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Letter from Albert Boyd Regarding September 1947 XS-1 Flight and Response

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IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH
COMMUNICATION AND EN-
VELOPE TO COMMANDING
GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL
COMMAND, ATTENTION
FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

TSFLT

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

AB/BC

WRIGHT FIELD, DAYTON, OHIO

3 September 1947

Captain Charles E. Yeager
Muroc Army Air Field
Muroc, California

Dear Chuck:

Just learned of your successful flight of Friday of last week in the XS-1. We are very happy over the results with one exception, and that is, your exceeding the speed of 82 which was authorized. I would personally like to have an explanation from you as to your reasons for exceeding the authorized Mach number on this particular flight.

Please remember the instructions that I passed on to you personally here at Wright Field with regard to the value of the pilot and the plane to the Air Force and the cost per square inch of written data that we hope to obtain from the future test of this aircraft. The Air Force does not consider either you or the plane expendable; so please approach higher speeds progressively and safely to the limit of your best judgment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Albert Boyd", written in a cursive style.

ALBERT BOYD
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief, Flight Test Division

9 September 1947

Col. Albert Boyd
TSFLT
Wright Field
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Sir:

I'm sorry that the first powered flight of the XS-1 was not entirely satisfactory. We are taking every precaution and making every effort to conduct these flights in such a manner that will lend credit to the Flight Test Division and the AAF.

The plan for the first flight called for a Mach number of .82 or .83, if no control difficulty or buffeting was encountered. During a pre-flight conference with the Project Engineer and NACA personnel, the consensus was that no trouble should be encountered up to .85 Mach number. Since everything was normal up to .83 I do not feel that it was against my better judgment in increasing the speed to .85.

I can assure you, Sir, that safety is a primary factor in these flights.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. YEAGER
Capt., Air Corps