

From the Desk of Col George Dodenhoff, USMC – Part 4

Description



Subtitle: First Solo

On September 21st, 1943, the Colonel took to the skies by himself. A critical step in the process of learning to fly anywhere, he did so with a total of 12 recorded dual control flight time. He would have been sitting in the aft seat of the N2S-3 BuNo 07759. As a point of reference by today’s training, a civilian private pilot’s license first solo flight doesn’t have a set number of hours to have, but it is at the discretion of the flight instructor to allow the first individual journey into the sky. I would assume (not being an aviator), similar in the military training realm.

He was aloft for 1.5 hours over NAS Corpus Christi (again an assumption on the location). with no notes at all, so it had to be a very specific regarding the syllabus for a solo flight of skills to be practiced.

Date	Time	Engine	Duration	Pilot	Remarks
10	0715	1.5	8	GEORGE H. DODENHOFF	SELF
11	0715	1.5	"	"	"
12	0715	1.5	"	"	"
13	0715	1.5	"	"	"
14	0715	1.5	"	"	"
15	0715	1.5	"	"	"
16	0715	1.5	"	"	"
17	0715	1.5	"	"	"
18	0715	1.5	"	"	"
19	0715	1.5	"	"	"
20	0715	1.5	"	"	"
21	0715	1.5	"	"	"
22	0715	1.5	"	"	"
23	0715	1.5	"	"	"
24	0715	1.5	"	"	"
25	0715	1.5	"	"	"
26	0715	1.5	"	"	"
27	0715	1.5	"	"	"
28	0715	1.5	"	"	"
29	0715	1.5	"	"	"
30	0715	1.5	"	"	"
31	0715	1.5	"	"	"
32	0715	1.5	"	"	"
33	0715	1.5	"	"	"
34	0715	1.5	"	"	"
35	0715	1.5	"	"	"
36	0715	1.5	"	"	"
37	0715	1.5	"	"	"
38	0715	1.5	"	"	"
39	0715	1.5	"	"	"
40	0715	1.5	"	"	"
41	0715	1.5	"	"	"
42	0715	1.5	"	"	"
43	0715	1.5	"	"	"
44	0715	1.5	"	"	"
45	0715	1.5	"	"	"
46	0715	1.5	"	"	"
47	0715	1.5	"	"	"
48	0715	1.5	"	"	"
49	0715	1.5	"	"	"
50	0715	1.5	"	"	"
51	0715	1.5	"	"	"
52	0715	1.5	"	"	"
53	0715	1.5	"	"	"
54	0715	1.5	"	"	"
55	0715	1.5	"	"	"
56	0715	1.5	"	"	"
57	0715	1.5	"	"	"
58	0715	1.5	"	"	"
59	0715	1.5	"	"	"
60	0715	1.5	"	"	"
61	0715	1.5	"	"	"
62	0715	1.5	"	"	"
63	0715	1.5	"	"	"
64	0715	1.5	"	"	"
65	0715	1.5	"	"	"
66	0715	1.5	"	"	"
67	0715	1.5	"	"	"
68	0715	1.5	"	"	"
69	0715	1.5	"	"	"
70	0715	1.5	"	"	"
71	0715	1.5	"	"	"
72	0715	1.5	"	"	"
73	0715	1.5	"	"	"
74	0715	1.5	"	"	"
75	0715	1.5	"	"	"
76	0715	1.5	"	"	"
77	0715	1.5	"	"	"
78	0715	1.5	"	"	"
79	0715	1.5	"	"	"
80	0715	1.5	"	"	"
81	0715	1.5	"	"	"
82	0715	1.5	"	"	"
83	0715	1.5	"	"	"
84	0715	1.5	"	"	"
85	0715	1.5	"	"	"
86	0715	1.5	"	"	"
87	0715	1.5	"	"	"
88	0715	1.5	"	"	"
89	0715	1.5	"	"	"
90	0715	1.5	"	"	"
91	0715	1.5	"	"	"
92	0715	1.5	"	"	"
93	0715	1.5	"	"	"
94	0715	1.5	"	"	"
95	0715	1.5	"	"	"
96	0715	1.5	"	"	"
97	0715	1.5	"	"	"
98	0715	1.5	"	"	"
99	0715	1.5	"	"	"
100	0715	1.5	"	"	"

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Here’s some more historical video regarding Navy flight training, but not specific to the first solo flight.

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