF FROM THE NORTH

END OF THE FORT MYER DRILL FIELD AND CIRCLED CONTINUOUSLY OVER THIS AREA FOR ONE HOUR, TWO MINUTES AND 15 SECONDS.

THE SAME DAY LIEUTENANT FRANK P. LAHM, U.S. ARMY, BECAME THE FIRST PERSON IN THE WORLD TO FLY IN AN AIRPLANE AS A MILITARY OBSERVER. THAT FLIGHT OF SIX MINUTES AND 24 SECONDS AS A PASSENGER WITH MR. WRIGHT WAS A WORLD RECORD FLIGHT FOR TWO MEN. THE NEXT YEAR IN ANOTHER WRIGHT "FLYER" THEY MADE A WORLD RECORD PASSENGER FLIGHT HERE OF ONE HOUR, 12 MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS.

THE FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT OF AN AIRPLANE IN AMERICA WAS MADE JULY 30, 1909, FROM FORT MYER TO ALEXANDRIA AND RETURN, A CONTINUOUS ROUND TRIP OF TEN MILES AVERAGING ABOUT 32 1/2 MILES PER HOUR. ORVILLE WRIGHT WAS PILOT AND LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN FOULDS, U.S. ARMY, WAS PASSENGER.

FOLLOWING THESE OFFICIAL TESTS THAT WRIGHT "FLYER" OF 1909 WAS ACCEPTED AND PURCHASED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT. IT WAS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL MILITARY AIRPLANE IN THE WORLD. IT REMAINED IN ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE SIGNAL CORPS AVIATION SECTION UNTIL 1911. IT IS NOW IN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM. IN 1908 THE ARMY'S FIRST DIRIGIBLE AIRSHIP, THE "SC-1" WAS TEST-FLOWN FROM THIS FIELD.

DEDICATED JULY 30, 1959
BY THE
EARLY BIRDS OF AVIATION



AN ORGANIZATION OF THOSE
WHO FLEW SOLO
BEFORE DECEMBER 17, 1906

IN MEMORY OF FIRST LIEUTENANT THOMAS E. SELFRIDGE

ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1908, ABOUT 50 YARDS SOUTHWEST OF THIS WEST GATE OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY ON THE NORTH AREA OF FT. MYER OCCURRED THE FIRST CRASH OF AN AIRPLANE ON A U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION. THE PILOT, ORVILLE WRIGHT, WAS INJURED. HIS PASSENGER, FIRST LT. THOMAS E. SELFRIDGE, 1ST REGIMENT FIELD ARTILLERY, U.S.A. ON DETAIL TO THE SIGNAL CORPS FOR AVIATION DUTIES, DIED OF HIS INJURIES, BECOMING THE FIRST ARMY OFFICER TO PAY THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN AN EFFORT TO AID MAN'S ENDEAVOR TO FLY.

DEDICATED BY THE U.S. ARMY SEPT. 3, 1958



Fort Myer, Virginia--Old Barracks (Building #246)

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo 1972



Fort Myer, Virginia--Old Post Hospital in 1876.

National Archives Photo