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Cook, H. Weir

Air Transportation 1/24/31
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H. Weir Cook, manager Curtiss-Wright Flying Service base, Indianapolis, Indiana has been connected with aviation since 1917. As is the case with many aviation men today, Mr. Cook received his aeronautical training in the U.S. Air Service serving with the corps in France. Since his discharge from the service, Mr. Cook has been actively connected with aviation in one form or another. For a period of twelve years the Army claimed his services, and upon his discharge became identified with the Curtiss-Wright Flying Service of Indiana. During service in the army he was on the front for six months being in the same squadron with Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker. He served at Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. In action he was credited with seven official victories and after the cessation of the fighting, went into Germany with the Army of Occupation for an additional six months period. One of his decorations is the Distinguished Service Cross with the oak leaf cluster. After returning to this country from Europe, he was in the United States Army mail service for a period of six months, flying between Salt Lake City and Omaha. This flying was done at the very beginning of the transcontinental mail line. After leaving the air mail service, Cook returned to the regular army, having been on duty at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio and Langley Field in Virginia. He has transport license number 4683 and maintains his headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana. Cook has been with the Curtiss-Wright Field since its opening in the summer of 1928. He incidently was one of the contestants in the Mitchell Field Race in 1925.

**Col. Weir Cook Gets
Overseas Assignment**

Colonel H. Weir Cook of the U. S. Air Corps, a past vice-chairman of the national aeronautics commission of The American Legion, was been ordered to active service abroad. It is understood he will participate in active combat flying. During the World War he was credited with bringing down seven enemy planes and was also one of the famous American balloon "busters." He received the Distinguished Service Cross with oak leaves, a medal from the Aero Club of America, and other decorations. Early in 1941 he was recalled to active service and assigned as procurement officer at Lambert Field, St. Louis, Mo. Later he was transferred to Florida for special training. He is a member of Aviation Post 171 of The American Legion in Indianapolis. His family will continue to live at their home in Indianapolis.

1941 ✓

Cook, Weir H., Lieutenant Colonel

Air Corps News Letter #10
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Born in Wilkinson, Indiana, June 30, 1892. Arriving in France about one month prior to America's entry into the war, he enlisted in the French Army, served therewith for six months and then obtained his release to join the U.S. Air Service in France. He served at the front as a member of the 94th Aero Squadron and participated in much of the aggressive combat and pursuit work of this squadron. He is officially credited with the destruction of seven enemy aircraft (3 airplanes and 4 balloons), thus bearing the unofficial designation of "Ace". For six months following the signing of the Armistice, he was stationed at Coblenz, Germany, with the Army of Occupation. He was promoted to Captain, March 18, 1919.

Decorations: Distinguished Service Cross (U.S.); Medaille Commemorative (France).

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Col Harvey W. Cook

FROM:
Weir Cook Memorial Committee
511 Board of Trade Building
Indianapolis (4) Indiana

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indianapolis, Ind. - -One of the outstanding aviation events in the history of America is scheduled for March 24 to 28 in Indianapolis.

Part of an "AVIATION EMPHASIS" program preceding formal rededication of the Indianapolis Municipal Airport as Weir Cook Airport in memory of Colonel Harvey Weir Cook, this event is to be an exhibit of aviation material arranged through the cooperation of the Memorial Committee, the Army Air Forces Materiel Command, and the many large manufacturers of aviation equipment in this area.

The exhibit will begin at 8 p.m. March 24 and continue until after the formal dedication dinner at the Scottish Rite Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. March 28. A speaker designated by General H.H. Arnold, commander of American Air Forces, will address the dinner.

Military leaders of this calibre top an imposing list of invited guests, including Orville Wright, Eddie Rickenbacker, Charles A. Lindbergh, and officials of General Motors, Curtiss-Wright, RCA, Lukas-Harold, Ford Motor Company, Bendix, Studebaker, Republic Aviation, Bell Aircraft, and every other major manufacturer of aviation equipment, most of whom have important operations in Indiana.

Assuring the success of the exhibit is the all-out cooperation of the Army Air Force Materiel Command, under whose direction it will be known as a Materiel Command show. In addition to its value from a strictly educational standpoint, the exhibit will be a vivid portrayal to the public in general of the important aviation industry, converted and otherwise, is playing in successful prosecution of the War.

Most aviation "old timers" knew Colonel Cook. Many of them knew him personally, for he was that kind of person. The others certainly knew of his untiring efforts to build aviation as the nation's most valuable asset in war or in peace. Eddie Rickenbacker was his commanding officer in the famous

"Hat In the Ring" squadron in World War I. Colonel Cook lost his life in a P-39 March 24, 1943, flying again in the service of his country.

Few persons realize, perhaps, that 30¢ of every tax dollar being expended in this war goes into the air force.

Here, the Memorial Committee and the Materiel Command believe, is an opportunity to show to the millions of persons paying the bill the tangible results, and the industry's importance not only in war but in the peace which will follow.

Spectacular details which cannot now be revealed are in the making, awaiting military approval.

Captain Cook, Fort Omaha.



H. WIER COOK (Capt)
Pilot - U. S. Army

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