

1908, Fort Myer Accident, September 17

Crumpled wreckage of Wright airplane, Fort Myer, September 17, 1908. The airplane had crashed to earth from a height of about 75 feet after the propeller blade broke and the machine went out of control. Orville, seriously injured, is being removed from wreckage. Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, his passenger, lies on ground to right, fatally injured. He died several hours later.

M C W P 165; ASHWB 66; CAIAF 2; GHUSAF 5; GSEFM; GSPA 36; JOHHU 245; KELMKH b. 238-239; Nat Geog Mag, v. 104, Dec. 1953: 143; SMIN 42,667-E; USAF 49588; YPHA 35

Men lifting wing of Wright airplane to remove Orville who was pinned beneath the wreckage.

COCKDH following 168; SMIN 42,869-B; SMIN 42,869-C

Doctors examining Orville after removal from wrecked Wright airplane.

SMIN 42,927

View of bottom wing of wrecked Wright airplane, elevators tilted above wing, crowd at left of picture gathered around Orville.

SMIN 42,869

Orville being carried from flying field on a stretcher, bottom wing of wrecked Wright airplane visible in background, mounted cavalry officers and military personnel at right.

Collier's, v. 80, Aug. 20, 1927: 9; SMIN 42,869-F

View of Wright airplane wreck immediately following crash, spectators lifting wings to remove Lt. Selfridge, pinned beneath the wreckage.

COCKDH following 168; HMSHA facing 187; KELMKH b. 238-239; SMIN 42,667-E; USAF 48588

Three men bending over Lt. Selfridge who is lying on ground after removal from airplane, spectators at right.

COCKDH following 168; SMIN 42,869-A; Washingtonian, v. 14, Nov. 1978: 189

Physicians administering to Lt. Selfridge, who is lying on ground. Wright airplane is at left, four cavalry officers at center and right, group of spectators at left and in center.

SMIN 42,289-D

Lt. Selfridge on stretcher being removed from scene of accident. Crowd is gathered at left and behind it is a mounted cavalry officer.

SMIN 42,285-B; USAF 48613. Similar: SMIN 42,927-A

View of wreckage of Wright airplane, crowd gathered around on sides and at rear.

SMIN 42,927-E

View of wreckage of Wright airplane, group of bystanders and horse and buggy in foreground.

SMIN 42,290-A; SMIN 76-17456

Propeller tip broken in accident.

SMIN 42,1684; TILLMU 52; USAF 48612

Rear view of propeller removed from Wright 1908 machine.

SMIN 6159-G

Wright airplane fitting which broke, contributing to accident.

SMIN 42,688-C

Close-up view between wing panels of Wright airplane showing damage caused by accident.

SMIN 42,286

Close-up view of damaged skid on Wright airplane.

SMIN 42,284-G

View of wreckage of Wright airplane, right end of airplane tilted upward.

COCKDH following 168; Collier's, v. 42, Oct. 3, 1908: 11; Pop Sci, v. 114, May 1929: 50; Washingtonian, v. 14, Nov. 1978: 189; World's Work, v. 56, Sept. 1927: 519

Close-up view of Wright airplane wreckage, bottom wing visible with elevators projecting above wing.

Illustrated London News, v. 133, Oct. 3, 1908: 480; L'Illustration, v. 132, Oct. 10, 1908: 244; SMIN 42,286-B; SMIN 76-17454

Close-up view of wrecked Wright airplane, mounted cavalry officer and civilian passing by.

SMIN 42,285-D; SMIN 76-17482

View of wreckage of Wright airplane, mounted cavalry officers and spectators at right.

SMIN 42,927-C