

AFEHRI File 19-10

**Research Materials/Source Documents
ENLISTED FIRSTS**

FILE TITLE: Sgt Ivy Baldwin
- **First American Pilot Shot Down in War**
- **First Balloonist during the Spanish-American War**

Reviewed by:

AFEHRI Representative *G.R. Akin* date 13 Dec 97

EPC Representative *Jan S. Clark* date 16 Dec 97

Scanner Operator *Sandy Foden* date 16 Dec 97

APPROVED BY: *G.R. Akin*
GARY R. AKIN, CMSgt, USAF
Director
Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute

The first American pilot to be shot down in war was Sgt Ivy Baldwin, Army Signal Corps. In 1898 America and Spain went to war and Baldwin successfully persuaded the Army to deploy a balloon for observation. During the Battle of Santiago, Cuba, Baldwin ascended and gave important information on Spanish troop movements. Seeing the tethered balloon, and in the knowledge of the soldiers below, Spanish troops opened fire on the envelope and it dropped into water, causing only slight injuries to Baldwin. He eventually died in 1955.