

# NAVY MEDICINE LIVE

THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS HEALTH CARE • 2011 & 2012 WINNER OF BEST NAVY BLOG

Home | About | Disclaimer | Navy Medicine News | Navy Medicine WebSite | I AM Navy Medicine

Written on MARCH 18, 2015 AT 8:00 AM by SVANDERWERFF

## Lucky Lindy" Lands at the Navy Tissue Bank

Filed under MILITARY MEDICINE, NAVY HISTORY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(NO COMMENTS)

By **André B. Sobocinski, Historian, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED)**



"Lucky Lindy" would soar far beyond the aviation field making important contributions to conservation and even biomedical research in the U.S. Navy.

*Only in the sky is there hope. Only in that which man has never touched and which God forbid that he ever will.*

~Charles Lindbergh



Seeking a cure he

When Charles Lindbergh landed the *Spirit of St. Louis* in Paris in May 1927 he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, but Lindbergh was not one to stay grounded for long.

Over the next four decades "Lucky Lindy" would soar far beyond the aviation field making important contributions to conservation and even biomedical research in the U.S. Navy.

Lindbergh's foray in medical research began after his sister-in-law suffered damage to her heart's mitral valve following a bout with rheumatic fever. Seeking a cure he sought out Dr. Alexis Carrel of the Rockefeller Institute in New York, the leading organ and tissue researcher of the day.

Throughout the 1930s, both men collaborated on

### Navy Medicine Video

Navy Medicine is a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

### Navy Medicine Social Media

Follow us on Twitter

Join us on Facebook

Read our publications

View our photo stream

Watch our videos

### Navy Medicine Live Archives

April 2015 (4)

March 2015 (21)

February 2015 (16)

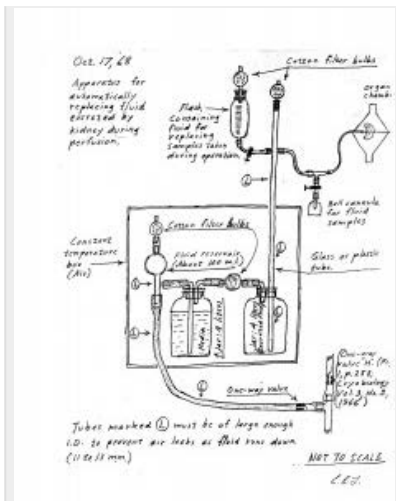
January 2015 (12)

sought out Dr. Alexis Carrel of the Rockefeller Institute in New York, the leading organ and tissue researcher of the day.

a machine that could pump circulating blood through the body while a heart was repaired. This “perfusion pump” was a glass apparatus that supplied nutrients to the organ, using an elaborate pump system designed by Lindbergh.

In essence, Carrel and Lindbergh developed the first artificial heart. Their work became the subject of their book *The Culture of Organs*. Both would share the cover of *Time Magazine* on June 13, 1938, however World War II and the death of Dr. Carrel in 1944 would put the project on hold.

A chance encounter at the Army-Navy Club in April 1965, between Lindbergh and Lt. Vernon Perry, of the Navy Tissue Bank in Bethesda, Maryland pumped new life into the artificial heart. Perry recruited Lindbergh as a “Guest Scientist.” Over the next three years Lindbergh commuted regularly between his home in Darien, Connecticut and Bethesda to work on improving his perfusion pump.



This “perfusion pump” was a glass apparatus that supplied nutrients to the organ, using an elaborate pump system designed by Lindbergh.



Perry recruited Lindbergh as a “Guest Scientist.”

In Lindbergh, Perry not only got a talented engineer and a famous face for the project, but also a tireless worker. Perry would later recall, “His industry in the laboratory was overwhelming; he had the ability to work around the clock. His younger colleagues accustomed to a more normal 12 to 14 hours at the bench soon gave way. When we were forced to retreat from exhaustion, he would carry on, monitoring the apparatus, answering our phone calls, and writing in his journal. When we, after a good sleep, would next see him, he was as fresh as we and would comment that he had

caught ‘a few winks here and there,’ probably expressed in an effort to reduce our own humiliation.”

Ultimately the Lindbergh-Perry collaboration led to improvements to the original pump, two publications, and new hope for those whose lives depended on organ transplantations.

**Sources:**

Charles Lindbergh Collection. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Archives.

- December 2014 (17)
- November 2014 (11)
- October 2014 (15)
- September 2014 (20)
- August 2014 (14)
- July 2014 (13)
- June 2014 (8)
- May 2014 (11)
- April 2014 (9)
- March 2014 (14)
- February 2014 (7)
- January 2014 (7)
- December 2013 (7)
- November 2013 (12)
- October 2013 (7)
- September 2013 (14)
- August 2013 (13)
- July 2013 (11)
- June 2013 (22)
- May 2013 (15)
- April 2013 (14)
- March 2013 (14)
- February 2013 (14)
- January 2013 (12)
- December 2012 (11)
- November 2012 (11)
- October 2012 (7)
- September 2012 (9)
- August 2012 (12)
- July 2012 (13)
- June 2012 (17)
- May 2012 (22)
- April 2012 (14)
- March 2012 (13)
- February 2012 (14)
- January 2012 (13)
- December 2011 (13)
- November 2011 (20)

*svanderwerff* tagged this post with: *medical, Navy, Navy Medicine History, research, U.S. Navy*

Read 146 articles by

[svanderwerff](#)

October 2011 (22)

September 2011 (12)

August 2011 (16)

July 2011 (10)