

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have been requested to document a momentous event in the history of flight, i.e., the first automatic blind landing under zero-zero conditions.

The most specific thing that I can personally attest to was a classic military statement said by one of history's officers of note: Lt. Col. Earl R. Tash of the Air Forces Board stationed adjunct to the Air Forces School of Applied Tactics in Orlando, Florida. The time was in the fall of 1944 or January of 1945.

The statement was Tash's order to First Lt. Coman W. Rothrock, Jr., O-703381 for The Board. Tash said he was not ordering Rothrock to go out in zero zero conditions and attempt blind landings. However, if after long testing of his ILS/autopilot coupled B-17 (manually operated throttles) and his radar altimeter, he felt that the combination had the capability, he, Tash, would accept the consequences of the attempt. Rothrock persevered and bravely succeeded.

I do not personally have any official record of the 159 Projects conducted by the Squadron of B-17's and the Squadron of B-24's, because most of them were classified.

The ILS ground and airborne coupling equipment was installed by WADC Technicians.

Edward R. Neff, Jr.

*Edward R. Neff, Jr.*  
(Then) Capt. AC  
O-393674

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 5th day of May, 1986.

*Kathleen A. Sadeley*  
NOTARY PUBLIC

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA  
MY COMMISSION EXP. JAN 29, 1990  
BONDED THRU GENERAL INS. UND.