

Aerospace Education History Events: October

4 October 1861-President Lincoln watches a balloon demonstration near Washington D.C. The balloon would later be used during the Civil War for observation purposes but was a short lived idea.

4 October 1957-The Soviets launch Sputnik from the Tyuratam air base in the Kazakh Republic. Sputnik had a 22 inch diameter, weighed 184 pounds, orbited Earth every one hour and 36 minutes and had an orbit speed of 18,000 miles per hour.

4 October 1992-An El-AL Boeing 747 cargo jet crashes into an apartment building in Amsterdam, Holland. Four people aboard the plane and about another 100 in the apartment building lost their lives in the accident. The cause of the accident was a fire in the third and fourth engine that caused both engines to fall from the plane.

5 October 1930-A British blimp, R-101, crashes in Beauvais, France killing all 56 passengers and crew aboard. The blimp was 777 feet long, weighed 150 tons and was powered by six Rolls Royce engines.

5 October 1969-A Cuban pilot defects and enters American air space undetected and lands his Soviet built MiG-17 at Homestead Air Force Base south of Miami, Florida. The presidential aircraft Air Force One was at the base at the time waiting to return President Nixon to Washington. The base was put on continuous alert and soon afterwards a new radar tracking facility was installed.

8 October 1919-The first trans-continental air race is held in the United States with 63 plane competing. Fifteen planes left the Presidio in San Francisco, California and another 48 departing Roosevelt Field in Long Island, New York. The winner was Lieutenant Belvin Maynard flying a Havilland-4 with a Liberty motor.

9 October 1940-During the Battle of Britain a Luftwaffe bomb goes through the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England and destroys the high altar. The cathedral survived the war mostly intact and its bells rang at the liberation of Paris and the end of World War Two in Europe.

11 October 1969-Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida with astronauts Walter M. Schirra Jr., Donn F. Eisele and Walter Cunningham aboard. Apollo 7 conducted an 11 day orbit of Earth and the crew transmitted the first live television broadcast from orbit.

12 October 1964-The Soviets launch Voskhod 1 with cosmonauts Vladamir Komarov, Konstantin Feoktistov and Boris Yegorov. Voskhod 1 becomes the first space craft to carry a multi-person crew and was the first flight performed without spacesuits.

13 October 1972-An Intourist chartered Ilyushin-62 jet plane crashes in Moscow killing all 176 persons aboard. Most of the other incoming flights diverted to Sweden to land

due to the bad weather around the airport. When the pilot thought he saw the runway he landed the plane and crashed near a village. The pilot actually missed the runway by three miles.

14 October 1947-Capt. Chuck Yeager becomes the first person to break the sound barrier aboard the Bell Aircraft built X-1. The X-1 was lifted to an altitude of 25,000 feet in the bomb bay of a modified B-29 bomber. Yeager named the X-1 Glamorous Glennis after his wife Glennis.

14 October 1962-The Cuban Missile Crisis begins when a U-2 spy plane takes photos of Soviet built missiles were stationed in Cuba, 90 miles off the American coast.

21 October 1959-President Eisenhower signs an order transferring rocket designer Wernher von Braun and his team of scientists from the US Army to the newly created National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

24 October 2003-The Concorde supersonic passenger jet makes its final flight from JFK International Airport in New York to Heathrow Airport in London, England. The British Airways flight coincided with two other final Concorde flights, one from Edinburgh and the Bay of Biscay. On board the Concorde was an Ohio couple that paid \$60,000.00 for two tickets on eBay for the final flight. Typical round trip fare for the trans-Atlantic flight was \$9,000 when the airline was under regular operation.

25 October 1944-During the Battle of the Leyte Gulf the Japanese deploy kamikaze pilots against American warships for the first time during the war.

25 October 1972-President Nixon orders suspension of bombing of North Vietnam in approval of secret peace talks that were held in Paris.

25 October 2000-A Russian military plane, an Ilyushin 18, crashes into the side of Mount Mtirala killing all 11 of the crew and 72 soldiers that were being transported.

29 October 1998-Senator John Hershel Glenn Jr. is launched into space as a payload specialist aboard the space shuttle Discovery. At 77 years of age Glenn becomes the oldest human ever to travel into space.

30 October 1938-Orson Wells causes nationwide panic during his broadcast of H.G. Wells' novel "War of the Worlds".