

Aerospace Education History Events: September

1 September 1968-Lt. Col. William A. Jones III is nominated for the Medal of Honor after his Douglas A-1H Skyhawk is hit by an enemy gun emplacement and set on fire while leading a mission to rescue a downed pilot. When Lt. Col Jones tried to eject from the plane it would not let him so he flew back to base and reported the position of the pilot before getting medical treatment for his burns. Sadly, Lt. Col. Jones died in an aircraft accident in the states before he could be presented the Medal of Honor.

1 September 1983-Soviet fighter jets intercept a Korean Air Lines flight that had veered about 200 miles off course. KAL Flight 007 was shot down and crashed into the Sea of Japan killing all 269 persons aboard.

2 September 1945-Japan formally surrenders aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, thus bringing an end to World War 2.

2 September 1972-The 47th North Vietnamese MiG is shot down over Phuc Yen, 10 miles north of Hanoi, since the beginning of the Vietnamese War. To this date 18 American aircraft had been lost.

6 September 1976-A Soviet Air Force pilot, Lt. Viktor Belenko lands his MiG-25 fighter jet in Japan and gets political asylum in the United States.

7 September 1940-The German Blitzkrieg begins against London, England with 300 German bombers raiding London. This is the beginning of 57 consecutive nights of bombing that Londoners sustain.

8 September 1915-A German airship commanded by Heinrich Mathy bombs Aldersgate in central London killing 22 people.

9 September 1942-A Japanese float plane launched from a sub drops incendiary bombs on Mount Emily in Oregon and starts a state forest on fire. Japanese pilot Nobuo Fujita becomes the first and only person ever to bomb the continental United States.

9 September 1972-US Air Force Capt. Charles B. DeBellevue becomes the leading ace of the Vietnam War when he and his pilot, Capt. John A. Madden, shoot down two MiG-19s near Hanoi in their McDonnell Douglas F-4D.

10 September 1940-British bombers pay back the Germans for their Blitz of London and bomb Berlin, Germany. One of the bombs landed in the garden of Joseph Goebbels.

10 September 1976-British Airways Flight 476, a Trident 3B, and an Inex chartered flight DC-9 collide over Zagreb, Yugoslavia killing all 176 persons aboard both planes. The cause of the crash was that both planes were on routes that they had to fly around Soviet airspace and the British Trident was flying into the sun.

11 September 1991-A Continental Express, Brazilian made Embraer 120, commuter plane crashes near Huston, Texas killing all 14 persons aboard. The cause of the crash of Flight 2574 was poor communication between the maintenance crew when screws were left unfastened on the horizontal stabilizer. After takeoff the plane broke up over Eagle Lake.

11 September 2001-At 8:45 am an American Airlines Boeing 767 flies into the north tower of the World Trade Center killing all persons aboard, 18 minutes later at 9:03 am a second Boeing 767, United Airlines Flight 175, flew into the south tower of the World Trade Center killing all aboard that flight as well. At 9:45 am a Boeing 757, American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the west side of the Pentagon killing 125 civilian and military personnel as well as the 64 persons aboard the airplane. At about 10:10 am United Airlines Flight 93 crashes in a field in Pennsylvania after passenger fought for control of the plane with the terrorists. At about 10:00 am the south tower of the World Trade Center collapsed. At about 10:30 am the north tower of the World Trade Center collapsed. About 3,500 persons lost their lives in the Trade Center collapse, including firefighters, paramedics, police officers and Port Authority police officers.

13 September 1935-Howard Hughes sets a new speed record in an aircraft while flying a plane he personally helped design. While flying the H-1 racer Hughes sets a new speed record of 352 miles per hour. The Japanese later used the design of the H-1 for their Zeros.

13 September 1968-Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware is killed when his helicopter is shot down. Maj. Gen Ware was the commander of the 1st Infantry Division, also known as the “Big Red One”. He also became the first of two division commanders to be killed in the war.

14 September 1959-A Soviet built rocket becomes the first man made object to make contact with the lunar surface of the moon.

15 September 1940-The Battle of Britain changes course when British RAF pilots shoot down 56 invading German aircraft in less than an hour. Although the British lost 40 aircraft, the Germans were denied air supremacy.

17 September 1916-German fighter pilot Manfred von Richthofen, known better as the Red Baron for his bright red painted plane he flew in later years, shoots down his first airplane.

17 September 1976-NASA publicly unveils the first Space Shuttle, the Enterprise, during a ceremony in Palmdale, California.

19 September 1941-German bombers get through Russian anti-aircraft defense and bomb the city of Leningrad.

21 September 1942-The B-29 Superfortress bomber makes its first flight over Seattle, Washington. The B-29 was conceived in 1939 by Gen. Hap Arnold and would later go

on to become the primary plane of choice for the dropping of the atomic bombs over Japan.

23 September 1846-German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle discovers the eighth planet of Neptune at the Berlin Observatory.

25 September 1978-A Boeing 727, Pacific Southwest Airlines Flight 182, collides in mid-air with a Cessna 172 over San Diego, California. Air traffic controllers told the pilot of the Cessna to keep the aircraft below 3,500 feet but the pilot did not comply with the order. The pilots of Flight 182 saw the Cessna for a few minutes and then lost it in the sun. The two planes then collided and the Boeing nose dived into San Diego's North Park neighborhood. When it was over all 144 passengers and crew aboard Flight 182, both pilots in the Cessna and seven people in the neighborhood were killed.

26 September 1996-Astronaut Shannon Lucid returns to Earth aboard the space shuttle Atlantis. Lucid set a new American space endurance record and world record for women after her 188 day stay aboard the Mir space station.

28 September 1942-Gen. Hap Arnold makes development of the B-35 Flying Wing and B-36 Peacemaker highest priority. The B-35 would eventually become the prototype for the B-2 stealth bomber that was built 47 years later in 1989.

30 September 1949-The Berlin Airlift comes to an end after 15 months and over 250,000 flights.