

0. FLYER 3 and OTHER FAMOUS FLIGHTS - Story
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This image depicts a powered plane which the Wright Brothers called "Flyer 3" which first flew in 1905. The photo has this description, [from the Library of Congress](#): "The remodeled 1905 Wright machine, altered to allow the operator to assume a sitting position and to provide a seat for a passenger, on the launching track at Kill Devil Hills. This is apparently the only photograph of this machine taken by the Wright brothers in 1908."

Later that afternoon, Orville sent a [telegram](#) to his father who was [home](#) in Dayton. Elated, Mr. Wright wrote his [personal thoughts](#) in his diary, including his consternation that the press had not reported the amazing events. Orville also [penned](#) his [reactions](#) to the [day's events](#) in his [diary](#).

The test flights proved Orville and Wilbur Wright had conquered the initial problems of flight. They had filed an application for their new invention with the U.S. Patent Office nearly nine months before. ([Patent 821,393](#) would be issued on May 22, 1906 - more than three years later.)

However ... they had more work to do before they could make a practical airplane. Flyer 1 was underpowered and hard to control. It would only fly in a straight line for about a minute.

For the next two years the brothers improved their designs. They set up the world's first test-flight facilities at Huffman Prairie, today the site of Wright Patterson Air Force Base. By the end of 1905, with [Flyer 3](#) still [including parts](#) that [looked](#) as though they [belonged](#) on a bicycle, they were [flying](#) figure-eights over Huffman Prairie until their fuel ran out.

They had solved the practical problems of flight.

By [1909](#), the Wright brothers had developed their first [military flyer](#). Wilbur traveled to Europe and showed Europeans how to fly. (Follow this link to a [movie](#) of that event.) The Wright brothers' [place](#) as two of history's greatest [inventors](#) was [assured](#).

Like Gutenberg before them, Wilbur and Orville Wright [forever changed life](#), as human beings had known it. No longer did people live in a two-dimensional world. No longer did men fight battles only on land and on sea.

Following in the Wright Brothers' footsteps, Charles A. Lindbergh undertook a risky mission in May of 1927. In [his](#) small plane - called the "Spirit of St. Louis" - Lindbergh successfully attempted the world's first transatlantic flight.

[Leaving Roosevelt Field](#) (in Long Island, New York) at 7:52 AM on the 20th of May, 1927, "Lucky Lindy" touched-

down at Le Bourget Field (in Paris) at 11:22 PM the next evening. A crowd of approximately 30,000 people was on hand to greet him.

The age of aviation - featuring flights between continents - had arrived 17½ years after the first powered flight at Kitty Hawk.

Five years to the day after Lindbergh's transatlantic journey, Amelia Earhart became the first female pilot to fly solo across the ocean. She left Harbour Grace, Newfoundland at dusk (on May 20, 1932) and landed at Culmore, Northern Ireland the next day.

She later explained the problems she experienced en route, including very bad weather and mechanical troubles.

Bad weather, accompanied by pilot error, caused many other famous crashes within the first half-century of regular flights. One such disaster - referred to as "The Day the Music Died" - occurred on February 3, 1959.

With a pilot who was not licensed to fly in instrument conditions at the yoke of a 1949 Beechcraft Bonanza, Model 35 (commonly referred to as a "V-Tail"), three "rock-n-roll" stars - Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. ("The Big Bopper") Richardson - died when their plane crashed soon-after takeoff.

Although the crash killed everyone onboard, the fully fueled plane did not burn. The Coroner's Report on the Crash - and the four individual Death Certificates - indicate that all four men died of massive trauma.

In 2007, Dr. Bill Bass examined Richardson's exhumed body. He found the Bopper was remarkably well-preserved and that he had sustained at least 200 bone fractures, "from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet."

Fifty years later, another plane crashed soon after takeoff. This time, however, brilliant flying by Captain Sullenberger, and his first officer, saved everyone on board when the plane (operating as US Airways Flight 1549) landed in the Hudson River (on January 15, 2009).

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FLYER-3-and-OTHER-FAMOUS-FLIGHTS-History-of-Flight>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FLYER-3-and-OTHER-FAMOUS-FLIGHTS-History-of-Flight>

Media Stream



Wright's Family Home in Dayton, Ohio

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Wright-s-Family-Home-in-Dayton-Ohio>



Flyer 3 - Display

Image online, courtesy wright-brothers.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flyer-3-Display>



Flyer 3 - The Controls

Image online, courtesy wright-brothers.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flyer-3-The-Controls>



Flyer 3 - Rear View

Image online, courtesy the wright-brothers.org website.

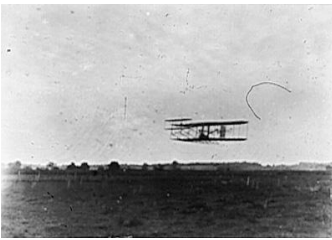
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flyer-3-Rear-View>



Chain and Sprocket Used on Flyer 3

Image online, courtesy wright-brothers.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Chain-and-Sprocket-Used-on-Flyer-3>



Flyer - Photo Performing Figure Eights

Image online, courtesy the 456fis.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flyer-Photo-Performing-Figure-Eights>



Wright's 1909 Military Flyer

Image online, courtesy the wright-brothers.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Wright-s-1909-Military-Flyer>

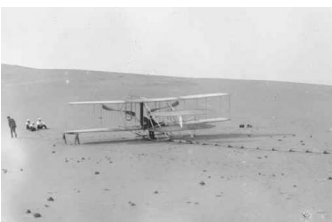


The Day the Music Died - Crash Scene

Official photo of the crash scene near Mason City, Iowa - where Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. Richardson died on February 3, 1959 - from the investigation report assessing probable cause of the crash, online courtesy NTSB. The plane's pilot, Roger Peterson, also died.

The Coroner's Report on the crash indicates that both the Sheriff (Jerry Allen) and the Coroner (Ralph E. Smiley, M.D.) requested Glen Kellogg (of Clear Lake, Iowa) to take pictures of the crash scene.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Day-the-Music-Died-Crash-Scene>



FLYER 3 and OTHER FAMOUS FLIGHTS

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Wright Brothers - First Flight in Europe

Film clip, U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Wright-Brothers-First-Flight-in-Europe>



Wright Brothers - Their Flying Machine

From "The Wright Brothers' Flying Machine," online courtesy PBS.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Wright-Brothers-Their-Flying-Machine>



Charles Lindbergh - Highlights of First Transatlantic Flight

Fox Newsreel clip, online courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Charles-Lindbergh-Highlights-of-First-Transatlantic-Flight>



Amelia Earhart - First Female Transatlantic Flight

Clip of Amelia Earhart explaining her May 1932 transatlantic flight, online via YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Amelia-Earhart-First-Female-Transatlantic-Flight>