



**Military Aircraft  
Of the  
Davis-Monthan  
Airfield 1925-1936**

**With An Introduction  
And Augmentation for the  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition**

By

**G.W. Hyatt, Ph.D.**



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# INTRODUCTION TO THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY EDITION

To understand the broader context of this book, please log on to [www.dmairfield.org](http://www.dmairfield.org). Celebrated there you will find the pilot transient Register from the Davis-Monthan Airfield, Tucson, AZ. The Register is a handwritten "Who's Who" of aviation personalities of the Golden Age of Flight (roughly 1920-1940). As well, it records comings and goings of the premier aviation technologies of that era. It is a profound history in the raw.

This book interweaves with the people found at the website. It exhibits for you the military airplanes that flew in and out of the Airfield and identifies the pilots who flew them. Further, it tabulates dates of arrival and airplane identification numbers. Please try the website. There you will enjoy more facts, figures and stories about the military, civilian and commercial pilots, passengers and airplanes from the Golden Age of Aviation that signed the Register so long ago.

*"Military Aircraft of the Davis-Monthan Airfield 1925-1936"*, was inspired by the U.S. Army Air Corps Training Manual TM 2170-35 issued November 18, 1929. The manual was modified on January 2, 1931 by the War Department, Washington, DC. I was initially impressed with how many landings were made at Tucson by aircraft pictured in the manual. However, it was the pilots who reached through the dust and showed me their need to be recognized.

The complete and unabridged TM 2170-35 is reprinted in the following pages, augmented by biographies and achievements relevant to the people who brought these aircraft to the Davis-Monthan Airfield. As a training manual, TM 2170-35 contains clear, black & white images of military aircraft from the Golden Age. On pages facing the black & white images, are silhouette diagrams of the aircraft (except for balloons and blimps) from three different flight angles. The manual was printed by the U.S. Government Printing Office and is currently in the public domain. This 91-page book sold originally through the Superintendent of Documents for 35-cents!

TM 2170-35 was designed to train U.S. Army Air Corps (USAAC) personnel how to identify USAAC aircraft. Conveniently, for us here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the contents of the training manual brings us images of the majority of the military aircraft logged into the Register of the Davis-Monthan Airfield by military pilots. You will find, of 41 total airplane types illustrated in TM 2170-35, 28 types (68 percent) landed at the Airfield. The 28 types landed a total of 850 times, which equates to about 45 percent of all landings made by 1,894 landings between 1925 and 1936. It is not an exaggeration to say that TM 2170-35 is a "Static Display" of most of the military aircraft recorded in the Davis-Monthan Airfield Register....

MORE...

## CURTISS OC-1 TM-2170-35 Page Reference 38-39

The Curtiss OC-1 pictured on page 38-39 actually landed at the Davis-Monthan Airfield twice, on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 1929. Its registration number is clearly visible on the sign in the foreground.

For both landings it was flown by Major **Ross E. Rowell**\*. His itinerary at first landing (solo) was from San Diego, CA to El Paso, TX. The next day he logged the return trip westbound with a Captain Shaerer as his passenger. This airplane is also pictured in the *Aircraft Year Book*, 1928, page 124.

**Rowell** was born September 22, 1884 at Ruthven, IL. He was educated at Iowa State College and the University of Idaho, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering. He was commissioned in the Marine Corps August 3, 1906. Rowell received his primary flight training at Pensacola, FL and advanced training at the Army Air Corps school at Kelly Field, TX.



He landed at Tucson three times, each time flying Marine Corps aircraft out of San Diego. One of his flights (his first landing) was an east-to-west transcontinental trip. He served in Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, the Philippines and in France. He was in command of the air squadrons during the 1927-1928 Nicaraguan campaign, and was decorated for his service there (Distinguished Flying Cross, October 1929). He published at least two articles based on his experience with Marine Corps combat during the Second Nicaraguan Campaign, 1927-1933 (cited in the REFERENCES).

Airplane Number	D-M Landing Date	Pilot Last Name	First Name
A-7934	11/27/1929	Harris	F.
A-7945	11/20/1929	<b>Rowell</b>	<b>Ross E.</b>
A-7945	11/19/1929	<b>Rowell</b>	<b>Ross E.</b>
A-7953	11/27/1929	Putnam	P.A.

MORE....

## REFERENCES

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**National Air & Space Museum Archives, Washington, DC.**

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Armstrong, Frank File No.: CA-569990-01 & CA-570000-01, 20

Arnold, H.H. File No.: CA-668000-01

Arnold, Les File No.: CA-708000-01

Babb, Charles File No.: CB-000830-01

....*MORE*

### **Books & Articles:**

Aircraft Year Book. 1926-1937. Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America, Inc. New York, NY.

Birnn, Roland. October 1931, "Smoke Screens from the Sky". The National Aeronautic Magazine. Pp. 23-26.

....*MORE*

### **Web Resources:**

*www.aerofiles.com* -- the definitive site for aircraft, both civil and military.

*MORE....*