

Profiles in Leadership



Amelia Earhart



Amelia Earhart

Born: 1897

Died: Unknown

(declared dead on 5 Jan 1939)

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Mary Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas on July 24, 1897.

Amelia and her sister Grace loved to play outdoors and the girls kept worms, moths, katydids, tree toads and a number of other creatures.

They were the typical “tomboys” girls.



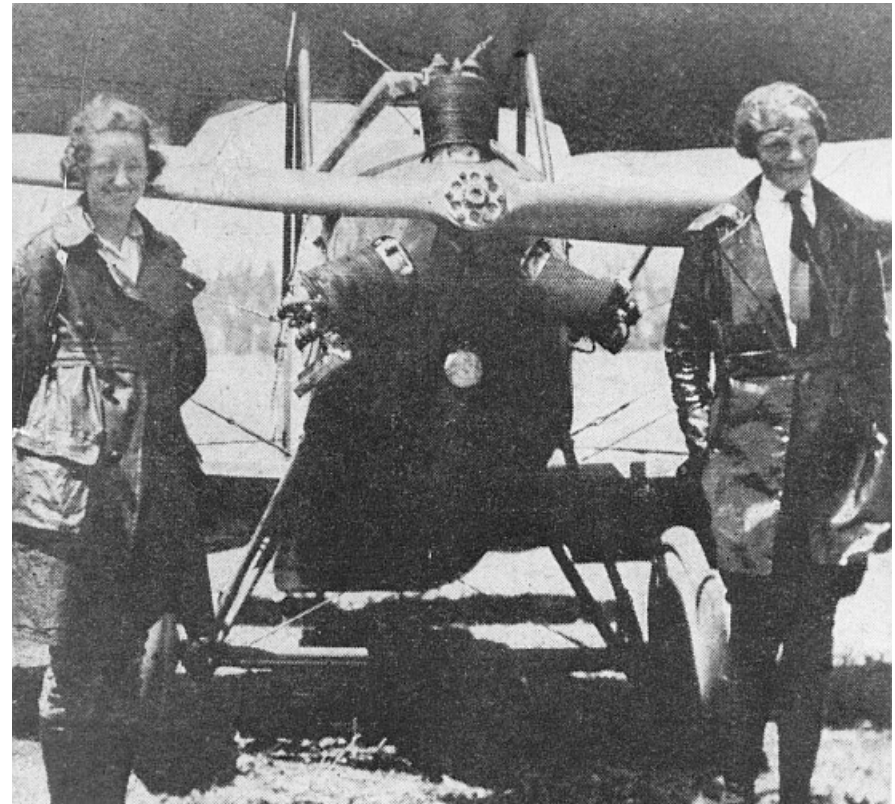
Amelia Earhart

In 1920, Amelia and her family moved to California.

Earhart had her first flying lesson on January 3, 1921 at Kinner Field near Long Beach.

Her teacher as Anita “Neta” Snook, a pioneer female aviator.

(see picture)



Snook

Earhart

Amelia Earhart

Six months later, Amelia purchased a second-hand bright yellow Kinner Airster biplane which she nicknamed “The Canary”.

On October 22, 1922 she flew the Airster to an altitude of 14,000 feet setting a new record for female pilots.

On May 15, Earhart became the 16th woman to be issued a pilot license.



Amelia Earhart

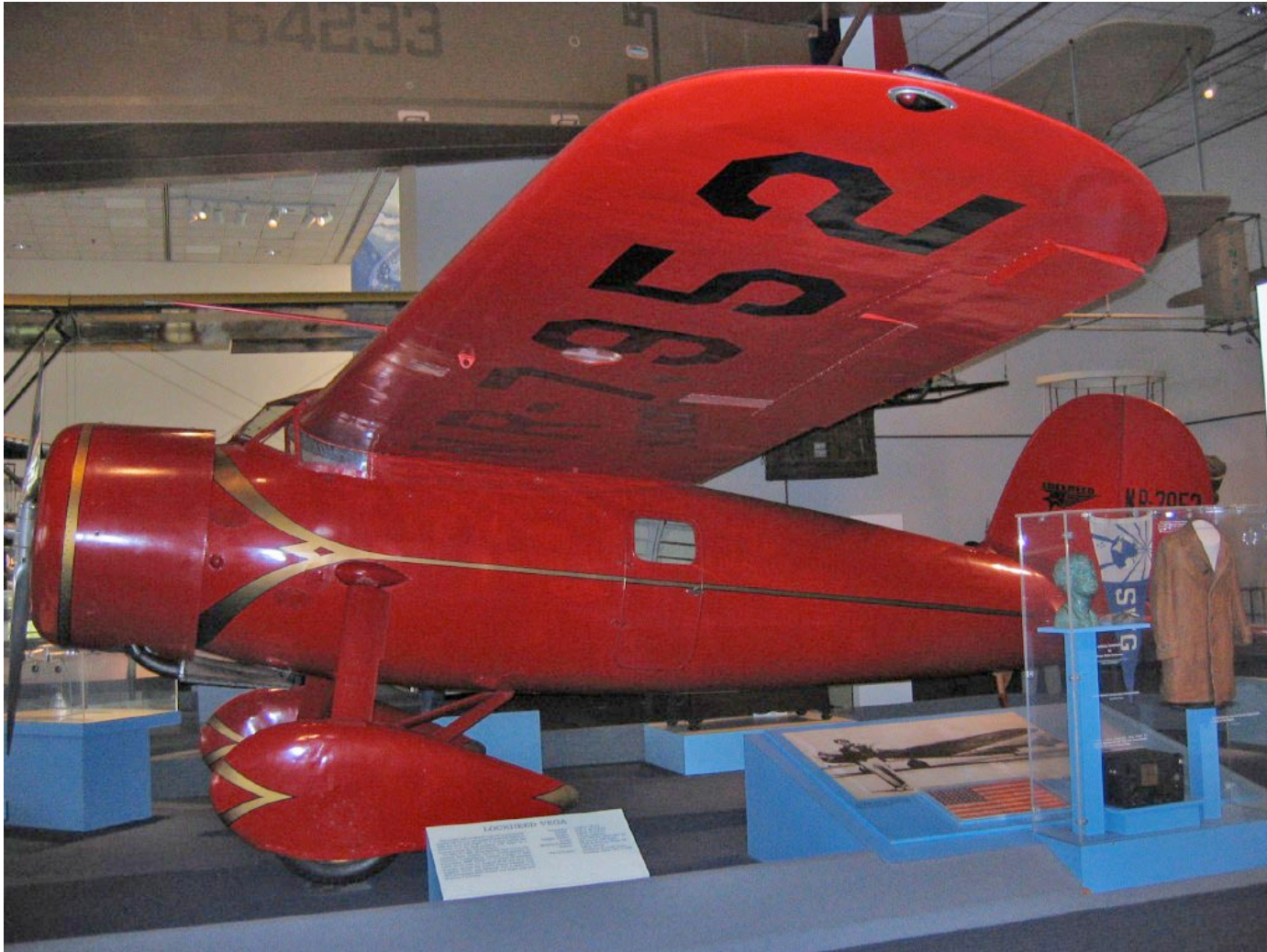
Amelia, at the age of 34, became the first woman to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic.

She flew in a single engine Lockheed Vega 5b.

The flight lasted 14 hours and 56 minutes.

As a result of this flight, Earhart received the Distinguished Flying Cross from Congress, the Cross of Knight of the Legion of Honor from the French Government and the Gold Medal of the National Geographic Society from President Herbert Hoover.

Amelia Earhart



Lockheed Vega 5b

Amelia Earhart

Between 1930 - 1935, Amelia had set seven women's speed and distance aviation records.



Amelia got a new airplane in 1937. It was a Lockheed L-10E Electra.

Amelia would use this airplane to try to circumnavigate the globe.



Amelia's flight plan for trip around the globe

Amelia Earhart

On June 1, 1937, Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan, departed Miami.

After numerous stops in South America, Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, they arrived in Lae, New Guinea on June 29, 1937.



They had traveled 22,000 miles and had 7,000 miles to go

Amelia Earhart

On July 2, 1937, Earhart and Noonan took off from Lae.

Their destination was Howland Island, 2,500 miles away.



The United States Coast Guard cutter Itasca was on station at Howland, assigned to help guide them to the island once they arrived in the vicinity.

Amelia Earhart

At 07:20 GMT Amelia provided a position report placing them on course at some 20 miles southwest of the Nukumanu Islands.

At 08:00 GMT Amelia made her last radio contact with Lae. She reported being on course for Howland Island at 12,000 feet.



Amelia Earhart

At 19:30 GMT the following transmission was received by the Itasca:

“KHAQQ calling Itasca. We must be on you but cannot see you ... gas is running low ...”



Amelia Earhart

At 20:14 GMT the Itasca received the last voice transmission from Amelia giving positioning data.

At 21:30 GMT the Itasca determined that Amelia must have ditched at sea and began to implement search procedures.



Amelia Earhart

It has been determined that the plane went down some 35-100 miles off the coast of Howland Island.

President Roosevelt authorized a search of 9 naval ships and 66 aircrafts at a cost of over \$4 million.

On July 18 the search was abandoned.



Amelia Earhart - Where Are You

Over the years many unconfirmed sightings have been reported - and many theories abound. Among these:

- Amelia was on a spy mission authorized by President Roosevelt and was captured.
- She purposely dove her plane into the Pacific.
- She was captured by the Japanese and forced to broadcast to America GI's as "Tokyo Rose" during World War II.
- She lived for years on an island in the South Pacific.



Amelia Earhart

(1897 - 1937?)