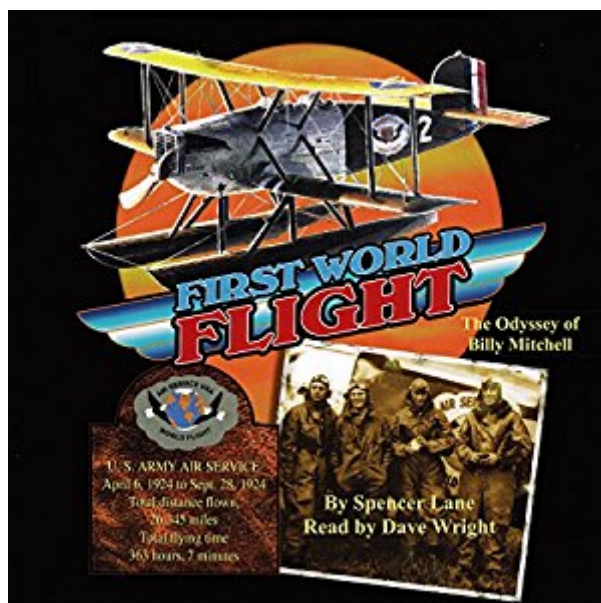


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# First World Flight



## Synopsis

In 1924, three years before Lindbergh flew to Paris, four young army airmen answered the call of General Billy Mitchell to save US aviation from destruction by the politicians by winning the race with a dozen other nations to make the first flight around the world. In primitive open-cockpit biplanes powered by unreliable engines and few airfields, they were given little chance of success or even survival. This is the untold epic story of American patriotism, valor, and can-do ingenuity which triumphed over adversity and led to aviation dominance for the balance of the century - and the forgotten heroes that made it happen. Over 15 years of research, including the first access ever to the private Donald Douglas collection of Aviation memorabilia including worldwide newspaper accounts, diaries and logs of the aviators, have gone into the writing of this remarkable story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I live in the same community as the author and we often see each other as we ride our recumbent bicycles. I didn't know he was an author until he came to look at my airplane (we live in a community surrounding a runway). After I heard him describe "First Work Flight," I had to buy it ... he is my neighbor and a fellow pilot after all. I'm not particularly a history book reader, but this one was fun. The book is fascinating, well written, and tells a story most have never heard, in or out of aviation. I strongly recommend Spencer Lane's book. Don't wait -- buy it right now! (I have nothing to gain from this review and am not writing with even the awareness of the author.)

Excellent story! I first bought the book interested in knowing more about this flight that I've never

heard before. But for my surprise the book wasn't only about the flight, it also tells the story of Billy Mitchell. And it was an amazing surprise! This guy was a genius, and was always a step ahead of everyone. His story and the first world flight should have more recognition than they get.

Folks, This book is outstanding. The author first focuses on the exploits of Billy Mitchell and his trial and tribulations as he tried to overcome the entrenched view of the "old school" military and their biases against aviation as a military weapon. He then shifts to the First World Flight and the pilots who flew this historic journey. Spencer Lane does a good job of keeping the excitement up while showing the difficulties and issues that these explorers had to face. I highly recommend this book for all people, the pilot or the non-pilot who has an interest in adventure.

I am a pilot. When I am not in an airplane I like to read about airplanes and the people who fly them. This book deliveries on those counts as I suspected it would. The huge reward and great surprise was the amazing craftsmanship of the author. Spencer Lane says more in a sentence than most others can say in a chapter and says it in a way that makes you pause for a meditative moment. His use of language is surpassed only by Shakespeare. If you admire good writing and are charmed by the telling of a great story don't pass up this book. Once you've read it, loan it to a friend but make certain to get it back as you'll want to read it more than once. Thank you Spencer for opening my eyes to what good writing is all about - a good story well told.

Incredible story of how these men flew around the world in open cockpit planes and changed out engines and landing gear for pontoons numerous times. Also a good view of Billy Mitchell's personality that led to his successes and failures.

A very interesting read. I'd always known Billy to be blessed with foresight, but this book reminded me that the leadership (both civilian and military) of the times, differed very little from those after WWII. The 'head in the sand' approach to the future worked just as well in both cases. Lecture aside, a well-written book.

I have been involved in, and reading about aviation for decades. Its seldom I learn so much from one book about the subject.

I was not previously aware of the details of this expedition. This book filled in the gap, showed the

extensive planning involved, the courage and intelligence of those involved and the important contributions to our country by Billy Mitchell.

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