WRIGHT BROTHERS
1127 W. THIRD STREET
DAYTON, OHIO

January 27, 1908.

General James Allen,

Chief Signal Officer of the Army,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We herewith inclose a bid for furnishing the Signal Corps with a heavier-than-air flying machine, in accordance with Specification No. 486, of December 23, 1907, together with a certified check for two thousand, five hundred dollars ($2,500.00).

The machine we propose to deliver is designed to weigh between 1,100 and 1,250 lbs. with two men on board, and for a speed of forty miles an hour. It will have an area of 500 square feet in the supporting planes; and will be propelled by a four-cycle, water cooled gasoline motor. The frames of the planes will be constructed of spruce and ash covered with cotton muslin; the propellers, of spruce and linen.

We have made the date of delivery of the machine 200 days, in order to provide sufficient time for increasing the speed of the machine now under construction, in case Requirement No. 5 is to be interpreted literally. If, however, Requirement No. 5 is interpreted to mean an average of the speeds, with and against the wind over a measured course, which is the correct method to give an average corresponding to a flight made in still air, as specified in Requirement No. 4, we would be

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General.Allen--2.

able to make delivery at a much earlier date.

We inclose a photograph of our machine of 1905, which was similar to the one we now propose to furnish.   We would request that this, as well as the drawings, be kept confidential.

Very respectfully,

Example. computing speed of Flying Machine in wind.

Wind, 10 miles per hour.

Speed of machine in still air, 40 miles an hour.

If the machine flies over a measured course of 20 miles to windward and return, a total distance of 40 miles, it will spend 40 minutes on the windward trip, an average of 30 miles an hour. It will spend 24 minutes on the return, an average of 50 miles an hour. The average of the speeds going and coming will be $\frac{30+50}{2}$=40 miles an hour, which is the same as if the flight were made in still air.

But if the total times be taken, it is seen that 40 plus 24,= 64 minutes are consumed in making the 40 miles, an average of only 37.50 miles an hour; which does not correspond to the speed in still air, nor correctly indicates the capacity of the machine.

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159

140 C LB VN 33 Paid Govt

Washington DC Feb 8th 1908

Wright Brothers

Dayton, O.

Your Proposal for Heavier than air flying Machine opened in this

office on Feb first is accepted formal order will be placed with

you in a few days.

Allen.   645 P

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