

Aerospace Education History Events: July

1 July 2002-A Bashkirian Airlines Russian Tupolev 154 collides with a DHL International Boeing 757 over Ueberlingen, German. The 69 students and crew of the Russian plane and the two pilot/crew members of the DHL plane all perished in the accident. The TCAS (Traffic Collision Avoidance System) of both aircraft were working properly. Both planes were at an altitude of 35,000 feet when TCAS detected a collision course. TCAS indicated to the Russian plane to rise and the DHL plane to descend. However, a Swiss air traffic controller told the Russian plane to descend as well and that is how the collision took place.

2 July 1900-Count Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin conducts the first successful flight of rigid airship. The 420 foot airship was lifted above Germany's Lake Constance by hydrogen gas and a 16 horse power motor.

2 July 1937-Amelia Earhart and her navigator Fredrick Noonan disappear aboard Earhart's Lockheed Vega. Earhart and Noonan were attempting a flight around the world when their aircraft disappeared near Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean. The Coast Guard cutter Itasca was in sporadic contact with them when they approached Howland Island and reported they were lost and running low on fuel. That was the last that was heard from them.

2 July 1944-As part of Operation Gardening American and British bombers drop mines in the Danube River by air. They also drop bombs and leaflets on German occupied Budapest.

3 July 1970-A British Dan-Air chartered Comet 4 turbojet aircraft crashes into the Mediterranean Sea near Barcelona, Spain killing all 112 persons aboard. The last contact with the aircraft before it went down was the pilot indicating his altitude at 6,000 feet and 12 miles out. No cause for the crash has been found.

3 July 1988-The US Navy cruiser Vincennes shoots down Iran Air Airbus Flight 655. The Iranian passenger jet was mistaken for an Iranian fighter jet when two missiles were fired at it. All 290 persons aboard perished.

4 July 1997-After a 120 million mile voyage lasting seven months Pathfinder becomes the first US spacecraft to land on the red planet of Mars in over 20 years. Pathfinder used parachutes to slow its landing to 40 miles per hour on the Mars surface. After bouncing high into the atmosphere 16 times it came to rest.

5 July 1970-108 people are killed when an Air Canada DC-8 crashed during landing at Toronto Airport. Cause of the accident was pilot error.

10 July 1940-The beginning of a three month long bombing campaign against Britain by the Germans begins. It becomes known as the Battle of Britain.

10 July 1965-Capt. Thomas S Roberts with his co-pilot Capt. Ronald C. Anderson and Capt. Kenneth E. Holcombe with his co-pilot Capt. Arthur C. Clark aboard their F-4 Phantoms shoot down two MiG-17s. This becomes the first two air-to-air victories of the USAF during the Vietnam War.

11 July 1979-Burning parts of debris of Skylab rain down into the Indian Ocean and the Australian continent. This came five years after the last of the manned Skylab missions. Skylab was America's first manned space station and crews of the space station spent over 700 hours observing the Sun alone and brought back over 175,000 pictures of the solar system.

12 July 1957-Aboard a Bell UH-13_J "Sioux", President Eisenhower becomes the first president to use a helicopter for short trips. The Marine Corp took over operations of the Presidential helicopter and it is referred to as Marine One.

15 July 1965-The unmanned spacecraft Mariner 4 passes over the planet Mars and sends back the first images of the red planet. The 22 photos that were sent back revealed a vast, barren land of craters and rust colored sand.

15 July 1998-The Pentagon opposes the Lockheed-Martin \$10.7 billion merger with Northrop-Grumman. The government feared of a monopoly by Lockheed/Northrop on the electronic defense market.

16 July 1945-At 5:30am the first atomic bomb test detonation was successfully exploded at Alamogordo Air Base in New Mexico. The bomb had the destructive power of 15,000-20,000 tons of TNT. What started out as \$6,000 budgeted to the Manhattan Project, ended with a final cost of \$2 billion at the end of the war.

16 July 1969-Apollo 11 is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Apollo 11 is America's first lunar landing mission with astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins.

16 July 1999-John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and her sister Lauren Bessette parish when the Piper Saratoga that JFK Jr. was flying crashes into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. In the investigative report filed by the NTSB, they claimed that cause of the crash resulted from an inexperienced pilot who became disoriented in the dark and lost control.

17 July 1938-Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan takes off from Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York to make a nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. When Corrigan filed his flight plan in New York, authorities denied him permission. The authorities however did allow Corrigan to return to the West Coast, where he came from. When Corrigan took off from Floyd Bennett Field he was headed west but shortly after he became airborne he promptly turned his 1929 Curtiss Robin in a 180 degree turn, headed east and disappeared in a cloudbank. Twenty-eight hours later Corrigan landed in Dublin, Ireland and his first words after getting out of the plane were, "Just got in from

New York, where am I?" The authorities suspended Corrigan's license and his plane was crated and sent back to New York with Corrigan. By the time Corrigan returned to New York his suspension had been lifted and he became a national celebrity.

17 July 1975-American spacecraft Apollo 18 and Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 19 rendezvous and dock together in space. American commander Thomas P. Safford and Soviet commander Aleksei Leonov shake hands and exchange gifts in celebration of their meeting in space.

17 July 1996-TWA Flight 800 explodes over the Atlantic Ocean shortly after takeoff from New York's Kennedy International Airport bound for Paris, France. All 230 persons aboard the Boeing 747 perished in the explosion. Authorities concluded that the cause of the crash was a mechanical failure.

19 July 1943-American bombers bomb railway yards in Rome, Italy.

20 July 1969-At 10:56 pm EDT, Neil Armstrong steps out of the lunar landing module, Eagle, and steps on to the moon's surface. Armstrong becomes the first human to walk on the moon's surface as part of the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission.

20 July 1976-Viking 1 becomes the first spacecraft to successfully land on the surface of the planet Mars and sends back the first close up images of the rust colored planet's surface.

22 July 1933-Aviator Wiley Post returns to Floyd Bennett Field in New York after he becomes the first person to fly solo around the world. Post's flight took 7 days, 18 hours and 49 minutes to complete with stops in Germany, the Soviet Union, Alaska, Canada and back to New York.

23 July 1973-Famed aviator, flying ace and race car driver Eddie Rickenbacker dies at the age of 82 in Zurich, Switzerland.

24 July 1943-Operation Gomorrah is launched against Germany with British bombers bombing by night and American bombers bombing by day.

24 July 1965-American bombers are fired at with anti-aircraft missiles from an unknown position while on a bombing raid over manufacturing facilities at Kang Chi. This is the first time that American aircraft are fired upon by the enemy during the Vietnam War.

25 July 2000-The first Concorde crashes shortly after take off from DeGaulle Airport in Paris, France. All 105 persons aboard Air France Flight 4590 and four people on the ground perished in the crash. The Concorde fleet was grounded until investigators found that the crash was caused when a piece of metal that fell from a previous aircraft on to the runway. The metal was run over by the Concorde causing the tire to shred and tire pieces went into one of the engines and fuel tanks.

27 July 1965-Forty-six American F-105 fighter bombers attack the missile installation that had fired upon American bombers on 24 July. One missile launcher was destroyed and another damaged but not without the loss of five American aircraft.

28 July 1945-A B-25 Mitchell bomber airplane crashes into the Empire State Building while in heavy fog. The pilot, co-pilot and passenger were killed along with 11 people in the building when the bomber crashed into it. The bomber was flying from New Bedford, Massachusetts to LaGuardia Airport in New York City when they were re-routed to Newark Airport due to the fog.

29 July 1958-President Eisenhower signs an act that authorizes the creation of the National Aerospace and Space Administration (NASA).

29 July 1967-A fire is caused aboard the American aircraft carrier USS Forrestal when a rocket was accidentally launched from an F-4 Phantom fighter jet. The rocket streaked across the deck of the carrier and hit a parked A-4 Skyhawk waiting to take off. Leaking fuel from the Skyhawk caught fire and spread to nearby planes and detonated a 1,000lb bomb. 134 persons aboard the USS Forrestal were killed in the fire. The pilot of the A-4 Skyhawk that was hit by the rocket later went on to become a senator from Arizona. His name is John McCain.

30 July 1971-A Japanese F-86 Sabre fighter jet collides with an All Nippon Airways Boeing 727. The pilot of the fighter jet ejected to safety but all 162 persons aboard the Flight 58 Boeing perished when it crashed into the Japanese Alps. Both of the F-86s did not have radar to help in detection of the presence of Flight 58.

31 July 1964-Unmanned American lunar probe, Ranger 7, takes 4,308 total images before it impacts with the surface of the moon northwest of the Sea of the Clouds.