

AMELIA MARY EARHART – A BRIEF TIMELINE 1897-1937



July 24, 1897- Amelia Earhart was born to Edwin and Amy Earhart in the home of her maternal grandparents, Alfred and Amelia Otis. The home, located at 223 N. Terrace Street in Atchison, Kansas, is now the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum.

Summer 1908- Amelia watched her first air show at the Iowa State Fair, and shared that she wasn't very interested in airplanes.

Spring 1916- Amelia graduated from Hyde Park High School in Chicago. That September, Amelia moved to Rydal, Pennsylvania, to attend Ogontz School for Young Ladies.

Spring 1917 – The United States entered World War I.

Christmas 1917- Amelia visited her younger sister, Muriel, at a college preparatory school in Toronto, Canada. After seeing injured soldiers during this visit, Amelia decided to leave Ogontz School and work as a nurse's aide.

1918- Amelia worked at the Spadina Field Hospital in Toronto. While here, she spent time watching planes with veteran pilots which sparked her interest in flying.

Fall 1919- Amelia enrolled at Columbia College in New York City to pursue a career in medicine.

Christmas 1920- Amelia and her father attended the opening of Earl Dougherty's airfield in Los Angeles, California. Three days later, her father purchased her a ticket to fly with famed aviator Frank Hawks. Amelia fell in love with flying immediately.

January 3, 1921- Amelia began flying lessons with female pilot Neta Snook in California.

July 24, 1921- Amelia purchased her first plane, the Kinner Airster, which she flew in her lessons with Neta Snook. Her mother and sister helped her to cover the cost.

October 1922- Amelia achieved her first women's altitude record, flying the Kinner Airster up over 14,000 feet.

May 16, 1923- Amelia earned her pilot's license from the International Federation of Aeronautics. She was the sixteenth woman to receive an international pilot's license.

Fall 1925- Amelia worked as a social worker at the Denison House outside Boston, Massachusetts. Amelia flew recreationally out of the nearby Dennison Airfield during this time.

June 16, 1928- Amelia became the first woman to cross the Atlantic - as a passenger – on the aircraft *Friendship*. The flight took 20 hours and 49 minutes, and landed in Burry Port, Wales. Amelia soared to international fame, enabling her to earn a living through aviation.

June 1928-Following the *Friendship* flight, Amelia purchases Lady Mary Heath's Avro Avion plane.

August 1928- Amelia's first book, *20 hours and 40 minutes*, is published as an account of her adventures on the *Friendship* flight. George Putnam, who later became her husband, published the book.

Fall 1928- *Cosmopolitan* magazine hired Amelia as their aviation editor. She answered readers' questions about aviation, and she promoted aviation as a symbol of modernity and progress.

July 7, 1929- Amelia participated in the first two-day Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT) journey across the country. It was here she first met Charles Lindbergh. Amelia served as Vice President of Public Relations for TAT.

Late July 1929- Amelia sold her Avro Avion plane and purchased a used Lockheed Vega (NC6911). When she took it to Lockheed for repairs, they traded her a brand-new Lockheed Vega 5B (NC31E) which she nicknamed her "Little Red Bus."

August 18, 1929- Amelia Earhart participated in the National Air Races, her very first race. Amelia finished third behind Louise Thaden and Gladys O'Donnell. Young aviatrix Marvel Crosson sadly lost her life during the race.

November 2, 1929- Amelia and ninety-nine other female pilots met at Curtiss Field in New York to form an association for women pilots. They called themselves the Ninety-Nines, the number of charter members. They elected Amelia as the first president in 1930.

June 25, 1930- Amelia set two aviation records on this day: the women's speed record of 100 kilometers at 174.897 mph and the speed record while holding a 500kg payload over 100 kilometers at 171.43 mph, as recorded by the International Federation of Aeronautics.

July 5, 1930- Amelia set the women's world speed record over a 3-kilometer course at 181.18 mph.

February 7, 1931- Amelia married her publicist George Putnam at his mother's home in Noank, Connecticut. Bucking the societal norms of the day, she kept her maiden name.

April 1931- Amelia was elected vice-president of the National Aeronautics Association. She became the first woman named a national officer.

April 8, 1931- Amelia set an altitude record of 18,451 in the Pitcairn autogiro. That summer she crossed the United States in the aircraft, which frequently needed emergency landings.

May 21, 1932- Amelia successfully flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She was the first female aviator to complete the flight, clocking 13 hours and 39 minutes. She landed in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

September 1932 – Amelia met with President Herbert Hoover to express her support of the Lucretia Mott Amendment, guaranteeing equal rights to men and women. Amelia shared the cause with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and the two became friends.

Early 1934- Amelia created a fashion line of ready-to-wear clothes for women.

January 11, 1935- Amelia became the first person to fly solo from Honolulu, Hawaii to the U.S. mainland. The 2,408-mile flight had taken the lives of ten pilots before Amelia's attempt. The flight took nearly nineteen hours and over 10,000 people greeted her upon landing in Oakland, California.

May 8, 1935- Amelia flew from Mexico City to Newark, New Jersey - the first person to fly directly over the Gulf of Mexico.

June 1, 1935- Purdue University President, Dr. Edward C. Elliott, hired Amelia as a career counselor for women to support Purdue's aviation department. As an advocate for equal rights for women, she took her new role seriously.

March 20, 1936- With financial backing from Purdue University, Amelia acquired the Lockheed Electra 10E for her global flight. Special modifications were made to meet the needs of the around the world flight.

March 17, 1937- Amelia began her first attempt at her around-the-world flight, landing in Hawaii, and setting a record flight time of 15 hours and 47 minutes.

March 20, 1937- While leaving Luke Field in Honolulu, Amelia crashed the Electra, ground-looping at takeoff. The plane was taken back to Oakland for repairs which took over two months. The wreck stymied Amelia's world flight for two months.

June 1, 1937- Amelia began her second attempt at circumnavigating the globe – reversing course and leaving from Miami, Florida. Navigator Fred Noonan accompanied her on the nearly 28,000-mile journey.

July 2, 1937- Amelia and Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean enroute to Howland Island. At 2,556 miles, it was the most dangerous and longest leg of the trip. They had completed nearly 22,000 of the 28,000-mile journey.

July 18, 1937- After sixteen days, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard called off the search and rescue mission. Despite a cost of \$4 million (equivalent to \$90 million in 2025), no evidence of the crash was discovered.

January 5, 1939- George Putnam, Amelia's husband and publicist, had her declared dead by a Los Angeles court.

AWARDS AND HONORS BESTOWED ON AMELIA EARHART

1932

National Geographic Society's Gold Medal

Clifford J. Harmon Aviatrix Award (1st time)

United States Distinguished Flying Cross

French Cross of the Legion of Honor

Ribbon from the Legion of Leopold of Belgium

Medal of Valor and Achievement from the Society of Women Geographers

Jeanne d'Arc Medal from the Le Lyceum-Societe des Femmes de France a New York

1935

Clifford J. Harmon Aviatrix Award (2nd time)