

Amelia Earhart's Record Flight

The First Woman to Fly the Pacific From Hawaii to California, She Is Also the First of Either Sex to Fly It Alone

"All well," Amelia Earhart radioed repeatedly during her 2,400-mile flight from Hawaii to California last week. "All's well that ends well," she might have said as she set her monoplane down at Oakland Airport Saturday afternoon, eighteen hours and sixteen minutes after she took off from Wheeler Field, Honolulu. What she actually said was, "I'm tired."

A crowd of 10,000 met her at Oakland, cheered her roundly, thrust bouquets into her weary arms and honked automobile horns ecstatically in admiration of her feat. It was a notable one among ocean flights. Several successful flights have been made westward, from the United States to Hawaii, but there have been only two eastward hops over this route. The first was made last November in the plane commanded by Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith. Miss Earhart's was the second.

Thus she became the first woman to fly the Pacific from Hawaii to California, and the first person of either sex to fly it alone. Her record has been studded with "firsts" ever since she learned to fly, in 1918.

She was the first woman to cross the Atlantic by plane, for she accompanied Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon in their hop from Newfoundland to Wales in 1928. She was the first woman to fly the Atlantic alone; she piloted a plane, solo, from Newfoundland to Ireland in 1932. No other person had crossed the Atlantic by plane twice, and so that gave her another first. She was also the first woman to fly an autogyro and the first to make a non-stop solo flight across the Continent.

Miss Earhart, who was born in Atchison, Kansas, is thirty-six. She is slim and blond; many persons have commented on her resemblance to Colonel Lindbergh. She took her first flying lessons in California at the age of twenty. Before the transatlantic flights that made her world famous, and won her the acclaim of Premiers, Presidents and Princes, to say nothing of the Distinguished Flying Cross and other decorations, she had done social work for a year or two in Boston.