

## 25 Years Ago, January 1983



**Jan. 19** Ham, the chimpanzee that flew in a Project Mercury space capsule on a suborbital flight on Jan. 21, 1961, to prepare for Alan Shepard's flight, dies in the North Carolina Zoological Park. He is believed to be 26 years old. NASA, *Aeronautics and Astronautics*, 1979-84, pp. 392-393.

**Jan. 25** The Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) is launched on a Delta rocket from Vandenberg AFB carrying a 22-in. Cassegrain telescope to measure infrared radiation in space. A joint project with NASA, the Netherlands, and the U.K., IRAS produces the first comprehensive catalog of infrared objects. Early in its investigations, it finds infrared sources in the Large Magellanic Cloud 155,000 light-years from Earth and discovers 20 distant galaxies. NASA, *Aeronautics and Astronautics*, 1979-84, pp. 393-394, 401, 404, 445-446, 456, 524-525.

## 50 Years Ago, January 1958

**Jan. 3** The Navy awards Chance Vought a \$100-million contract for production of the F8U-3 all-weather fighter. *Aircraft Year Book*, p. 443.

**Jan. 4** After orbiting the Earth for three months, the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, reenters the atmosphere and disintegrates. Scientists base this conclusion on calculations made by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and a three-day silence by Tass, the official Soviet news agency. The satellite completed approximately 1,350 revolutions of the Earth. *Flight*, Jan. 10, 1958, p. 35. E. Emme, ed., *Aeronautics and Astronautics*, 1915-60, p. 94.



**Jan. 6** An RAF De Havilland Otter becomes the first single-engine aircraft to fly

across the Antarctic. Sqn. Ldr. John Lewis flies three passengers as part of the British Transantarctic Expedition. *Flight*, Jan. 17, 1958, p. 92.

**Jan. 9** An El Al Bristol Britannica takes the transatlantic air transport record from BOAC. The four-engine turboprop, flown by Capt. Coleman Goldstein, reaches New York from London in 7 hr 44 min. *Flight*, Jan. 17, 1958, p. 95.

**Jan. 10** *Flight* magazine reports that Mohawk Airlines has become the first U.S. airline to hire a black flight attendant, Ruth Carol Taylor. *Flight*, Jan. 10, 1958, p. 60.



**Jan. 12** Responding to a letter from Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposes that the two superpowers agree that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only. E. Emme, ed., *Aeronautics and Astronautics*, 1915-60, p. 94.

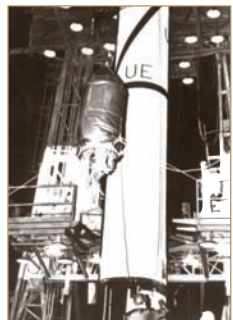
**Jan. 14** Qantas announces it has started its round-the-world service with Lockheed Super Constellations. *Flight*, Jan. 24, 1958, p. 102.

**Jan. 17** The Navy successfully fires Polaris, its first submarine-launched ballistic missile, from Cape Canaveral, Fla. E. Emme, ed., *Aeronautics and Astronautics*, 1915-60, p. 94.

**Jan. 28** The Thor IRBM is launched without mishap from Cape Canaveral. The missile follows its prescribed course and lands in the designated target area at sea. E. Emme, ed., *Aeronautics and Astronautics*, 1915-60, p. 95.

**Jan. 30** Ernst Heinkel, one of the world's foremost aeronautical engineers, dies just one week after his 70th birthday. He designed his first aircraft at the Stuttgart Technical College in 1910. During WW I, he designed 30 planes as director of the Hansa and Brandenburg Flugzeugwerke. After the war, Heinkel founded the company that bears his name. He gained fame as the creator of the world's first jet aircraft, the He 178, and designed several important types that flew for the Luftwaffe in WW II, including the He 111, He 177, and He 219. Following the war, after being cleared of charges he had been a Nazi sympathizer, he became a manufacturer of light road vehicles. *Flight*, Feb. 7, p. 182.

**Jan. 31** After nearly four months of frustration, the U.S. finally responds to the Soviet challenge and places the West's first artificial satellite in orbit. Explorer I, launched by a modified military Jupiter C booster, detects the Van Allen radiation belt using on-board instruments. This is the most important discovery of the International Geophysical Year and breaks the Soviet monopoly in space. Of the satellite's total weight of 30.8 lb, 18.13 lb are instruments for measuring cosmic radiation, micrometeorites, and temperature. Explorer reaches an apogee of 1,573 mi. Wernher von Braun heads the Army team in charge of the launch. *Flight*, Feb. 7, 1958, p. 164. E. Emme, ed., *Aeronautics and Astronautics*, 1915-60, p. 95.



## 75 Years Ago, January 1933

**Jan. 10** The French semirigid airship E.9 makes its first flight at the Orly Airship Station near Paris. The E.9, commanded by French Navy Lt. Tourtette, is the second of its class. The E stands for Escorteur, a class of ships used for escorting

# Past

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troop vessels across the Mediterranean. The E.9 has a 353,148-ft<sup>3</sup> volume, is 98 ft 5 in. long and 55 ft 9 in. in diameter. It has a maximum speed of 68.5 mph and an operating range of 932 mi. *Flight*, Jan. 26, 1933, p. 75.

**Jan. 12-17** Powered by three 650-hp Hispano-Suiza engines, the Arc-en-Ciel, a Couzinet monoplane, crosses the 6,439 mi. between Marseilles, France, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in a flying time of 42 hr 37 min at an average speed of 150 mph. Chief pilot Jean Mermoz, second pilot M. Carrietier, navigator Capt. Nerée Mailloux, radio operator M. Manuel, and designer Rene Couzinet comprise the crew. *Flight*, Jan. 26, 1933, p. 75.

**Jan. 13** One of the best known and most accomplished woman pilots, England's Winifred Spooner, dies of influenza at 32. She learned to fly at the London Airplane Club in 1927 and was one of the few female pilots to qualify for a Class B license "to fly for hire." In 1928

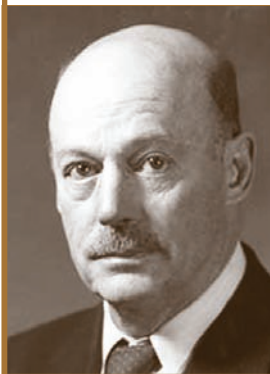
she won the Siddeley Cup in the King's Cup Race; she was the only woman competing. Spooner became especially renowned for her overseas flights. She flew in the Europa Rundflug in an ordinary De Havilland Gipsy Moth, for example, and also participated in the Circuit of Italy. Her flying took her to South and North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, and Eastern Europe. *The Aeroplane*, Jan. 18, 1933, pp. 94-98.

**Jan. 14 and 16** Westbound and eastbound transcontinental speed records for commercial planes flying between Los Angeles and New York are set by Lockheed planes of Air Express. The westbound time is 17 hr 20 min, while the eastbound time is 14 hr. *Aero Digest*, February 1933, p. 53.

**Jan. 16** Imperial Airways celebrates the first anniversary of the opening of its London-to-Capetown, South Africa, service with the announcement that the 8,250-mi. run has been made without accident 52 times. Later, in April 1933, new transports with a top speed of 150 mph drop the flying time from 11 to 10 days. *Aviation*, June 1933, p. 189.

**Jan. 20** The Savoia-Marchetti BB-1, the world's first aircraft built entirely of shot-welded stainless steel sheet and strip, arrives in England to be exhibited and appraised by Pressed Steel and other companies for possible manufacture. The BB-1 was built in 1931 by a Philadelphia company, Edward G. Budd Manufacturing, to the designs of Enea Bossi of American Aeronautical, which built the Savoia-Marchetti S.55 and S.56 under license. *The Aeroplane*, Jan. 25, 1933, pp. 149-150.

**Jan. 24-26** Twenty Army, Navy, and Dept. of Commerce flight surgeons and pilots meet at Nela Park in Cleveland, Ohio, to discuss artificial lighting and its relation to flying. *Aero Digest*, March 1933, p. 61.



Jerome Hunsaker

**Jan. 26** The Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences holds its first meeting when an elite group of 132 representatives of all phases of the U.S. aircraft industry meet in a physics building of Columbia University. Bringing together individuals devoted to aviation as a science, the institute seeks to work out common problems in areas ranging from theoretical physics to fuel chemistry and metallurgy. Jerome Hunsaker is elected president and Lester Gardner vice president. Within a year the group produces the *Journal of the Aeronautical Sciences*, starts a library, and holds important technical meetings. In 1963 the institute merges with the American Rocket Society to become the present American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. *Astronautics & Aeronautics*, May 1981, pp. 82-87, 92.

**Jan. 27** The glider Austria II carries over 200 lb of mail from Vienna to Semmering, Austria. Robert Kronfield makes the flight in 1 hr 40 min. *Aero Digest*, March 1933, p. 61.



Robert Kronfield



Henri Farman

## 100 Years Ago, January 1908

**Jan. 13** The first air Grand Prix is held at Issy-les-Moulineaux, France. Henri Farman wins the 50,000-franc prize by making a flight of 1 km. For Europe, it is also the first flight in a circle and the longest to date, lasting 1 min 28 sec. *Flight*, Jan. 16, 1909, p. 37. C. Gibbs-Smith, *Aviation*, pp. 128, 134-135.