

# Monuments and Memorials

Continuing tribute has been paid to the Wrights in the building and dedication of markers, memorials, and monuments in their honor—in France at Auvours, Hunaudières, Le Mans, and Pau and in the United States at Dayton, Ohio, Governors Island, New York, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and New Castle, Indiana.

The Auvours monument, a simple stone marker erected in 1913 bearing Wilbur's name with a bird poised in flight above, commemorating Wilbur's flights at Camp d'Auvours, France, in 1908, front and three-quarter front view.

**Légion d'honneur, v. 1, Apr. 1933: 209**

Wilbur Wright monument at Le Mans, France, the work of sculptor Paul Landowski and architect Paul Bigot, which was dedicated July 17, 1920. Views of the large gathering of prominent Frenchmen and Americans at the unveiling of the forty-foot-high monument in the Place des Jacobins, with the Cathedral of St. Julien in the background. The figures of Wilbur and Orville are carved in bas-relief at the base and, at the summit, is an allegorical figure, a man reaching to the skies, as if straining to overcome the restrictions of earth.

**Aerial Age W, Sept. 13, 1920: 8 ; Flying, v. 9, Sept. 1920: 530 ; L'Illustration, v. 56, July 24, 1920: 69**

Wilbur Wright monument at Le Mans, three-quarter front view.

**LC-BECK; Aero Digest, v. 25, Dec. 1928: 1780 ; L'Illustration, v. 56, July 24, 1920: 68 ; Légion d'honneur, v. 1, Apr. 1933: 206; MARWBC 5; Le Monde illustré, v. 27, July 24 1920: 63; SMIN 31290-K; U.S. Air Service, v. 4, Nov. 1920: 21; U.S. Air Service, v. 8, Dec. 1923: 18**

Three-quarter front view of the Wilbur Wright monument at the studio of the sculptor, Paul Landowski. At the left are Sidney B. Viet, President, Paris Chapter, National Aeronautic Association, and Baron Paul d'Estournelles de Constant, President, Wilbur Wright Monument Committee, and at the right is Paul Landowski.

**MILWA v. 2: 83**

Wilbur Wright monument with Cathedral of St. Julien in background. Etching, by Caroline Armington.

**MILWA v. 1: 6**

The base of the Wilbur Wright monument, three-quarter front view, with the sculptor, Paul Landowski, standing to the left.

**L'Illustration, v. 56, July 24, 1920: 69**

Base of the Wilbur Wright monument showing the Wright airplane and the figures of Wilbur and Orville in bas-relief, with notable dates in their flying careers inscribed.

**Le Monde illustré, v. 27, July 24, 1920: 63**

Wright brothers monument, Pau, France, dedicated January 30, 1932, to commemorate the first flights of Wilbur at Pau in 1909 and the training of the first French aviators there. The monument, a slender shaft, was the work of the Pau sculptor Ernest Gagard and shows the likenesses of Wilbur and Orville and a representation of one of their first machines in flight. The inscription reads, "Ici, en 1909, Wilbur Wright fit ses premiers vols."

**Légion d'honneur, v. 1, Apr. 1933: 212**

Scene at dedication of Pau monument, January 30, 1932, with French officer and French aviation personnel to right of monument.

**L'Illustration, v. 181, Feb. 6, 1932: 164; Revue des Forces aériennes, v. 4, Apr. 1932: 1**

The French 36th Aviation Group, to whose care the Wright monument was entrusted, saluting it as they march past at the dedication ceremonies, January 30.

**National Aeronautics Magazine, v. 10, May 1932: 16; U.S. Air Services, v. 17, Apr. 1932: 32**

American Ambassador Walter Edge speaking under specially decorated canopy to group gathered for the dedication ceremonies at Pau monument, January 30.

**National Aeronautic Magazine, v. 10, May 1932: 16**

Memorial tablet honoring Wilbur at Henry County Memorial Park, New Castle, Ind. Erected by the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity on April 15, 1923, the marker is located on the spot where the farmhouse of Bishop Milton Wright originally stood. The inscription reads, "Wilbur Wright—aviator and pioneer of heavier-than-air aviation."

**Dayton Journal, Dec. 17, 1933: 1; Dayton Journal, May 4, 1937: 1; SMIN 13,470-A; SMIN 13,470-C; WIWRM**

Simple stone memorial marking the site of Wilbur's flights at Hunaudières Race Course, Le Mans, France, in August 1908. On the stone are simple diagrams of the Wright airplane and launching pylon and inscriptions in French and English recording Wright flight events at the site.

**Aeroplane, v. 95, Aug. 8, 1928: 190**

Orville, Sen. Hiram Bingham, and Amelia Earhart at the unveiling of a granite memorial erected by the National Aeronautic Association on December 17, 1928. The boulder has a bronze plaque bearing the inscription "The First Successful Flight of an Airplane Was Made from This Spot by Orville Wright, December 17, 1903, in a Machine Designed and Built by Wilbur Wright and Orville Wright."

**Aeronautic Review**, v. 7, Jan. 1929: 5; **Aeronautic Review**, v. 10, July 1932: 15; **BBAKH**; **Washington Star**, Dec. 30, 1928. **Orville only: MCMWB 306**

Marble shaft honoring the Wright brothers erected at Kitty Hawk, N.C., at the Capt. William J. Tate homesite where the first Wright experimental gliders were assembled.

**BBAKH**; **U.S. Air Services**, v. 13, Dec. 1928: 33

Sen. Hiram Bingham unveiling the memorial to the Wright brothers at the spot where the first flight was made, December 17, 1903.

**Aeronautic Review**, v. 7, Jan. 1929: 4

Bronze and granite marker unveiled on December 17, 1954, on Governors Island, N.Y., by Early Birds to commemorate historic flights to and from Governors Island, the first by Wilbur on September 29, 1909. A bronze propeller cast from a wooden one used by the Wrights in 1909 is mounted on one side of the monument.

**SMIN A 48,798**

## ***Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, Dayton, Ohio***

Long-range front views of Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, dedicated on August 19, 1940, on Wright Brothers' Hill, Dayton, overlooking the site of Huffman Prairie where the Wrights experimented with their airplane of 1904 and 1905. The bronze tablet on the front of the 30-ton pink granite column is crowned by a winged torch symbolizing the Wrights' research and achievements.

**SMIN A48,799; WADC 78238-78240,78242**

Close-up front views of Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, Dayton, Ohio.

**WADC 78241,78245**

Three-quarter front views of Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, Dayton, Ohio.

**BBAKH APGAFM 7; SMIN A 48,797; WADC 78246, 78247; WRBR 16**

Close-up front view of bronze tablet on Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, inscribed with their names and achievements.

**WADC 78237**

Close-up view of bronze tablet at Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, inscribed with names of 119 of "Pioneer Flyers Who Were Trained at Wright Brothers Field."

**WADC 2978**

Close-up view of bronze tablet at Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, inscribed with achievements of Wrights at nearby Huffman Prairie in 1904-1905.

**WADC 78244**

Col. Edward A. Deeds presiding at the dedication of the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial before its unveiling.

**MARCD following 352**

Col. Edward A. Deeds eulogizing the Wrights at dedicatory exercises for the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial, August 20, 1940. Orville is seated nearby with Gen. Henry H. Arnold at his left and Navy Capt. Kenneth Whiting at his right, both former flying pupils of the Wright School.

**U.S. Air Services, v. 25, Sept. 1940: 11**

NCR [National Cash Register] *Factory News* special issue giving pictorial account of the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial dedicatory exercises.

**NCR [National Cash Register] Factory News,  
Aug./Sept. 1940: 1-6**

## ***Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina***

Winning design in competition for Wright memorial at Kitty Hawk, N.C., site.

**Dayton Journal, Feb. 28, 1930; New York Times,  
Feb. 23, 1930: ix, 14; Pencil Points, v. 11, Apr. 1930:  
304-305**

Aerial views of Kitty Hawk, N.C., first flight area, including Wright Brothers National Memorial.

**Aeronautic Review, v. 6, Dec. 1928: 188,191, 192;  
BBAKH, National Aeronautics, v. 40, Dec. 1961: 6;  
SMIN A52,719**

Ruth Nichols unveiling Wright Brothers National Memorial, November 19, 1932, in the presence of Orville and high-ranking government officials.

**New York Times, Nov. 20, 1932; SC-98159**

Orville with members of his family and relatives in front of Wright memorial when it was dedicated, November 19.

**SMIN 42,288-H**

Long-range views of Wright memorial.

**LC-BECK; Life, v. 113, Nov. 10, 1941: 113; New York  
Times Magazine, Dec. 11, 1932: 4**

Close-up front view of Wright memorial with visible inscription reading "Wilbur Wright, Orville Wright. In commemoration of the Conquest of the Air."

**BBAKH; HEGOV facing 112; KELMKH b. 238-239**

Side view of the Wright memorial.

**Airlanes, Nov. 1937: cover; HWMHD 3. Similar: HAWBHP 100**

Corner views of the Wright memorial.

**BBAKH; GLWB facing 41; SMIN 31,684-C; SMIN 38,902; USAF 62465; U.S. Air Services, v. 22, Dec. 1937: 4; U.S. Air Services, v. 24, May 1939: 13**

Stainless steel doors of the Wright memorial ornamented with eight panels symbolizing various steps in human efforts at mechanical flight.

**HWMHD 10; Technology Review, v. 41, Jan. 1939: cover**

Front view of Wright memorial with group of visitors on steps on day of dedication, November 19.

**SC-99158; SMIN 31,290-A; SMIN 42,412-G**

Wright Memorial as viewed on December 14, 1953, when United States, United Nations, and International Goodwill flags were flown nearby as part of the observance of the 50th anniversary of the 1903 flights by the Wright brothers.

**SMIN A52,723**

Aircraft in flight over Wright memorial.

**Airlanes, Nov. 1937: 4; BBAKH; EWBNM facing 1; EWBNM 62; USAF 13876 A.C.**

Museum and Visitors Center and rebuilt Wright brothers' 1903 hangar and living quarters at the Kitty Hawk memorial.

**National Aeronautics, v. 40, Dec. 1961: 4; SMIN A4345. Hangar and living quarters only: Society of Architectural Historians Journal, v. 13, Oct. 1954: 29**

Reconstructed Wright brothers' 1902 kitchen.

**Society of Architectural Historians Journal, v. 13, Oct. 1954: 29**