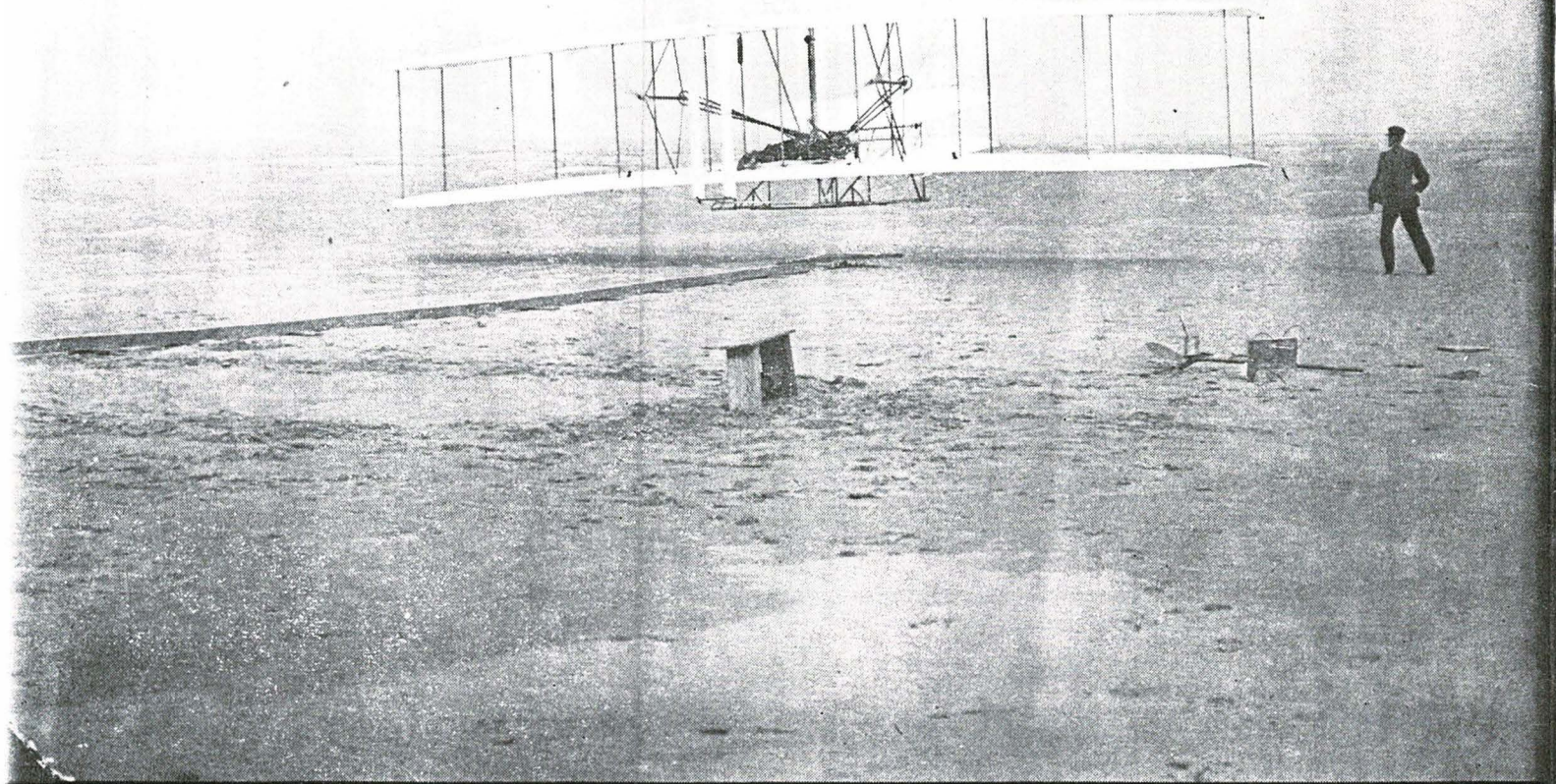


The Way it all Began



DECEMBER 17, 1903

ON THE seventeenth day of this month, the world will pay homage to Wilbur and Orville Wright, the two Americans through whose efforts the dream of centuries past was finally realized. On Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina, the locale of the first successful flight by a powered heavier-than-air machine, now stands a slim pylon of gray granite, probing high into the same timeless sky that looked down on the beginning of the Age of Flight, 10.35 a.m., December 17, 1903. On this monument is inscribed: "In commemoration of the conquest of the air by the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright conceived by Genius, achieved by Dauntless Resolution and Unconquerable Faith."

Wilbur and Orville Wright are dead now; Wilbur died in 1912 at the age of 45, Orville in 1948 at 77; they are buried side by side at Dayton, Ohio,

where they lived and conducted their early experiments. Millions of words have already been written and spoken about the Wright Brothers and the Golden Anniversary of Powered Flight. We can add little and indeed, it is hardly necessary.

We feel that the picture on this page tells the whole story. It is a print of the original photograph taken at the moment the Kitty Hawk became airborne. Orville was at the controls, while Wilbur, at the right, had just released his steadying hold on the wingtip. The dark area in the corner is where the original glass-plate negative was broken. Visible in the photo is the launching rail and the bench on which the wing rested before the take-off. The phenomenally short take-off run is also evident; in actual fact it was less than 40 feet. Be a picture worth a thousand words, here then is a volume.

**May your
Christmas be
a merry one
and may you
find happiness
in the New Year**