

### 13. Above the Down Under

1. page 239. **“I smashed the machine...”** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), p.215.

2. page 239. **A new propeller was ordered from Paris....** Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), p.62. Christopher had an enormous collection of proprietary material that, unfortunately, he never used without citation. He had many fascinating details about Houdini’s aviation endeavors that we cite in good faith.

3. page 239. **Orville Wright had achieved....** From “Flying Machine Soars” in *Chicago Daily Tribune*, December 19, 1903.

4. page 239. **Houdini’s acquaintance Alberto Santos Dumont...** For background on Santos-Dumont see <http://www.earlyaviators.com/edumonb.htm> , a website that chronicles the achievements of the early pioneers of aviation. Houdini met Santos-Dumont on a ship to the U.S. from Europe. The sheet that Santos-Dumont autographed for Houdini, and that Houdini annotated “We crossed to America with S. Dumont” is in the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. Houdini and Santos-Dumont had a mutual friend in Lord Northcliffe and Northcliffe had dinner with Santos-Dumont the night before Houdini and the aviator sailed for the U.S.

5. page 239. **His plan was to be handcuffed...in Piccadilly Circus.** This story is related in Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), page 62. Christopher reports that his information came from two English newspaper articles, unfortunately he doesn't give an exact citation.

6. page 239. **Louis Bleriot became the first man...** From "Taft Won't Seek Glory In The Air", *New York Times*, October 7, 1913.

7. page 239. **received a \$5,000 prize...** Ibid.

8. page 240. **Alfred Charles Harmsworth, who now owned....** From "Harmsworth To Be Lord Northcliffe", *New York Times*, January 6, 1906.

9. page 240. **First International Air Meet in Reims, France...** From *The American Heritage History of Flight*, 1962, p.119-124. Citation from Silverman Research Files deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

10. page 240. **"the aeroplanes floated about the sky..."** From "Australian Aerial Engineering", *Building*, May 12, 1910, p.66-71.

11. page 240. **Antonio Brassac piloted a plane...** Ibid.

12. page 240. **“I remembered I was a bit timid...”** Ibid.
  
13. page 241. **schematics for a small airplane....** Wood reported the failure of Houdini’s small model airplanes in a letter to Houdini dated September 10, 1909 in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
  
14. page 241. **clippings and news reports about...** MM Wood letters to Houdini, January 7, 1908, and, September 10, 1909, both in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
  
15. page 241. **In November, Houdini, who was playing....** From “A Noted Aviator” in the *Brisbane Daily Mail*, May 11, 1910, cited in Silverman files deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin. See also “Aeroplane Tank Explodes”, *Boston Globe*, November 2, 1909, p.5.
  
16. page 241. **Houdini paid \$5000...** Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), page 62.
  
17. page 241. **“sobbed like baby”** From “Australian Aerial Engineering”, *Building*, May 12, 1910, p.66-71.
  
18. page 241. **Houdini entered into...six hundred and fifty marks.** From “Houdini’s Historic Flight” by Terry Gwynn-Jones, *Aviation*, January 1994, p. 31, cited in Silverman

files deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

19. page 241. **On November 26, 1909 the magician....** Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), p.62.

20. page 242. **“This is the first insurance ever taken...”** From “Houdini’s Historic Flight” by Terry Gwynn-Jones, *Aviation*, January 1994, p. 31.

21. page 242. **Eugene Lefebvre crashed his Wright...** From “Aviation and Aeromodelling – Interdependent Evolutions and Histories” on the website of *The Pioneers (Hargrave)*, <http://www.ctie.monash.edu.au/hargrave/lefebvre.html>

22. page 242. **Richet turned his Voisin completely...** From “Airship Falls; Pilot Hurt”, *New York Times*, October 16, 1909.

23. page 242. **A few years later, pilots were able to accurately...** From “Aeroplanes On Scout Test”, *New York Times*, February 5, 1911. Also see “Flint Tells the Use of Fliers in War”, *New York Times*, October 15, 1909, p.11.

24. page 242. **Lord Northcliffe had been interested....** From “Taft Won’t Seek Glory In The Air”, *New York Times*, October 7, 1913, p.22.

25. page 242. **he wrote his friend Lord Haldane...** Northcliffe letter to Haldane, February 19, 1909, in the collection of the British Library.
26. page 243. **By 1916, Northcliffe had paid out over \$95,000...** From “Aero Service Over Atlantic Rodman Wanamaker’s Plan”, *Washington Post*, April 3, 1916, p.4.
27. page 243. **“Bess fainted near me...”** Houdini’s diary entry for January 15, 1910.
28. pages 243-244. **“I have been all over the world...”** From otherwise unidentified clipping from the *Bristol Evening News*, cited in Silverman files deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
29. page 244. **“I RECEIVE FULL SALARY....”** Houdini letter to Will Goldston, June 12, 1909, reprinted in “Milbourne Christopher’s Column” in *Hugard’s MAGIC Monthly*, August, 1957, p.28.
30. pages 244-245. **“Houdini is the first to invade the Antipodes....”** From an unidentified clipping, ca. 1910, in the collection of the Library of Congress.
31. page 245. **Lord Northcliffe would pay a French....** From “Paulhan Wins \$50,000 Flight”, *Chicago Daily Tribune*, April 28, 1910.

32. page 245. **the war department of the United States began...** “To Shoot Aircraft”, *Boston Globe*, November 2, 1909, p.5.
33. page 245. **Australia was of vital strategic...** From *Wanted at Once! An Aerial Defence Fleet For Australia* by George Taylor of the Aerial League of Australia, p.1-20, pamphlet in the collection of the Library of Congress.
34. page 245. **“Hope all will be well with me...”** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), p.217.
35. page 245. **“I gave him hell...”** Houdini diary entry, January 6, 1910.
36. page 246. **“Beaucoup de vent!”** “When Australia First Saw Planes Fly” by C.R.C. Pearce, *The Argus Week-end Magazine*, December 3, 1938, clipping in the collection of the Library of Congress.
37. page 246. **The Melbourne Argus....** Houdini diary entry, March 15, 1910.
38. page 246. **“My eyes are getting weak...”** Ibid.
39. page 246. **Stella owned by L.A. Adamson....** From “Houdini’s Historic Flight” by Terry Gwynn-Jones, *Aviation*, January 1994, p. 35.

40. page 248. **“I can fly! I can fly!...”** The story of Houdini’s first flight and Banks previous failure was composited from various sources including “Houdini’s Historic Flight” by Terry Gwynn-Jones, *Aviation*, January 1994, Houdini’s diary entries from February 18- March 24, “Houdini Flies”, Melbourne *Argus*, March 16 and 19 and 21, 1910. These and other clippings were deposited by Silverman in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

41. pages 249-250. **Queen’s Bridge in Melbourne on February 17...ever consumed...** From “The Handcuff King”, unidentified Melbourne newspaper, February 17, 1910, and, “Houdini Unhandcuffs Himself In The Yarra”, *The Age*, February 18, 1910, and “The Australasian” *The Argus*, no date, clippings found in the collection of the Library of Congress. Regrettably, there is a typo in the book and the Yarra River is incorrectly identified as the “Yanna.”

42. page 250. **Sydney, Houdini replicated his feat off...Tommy Burns....** From *The Referee*, April 13, 1910, clipping in the collection of the Library of Congress.

43. page 251. **Houdini had to pay Brassac a tidy sum....** From “A Noted Aviator”, *Brisbane Daily Mail*, May 11, 1910.

44. page 252. **George Taylor, the founder and secretary....** From “Houdini’s Historic Flight” by Terry Gwynn-Jones, *Aviation*, January 1994, p. 31.

45. page 252. **Rosehill racetrack were a spectacle...** “Houdini’s Flight In His Voisin Machine At Rosehill On Sunday Afternoon”, unidentified clipping in the collection of the Library of Congress.

46. page 252. **“People who scoff at the idea...”** “...Won Air Prizes in Australia”, unidentified clipping from the Robinson Locke Scrapbook 247, in the collection of the New York Public Library.

47. page 253. **“Here is Houdini, who is an amateur...strongest in the air.”** From “A Future in the Air”, *Punch*, March 24, 1910, in the collection of the Library of Congress.

48. page 253. **On April 29, Taylor and his aerial league....** “Houdini’s Flights”, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, April 21, 1910, clipping in the collection of the Library of Congress.

49. page 253. **“Aviation is the most...”** “A Noted Aviator”, *Brisbane Daily Mail*, May 11, 1910, clipping in the collection of the Library of Congress.

50. page 253. **“I was proud to fly here...”** Quoted in “Australian Aerial Engineering”, *Building*, May 12, 1910, p.70, clipping deposited by Silverman in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

51. page 253. **“Wanted at Once! An Aerial Defence.....”** From *Wanted at Once! An Aerial Defence Fleet For Australia* by George Taylor of the Aerial League of Australia, p.1-20, pamphlet in the collection of the Library of Congress.

52. page 253. **Australia’s minister of defence, George Pearce....** From “Short History of the Australian Army Aviation Corps” by Lt. Colonel A. Argent, AAAvnC (Ret), online at <http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-army-today/rar-sasr/army-aviation.htm>

53. page 254. **“The Red Baron,” was killed....** From “Australian Flying Corps, 1916-1918” on the website of *The Pioneers (Hargrave)*,  
[http://www.ctie.monash.edu.au/hargrave/duigan\\_3squadron\\_03.html](http://www.ctie.monash.edu.au/hargrave/duigan_3squadron_03.html)

54. page 254. **“These pilots came down and fairly....”** Ibid.

55. pages 255-258 **“I want to be the first...only for sport!”** This amazingly revelatory interview was conducted by a reporter known only as “A.G.S.” and appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, April 16, 1910. We have published a great deal of the interview, and it is worth seeking out the original, in the collection of the Library of Congress, to read the parts that we regrettably had to edit out.