



J. Blaine Poindexter, *The Chicago Defender* | October 21, 1922

## Bessie Coleman Makes Initial Aerial Flight

### Chicagoans See Girl Who Flew Over Berlin in a Series of Stunts

A crowd of about 2,000 people gathered at Checkerboard airdrome Sunday afternoon and witnessed the airplane stunts of Miss Bessie Coleman, the only Race aviatrix in the world. Spectators were not disappointed, for they witnessed some of the most marvelous flying feats that have ever been performed by the most daring aviators.

Miss Coleman carried out every detail of the exhibition as described in her program. Four flights were scheduled, and in these the aviatrix proved with her skill that she had mastered the art of flying.

#### FIRST FLIGHT

Flight No. 1 consisted of the French Nungesser start. This in itself is beyond the ability of the average aviator to perform and to master this start requires much skill and practice. In this flight the Spanish Bertha Costa climb was made and the American Curtis McMullen turn, the Eddie Rickenbacker straighten-up, the Richtofen German glide and the Ralph C. Diggings landing were featured. All of these feats were performed in about 10 minutes, the times used in making this flight.

But the hearts of the spectators stood still when in flight No. 2 the daring girl made the figure 8 in honor of the Eighth Illinois infantry. It looked as if she had lost control of her great plane and that it was turning and twisting, pilotless, back to earth. But thousands of hearts sighed with great relief when the machine was seen to right itself and soar straightaway through the air.

#### PASSENGER PLANES

At the conclusion of her exhibition many in the gathered throng were taken for spins through the air. Only one passenger could be taken at a time, but five other planes were flying under the supervision of Miss Coleman, thereby giving those who wished an opportunity to be among the clouds for the first time. This feature continued until dark.

Miss Coleman's exhibition was in every way a success. She is constantly in demand and receives offers from different parts of the country. Already she has five engagements booked in five different cities. Yet with all her fame she is still the same unassuming, friendly Bessie Coleman.

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## Negress Pilots Airplane

### Bessie Coleman Makes Three Flights for Fifteenth Infantry

Bessie Coleman, the only negress aviatrix, made three short flights yesterday afternoon at Curtiss Field, Garden City, L.I. [Long Island], her first experiences in an American machine. About 1,000 spectators, mostly negroes, saw the exhibition, which was in honor of the Fifteenth (negro) Infantry regiment, New York National Guard.

Hubert Julian, an officer of the Negro Improvement Association of New York, jumped from a plane with a parachute when up about 1,500 feet and landed safely. The band of the Fifteenth Infantry played.