

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

# October

# 2007

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## Yeager Pilot Notes From An XS-1 Flight

Date: 27 October 1947

Pilot: Capt. Charles E. Yeager

Flight Time: 8 minutes

10th Powered Flight

**RESTRICTED**  
**DECLASSIFIED**

**RESTRICTED CLASSIFICATION**  
**REMOVED PER E.O. 13526**

1. Entry into the XS-1 was made in the usual fashion at 7,000', and it was dropped from the B-29 at 20,000' and 255 mph indicated airspeed. The Stabilizer had been set at 1 degree nose down.
2. Immediately after drop, an attempt was made to start the motor, but no ignition could be obtained in any cylinder. At about this time, it was noticed that none of the electrical instruments seemed to be operating, nor had any conversation been heard on the radio after the drop. Consequently, it was evident that there had been a complete failure of the airplane's electrical system. This failure is not evident before drop because of the electrical supply furnished by the B-29.
3. By this time, the XS-1 had descended to perhaps 17,000', so the emergency jettison system was operated to get rid of all fuel and ice. By the time the airplane had glided to 12,000' all the liquid had been exhausted, a fact which was verified by performing a stall and obtaining the usual stalling speed of approximately 155 mph indicated airspeed.
4. Shortly thereafter, the landing gear was extended. Since the wheels and flaps are normally put down by nitrogen pressure supplied through a solenoid valve, and this valve was inoperative because of the electrical failure, the gear extension was affected by gravity, and the flaps remained up. The extension took noticeably longer than usual and there was no way of knowing whether the wheels were locked down, so the airplane was rocked and subjected to normal acceleration. Subsequently, a normal landing was made on the lake bed, although somewhat faster than usual.
5. Post-flight inspection revealed that the inability to obtain any electrical power had been caused by a small deposit of corrosion between one of the battery terminals and the corresponding cable connector. This condition was so minor that a light pull on the cable re-established contact. However, preventive measures have been established and preflight check will be made by disconnecting the B-29 electrical supply.

*Charles E. Yeager*  
Charles E. Yeager  
Capt. A.C.



**Captain Charles E. Yeager, the Air Force pilot and the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound, in the Bell XS-1 supersonic research aircraft, 1947.**  
RG 342: Records of U.S. Air Force Commands

On October 14, 1947, just fifty years after the Wright Brothers' first flights at Kitty Hawk, U.S. Air Force captain Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager flew the Bell XS-1 rocket-powered research plane faster than the speed of sound. On that day, Yeager wrote in almost anti-dramatic terms in his pilot's notes that after turning on the engines "Acceleration was rapid and speed increased to .98 mach [the speed of sound]. The needle of the machmeter fluctuated at this reading momentarily, then passed off the scale." That moment when the needle went off the scale marked an early step toward the entry of the United States into the field of space exploration. The XS-1 was among the first of many high-speed test planes to be tested on the dry lake bed at the Dryden Flight Research Center. In subsequent years, the X-15 was also tested at Dryden. This plane, which was flown by Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the Moon, held the air speed record for many years. The pilot notes reproduced here are from Yeager's first flight following his sound barrier breaking flight. It illustrates the dangers Yeager faced, describing how he dropped in the XS-1 from a B-29 bomber only to find that the entire electrical system failed.

### **Pilot's Notes from the 10th Powered Flight of the XS-1 Flight Test Project Files 1946-1959 X-1 Series Aircraft Dryden Flight Research Center, NASA Records**

RG 255, NARA Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)

### **Left: XS-1, The First Manned Aircraft to Break the Sound Barrier Flight Test Project Files 1946-1959 X-1 Series Aircraft Dryden Flight Research Center, NASA Records.**

RG 255, NARA Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)

# NARA West Coast October 2007

'Corn Dancers' by  
Frank and Keith  
Austin  
Limited Edition  
Commemorating the  
Institute of American  
Indian Arts at Santa  
Fe, New Mexico, 1980  
RG 435, Records of the  
Indian Arts and Crafts  
Board



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Exhibit: Edmonds, WA <i>WSCSS Teacher's Conference 10/14/07</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6 Laguna Niguel, CA <b>Uncovering the Where and How of History: Archives Conference/K-12 Students</b> 949-360-3426  Seattle, WA <b>Chinese Exclusion Records at NARA Seattle</b> Lecture/General Public 206-336-5115
7	8	9	10	11 Irvine, CA <b>S/W Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Workshop</b> Archival and Allied Professionals 949-360-2640  Seattle, WA <b>Brick Wall Discussion Workshop/Genealogists</b> 206-336-5115	12	13 Tacoma, WA <b>Military Resources at the National Archives</b> Lecture/General Public 206-336-5115  Edmonds, WA <b>"Death in the Clouds": Japanese Balloon Bombs</b> Lecture/K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115
14	15	16	17	18 Seattle, WA <b>Stump the Archivist</b> Tour/General Public 206-336-5115	19	20 Edmonds, WA <b>Pacific Northwest Indian Records at NARA Seattle</b> Lecture/K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115  Seattle, WA, 11 A.M. <b>"Come See What We're Saving for You"—Tours</b> Tour/General Public 206-336-5115
21	22	23	24	25	26 Reno, NV <b>American Association of School Librarians Conference</b> Information Booth K-12 Teachers 650-238-3480 10/26/07-10/28/07	27 Seattle, WA, 1 P.M. <b>"Come See What We're Saving for You"—Tours</b> Tour/General Public 206-336-5115
28	29	30	31	32 Highlands Ranch, CO <b>Using NARA Records for Research</b> Conference General Public 303-407-5749	33 University of CA—Davis <b>California Indian Conference—NARA Exhibit</b> Information Booth Exhibit 650-238-3484 10/26/07-10/28/07  University of CA—Davis <b>California Indian Conference—Research Resources</b> Lecture/General Public 650-238-3484 10/26/07-10/28/07	34 Vancouver, WA <b>National History Day Presentation</b> Workshop/K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115  Lynnwood, WA <b>Using the National Archives</b> Lecture/General Public 206-336-5115
			Seattle, WA <b>Preserving Your Documents and Photographs</b> Workshop General Public 206-336-5115			

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# NARA East Coast October 2007

**The Wright Company v. Herring-Curtiss Company and Glen H. Curtiss**  
RG 276, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, Appellate Case No. 3869



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Morrow, GA <b>Regional In-Depth Genealogical Studies Alliance</b> Workshop and Tour Genealogists 706-268-3311 10/1/07-10/5/07	2 Waltham, MA <b>Introduction to Genealogy</b> Lecture 2 p.m. General Public 781-663-0121	3 Little Rock, AK <b>Southeastern Museum Conference</b> Information Booth Archival and Allied Professionals 770-968-2555 10/3/07-10/4/07 Philadelphia, PA <b>Introduction to the National Archives</b> Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0112	4 Hicksville, NY <b>Introduction to Naturalization Records</b> Workshop/Genealogists 866-840-1752 Waltham, MA <b>Revolutionary War Records and Papers of the Continental Congress</b> Education PDP workshop K-12 Teachers 781-663-0121	5 Philadelphia, PA <b>First Friday Genealogy Open House—Maps</b> Open House General Public 215-606-0112	6 New York, NY <b>Using Custom's House Records</b> Open House General Public 866-840-1752
7 <b>Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA</b> <i>Panic of 1837—Bankrupt!</i> 10/9/07—10/19/07	8 <b>New York Archives Week</b> 10/8/07—10/13/07	9 New York, NY <b>NARA Open House</b> Open House General Public 866-840-1752 Abingdon, PA <b>Little Known Genealogical Records at NARA</b> Lecture/Genealogists 215-619-7772	10 New York, NY <b>Federal Hall Open House</b> Open House/General Public 866-840-1752 Philadelphia, PA <b>Exploring the Census</b> Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0112	11	12 Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding Italian Ancestors Part 1</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 Nashville, TN <b>Tennessee's History Festival</b> Information Booth General Public 770-968-2555 10/12/07-10/13/07	13 Philadelphia, PA <b>Intro to NARA for Genealogists</b> Workshop/Genealogists 215-545-0391 Philadelphia, PA <b>William Penn Week</b> General Public www.ushistory.org/penn/ 10/13/07-10/21/07
14 <b>Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA</b> <i>Melting Pot Woes: Ethnic Suspicions on The Homefront 1917-1918</i> 9/24/07-8/31/08	15	16 Merrimac, MA <b>Introduction to Genealogy</b> Lecture/General Public 978-346-9441	Collingdale, PA <b>O.V. Catto Marker Dedication</b> General Public 215-563-6042 Pittsfield, MA <b>Beginning Your Genealogy Research at NARA</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	18 Pittsfield, MA <b>Using Pre-1850 Census to Find Family</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 Ellis Island Museum, NY <b>Family History Game Show</b> Workshop General Public 866-840-1752	19	20 Morrow, GA <b>My Family's Story: A Workshop for Young People</b> Workshop/K-12 Students 770-968-2555
21	22 Ridgewood, NJ <b>Using Customs House Records for Genealogy</b> Lecture/Genealogists 866-840-1752	23	17 Philadelphia, PA <b>Your Family and the Courts</b> Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0112 Pittsfield, MA <b>Using Federal Census at NARA</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	25 Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding the Correct Ancestor</b> Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604 New York, NY <b>The Nine: Inside the Secret World Supreme Court</b> Lecture/General Public 212-868-4444	26	27 Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding Italian Ancestors, Part 2</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600
28	29	30 Philadelphia, PA <b>Finding Immigrant Ancestors</b> Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0112	24 Pittsfield, MA <b>Finding your Immigrant Ancestor at NARA</b> Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	31	<b>New York, NY</b> <i>New York: An American Capital</i> 12/14/06-12/31/07 <i>From NARA's Holdings: New York Photographs</i> 10/1/05-12/31/07	

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**NARA's Southeast Region**  
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# NARA Midwest October 2007

**Tug Towing Schooner Loaded With Lumber in Chicago Harbor, 1891**  
RG 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Chicago District



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1 La Grange, IL <b>Researching Family History</b> Lecture/Genealogists 708-352-0576</p> <p>Excelsior Springs, MO <b>Genealogical Resources In the Kansas City Area</b> Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8072</p>	<p>2 Little Rock, AK <b>Southeastern Museum Conference</b> Information Booth Archival and Allied Professionals 404-378-3153 10/3/07-10/4/07</p>	<p>3 Kansas City, MO <b>Preserving Your Genealogical Documents and Photos</b> Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8016</p>	4	5	6 Fort Worth, TX <b>General Overview of Research of NARA-SW Region</b> Archives/Genealogy Genealogists 817-871-7740
7	8	9	10 Lee's Summit, MO <b>U.S. Military Records at the National Archives</b> Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8017	11	12	13 Independence, MO <b>Midnight Madness: Visit the National Archives in Your Jammies</b> Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8072
14	15	16	17	18	19 Kansas City, MO <b>Gulon Miller Rolls</b> Lecture/General Public 816-268-8072	20 Wheaton, IL <b>Tenth Annual Civil War Symposium</b> Symposium General Public 773-948-9001
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Exhibit: Kansas City, MO <b>WOWs!: Women Ordnance Workers</b> 9/4/07-10/31/07	31	<p>Exhibit: Kansas City, MO <b>Mugged!</b> 8/4/07-11/24/07</p> <p>Oak Grove, MO <b>Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, 10/26/07-11/19/07</b></p>		<p>Exhibit: Jefferson Barracks, MO <b>WWI Aviation</b> 7/4/07-11/4/07</p>

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