

# CANADA'S AIR WAR 1929-1938

updated 24/01/04

## 1929

In the 10 years since the end of the Great War productivity of industrial workers had risen at an astonishing rate (43% in the USA for example) due to the introduction of new technologies, especially electricity, which was just beginning to have an impact on factories and efficiency several decades after it's first use. At the same time more agricultural land was becoming available for food production as the need for animal feed decreased with the increasing use of gas powered vehicles. However, the profits of these new developments were not passed to the labourers whose wages fell in real terms over the period. By mid-1929 although goods were cheaper to produce, in the USA half of the population is not earning a living wage, and were unable to buy these goods. Surplus goods began to accumulate, inventory held in storage increased 300% over 1928 in the USA. At the same time increased production of food lowered prices, leaving farmers relying on loans to keep their land in production, and unable to save or re-invest in their property. Larger companies began to expand by purchasing smaller ones, leading to concentration of production in fewer corporations while tax rates on the wealthy were lowered (wikipedia; [http://www.hyperhistory.com/online\\_n2/connections\\_n2/great\\_depression.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/connections_n2/great_depression.html)).

Aviation development, which had been steady but slow since the end of the Great War, was beginning to make great achievements in engine performance, structural design and aerodynamics. In 1927 Charles Lindbergh flying a modified single engined cabin monoplane from New York to Paris took the Orteig Prize for the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean between these two cities. Coming as it were from nowhere after the much publicized failure of heavily sponsored attempts, this flight galvanized popular support for aviation in the USA, and soon books and magazines of flying adventures were being sold alongside westerns, romance and movie magazines, mostly aimed at young men and women who saw in aviation an adventurous and glamorous new future (F.H. Winstanley; book collection of Stan Reynolds). Those involved in the actual business of aviation began to see new opportunities as interest and investment followed, and this spilled over to other related scientific fields such as physics and electronics, which were also entering a time of greater development. The interest in aviation was world wide, but the sudden surge of popularity in the USA following the Lindbergh flight was inevitably mirrored in Canada, it's close neighbour.

During this year construction of the fortifications known as the Maginot Line, a series of fortifications in depth, planned to protect France from a German invasion, begins (wikipedia). It was to be an impregnable line of manned fortified defences behind which France could mobilize it's conscript based army in the event of an attack on the country.

In England the Treasury's "Ten Year Rule", established in 1922, was in effect, an understanding that the countries naval, military and air forces would have 10 years warning of a major conflict breaking out in Europe, and could be built up in that time to meet any crisis. As a result England's armed forces had been allowed to run down since the end of the 1914-1918 war

and this would continue for several years. This policy also affected defence policies in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India who took their lead from England. See March 23, 1932. Britain would declare war on Germany in 10 years and 9 months.

During the War of 1914-1918 London had faced a heavy and sustained series of bomber attacks, first by zeppelins, then by large and long range aircraft, by both day and night. This resulted in the formation of the Royal Air Force as a separate entity, but also to a developed air defence of the City that was integrated with the Army for spotters, communications, searchlights and anti-aircraft artillery. The most advanced air defence in the world at the time, it was dismantled at the end of that war, but formed the basis of air defence planning beginning in the 1920s. As the range of aircraft improved the size of the planning grew to cover most of England and Scotland, to protect the industrial middle regions of the United Kingdom, and as aircraft speed increased it limited time for detection and interception, which led to the study of faster methods to identify hostile aircraft, plot their course, and communicate the information to the defences (*Aeroplane Monthly*, Briefing Notes, July 2021). See April 26, 1935.

Of note, at this time England based air policies and specifications for new aircraft measured against the capabilities of France, not because France was seen as a possible enemy, but because after the *Versailles Treaty* France was the only other air power in Europe comparable to the RAF (*Aeroplane Monthly*, Briefing Notes, July 2021).

In Canada the Federal Government amends *Section 98* of the Criminal Code (enacted after the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919) to define an "unlawful association" from: *any group whose purpose is to make a change through violence*, to: any group which may use violence, thus allowing the government to act on any organization it wants without having to prove intent before a judge. This section was used to harass and spy on communists, co-operatives, farmers associations and labour unions in Canada in the Depression.

In the Caribbean the change from sailing ships to steam ships had rendered many of the Canadian shipping routes there unprofitable. In 1920 the Canadian government had sponsored a shipping service to keep these routes open, but it had failed. A new service, Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships was created and 5 state-of-the-art miniature liners were ordered from England, the *RMS Lady Hawkins*, *Lady Nelson*, *Lady Drake*, *Lady Somers* and *Lady Rodney*, which went into service in late 1928 between Canada and destinations in the West Indies and South America (J. Boileau). See September 3, 1939.

After visits in Europe and India in 1927 Amanullah Khan, ruler of Afghanistan, embarked on measures to modernize his country, separating religion from the state, allowing modern dress, emancipation of women and other measures. In November of 1928 these attempts led to a revolt by tribes and religious leaders which cut off access to Kabul from India. By December 1928 these rebelling tribal forces were approaching Kabul, and the British mission was requesting planning for the evacuation of civilians by air. After several breaks in communication and false starts on December 23, 1928, a Valentia escorted by DH-9A aircraft landed a radio team and equipment, and left with women and children to Peshawar over the

Khyber pass through winter weather and through the mountains due to the high altitude. Pamphlets had been dropped on previous flights to explain the aircraft were performing a mission of mercy to prevent being shot at by tribesman (V. Flintham). See January 7, 1929.

## January 1929

Tuesday

1 In -38°F weather (-36.4°C) local pilots [Wop May](#) and [Vic Horner](#) leave Edmonton, Alberta in an Avro Avian aircraft G-CAVB with diphtheria serum needed urgently in Fort Vermilion, Alberta. The planning for this flight had begun between Alberta health officials and local pilots following a radio report from Peace River, Alberta, on a new outbreak reported Dec. 26, 1928. Diphtheria had ravaged the NWT in the spring of 1928 and over a thousand people died before authorities in the south were contacted and they could send serum and assistance into the Territory by paddle steamer. Due to this a radio system was being set up by the Federal Government to solve the communication problem. This radio network had only reached Peace River, Alberta, at this time, but would move into the NWT during the Spring. The information on the outbreak had to be brought to Peace River by dogsled.

The Avian, a light open cockpit aircraft, was pressed into use as an emergency measure to solve the transportation problem. One of three similar aircraft based in Edmonton that winter, it had stronger undercarriage than the other two. Having an open cockpit May and Horner were clothed in the warmest clothing available, but still suffered from the cold, and after getting lost they landed safely at McLennan, Alberta, where local residents, following instructions being broadcast on radio stations by the Alberta Government, had built an emergency airstrip, one of hundreds being built in Northern Alberta by communities and farmers alerted by the broadcasts to aid this flight.

The communities of Point Grey and South Vancouver are joined to form the City of Vancouver, BC (wikipedia).

Tuesday to Monday

1-7 US Army Air Corps (USAAC) US built Fokker C-2A (F.VII/3m) aircraft *Question Mark* begins a 6 day flight over California to test in-flight refuelling, flown by Major C.A. Spaatz, Capt. I.C. Eaker, 2Lt E.R. Quesada, 1Lt H.A. Halverson and Sgt R.W. Hooe (wikipedia).

Wednesday

2 [May and Horner](#) leave McLennan, Alberta, for Peace River at first light. After refuelling they took off again and landed in Fort Vermilion that afternoon, where the serum is taken 50 miles farther on by dog sled, as there was no radio receiver at the outbreak location and they could not be contacted in time to build an airstrip. From the time they leave Peace River until their return on January 4 they were out of touch with the world, and no one knew if they had succeeded or crashed.

Sunday

6 Nun Agnes Bojaxhiu arrives in Calcutta, India, to begin her work with the poor. Later known as Mother Teresa (wikipedia).

Monday

7 Delayed in Peace River by engine problems May and Horner return to Edmonton where they receive a massive welcome, the story of the flight having been taken up all over North America. They receive the McKee Trophy that year for Advancement of Aviation in Canada. This event leads to the City of Edmonton putting money into the development of their airport, Blachford Field.

The airlift of foreign nationals from Kabul continued as weather allowed and had mostly been completed. In an attempt to appease tribes opposed to modernization Amanullah Khan prohibits western dress in the country and again forces women to wear the veil (wikipedia; V. Flintham). See January 14, below.

Thursday

10 First publication of the Tintin comic (wikipedia).

Sunday

13 Wyatt Earp dies (wikipedia).

Monday

14 His measures at appeasement having failed the Ruler of Afghanistan, Amanullah Khan, abdicates the throne to his brother, Inayatullah Khan, before fleeing to Kandahar, then to British controlled India (wikipedia; V. Flintham). See January 18, below.

Tuesday

15 Martin Luther King Jr. born (wikipedia).

Thursday

17 First publication of the Popeye comic (wikipedia). **Jacques Plante** born in Quebec (wikipedia). Civil war breaks out in Afganistan, Kabul captured by Habibullah Kalakani (wikipedia).

Friday

18 His leadership of the country not being acceptable to the revolting tribes RAF aircraft rescue Inayatullah Khan from Kabul, taking him to Peshawar in India where he joined his brother in exile (wikipedia; V. Flintham). See February 25, below.

Wednesday

23 Delivery of first Air Mail to the North West Territories by **Punch Dickens**, from Edmonton to Aklavik and points along the Mackenzie River (E.L. Myles). **John Polanyi**, Nobel Laureate for Chemistry, born in Berlin (wikipedia).

Friday

25 Mussolini announces new naval shipbuilding to bring Italy's Navy to the same level as other European nations in the Mediterranean (wikipedia).

Sunday

27 Aircraft of the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition on reconnaissance flights over King Edward VII Land discover two new mountain ranges (wikipedia).

Tuesday

29 In a US Navy Fleet exercise designed to test the defences of the Panama Canal Rear Admiral J.S. Reeves persuades his commanding Admiral to allow the aircraft carrier *USS Lexington* to detach from the fleet and to attack the Canal Zone acting as an independent task force. The surprise attack is very successful, leading to further consideration of the use of aircraft carriers as an attacking force rather than as reconnaissance support for the battleship fleet (FP).

Publication of *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque (wikipedia). The book is an immediate best seller (E. Dee). See December 5, 1930 and December 16, 1943.

Thursday

31 Leon Trotsky expelled from USSR by Stalin (wikipedia). Founder of the Red Army, he had hoped and fought to spread Communism to other industrialized countries, but this had not happened. Stalin also hoped Communism would spread, but wanted to establish a firm base in Russia, which would mean controlling the country. Trotsky refused to mobilize his influence to defeat Stalin, recognizing he would become a dictator himself if he chose that path [please note this is a gross simplification of the dispute between these two men]. See August 21, 1940.

## February 1929

Friday

1 Supporters of Leon Trotsky in the Soviet Union rounded up and sent to internal exile in Siberia beginning on this day (wikipedia).

Tuesday

5 General Electric engineers successfully transmit a television image across the USA. Television had been pioneered in England by John Logie Baird in 1925 (wikipedia).

Wednesday

6 Germany accepts the *Kellog-Briand Pact of 1928*, renouncing war. This pact, negotiated by France and the USA, had already been signed by many nations including Canada, and was to take effect July 24, 1929 (wikipedia).

#### Thursday

7 US Federal Reserve Board warns that much of the countries credit is tied up in high risk loans. On the same day the New York Stock Exchange sees a sudden drop based on actions by the Bank of England (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

9 *Litvinov Pact* renouncing war signed by the Soviet Union, Poland, Romania, Estonia and Latvia (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

10 Assassination attempt on the President of Mexico failed, part of the unrest in that country between religious groups and the Government, known as the Cristero War (wikipedia).

#### Monday

11 Italian Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini signs the *Lateran Treaty*, recognizing the Vatican as a sovereign state within Italy. This accord ends the tension between the Church and the civil government in Italy. See April 14, 1944.

#### Wednesday

13 In his last official act as US President Calvin Coolidge signs an act to build new cruisers and an aircraft carrier for the US Navy (wikipedia). As the first modern re-armament program of a major power since the end of the Great War this would spark an international reaction and lead to the *London Naval Treaty* in 1930.

#### Thursday

14 St. Valentines Day Massacre in Chicago, Illinois (wikipedia).

#### Friday

15 Warnings of US Federal Reserve Board endorsed by it's Advisory Council, warning investors against high risk loans (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

16 New York Stock Exchange posts losses in reaction to loan warnings of previous day (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

17 Due to roads blocked by snow *Great Western Airways* Stinson Detrouer (G-CANI?) flew a doctor from Lethbridge, Alberta to Skiff to treat two men injured in an explosion, flying them back to Lethbridge on the return flight (B.W. Gowans).

25 Final RAF evacuation flight from Afghanistan, which had lifted out 586 people from the foreign ligations there and their staff, and the deposed rulers of the country with their households (V. Flintham).

## March 1929

Saturday

2 Increased penalties enacted for violating prohibition in the USA (wikipedia). See March 22, 1929.

Sunday

3 Intense cold weather in Europe. France announced that nearly 2,400 people had died in the last 10 days due to the weather (wikipedia). See July 26, 1929.

In Mexico following the attempt to assassinate the President the simmering Cristero War flared up again as rebels begin seizing towns along the US border (wikipedia).

Monday

4 Herbert Hoover sworn in as President of the USA (wikipedia).

Saturday

9 Arthur's Pass Earthquake in New Zealand (7.1 on Richter Scale) causes extensive damage to communications but no injuries (wikipedia).

Friday

22 After a 2 day chase in the Caribbean, a US Coast Guard ship shells and sinks the Canadian registered rum running schooner *I'm Alone* when she refused to stop, 1 crewman drowned. The schooner was off the coast of Louisiana in international waters and this causes a diplomatic incident between Canada and the USA, involving even questions of British war reparations and of the US recognition of Canada as a country independent of England, which at that time was unaddressed (Skoglund, N.G., *The "I'm Alone Case" A Tale from the Days of Prohibition* [note for Canadian Ambassador in the article read Canadian Envoy as the USA and Canada did not share formal diplomatic recognition at this time]).

Sunday

24 The modified Spanish Air Force Breguet XIX *Jesus del gran Poder* took off from Seville, Spain to cross the South Atlantic (wikipedia).

"Elections" in Italy endorse the Fascist party in power. The ballot had only 2 choices, Yes or No, to a list of approved Fascist candidates, opposition parties were banned. Reported that 98% of ballots were returned as Yes. After this "election" the Italian Parliament was made up of only members of the Fascist party (wikipedia).

Tuesday

26 After a flight of 44 hours the *Jesus del gran Poder* landed safely at Bahia, Brazil (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 *Imperial Airways* begins an air service from England to India. The flight takes 7 days, via Switzerland, Italy, Egypt and Iraq (M.J.H. Taylor). Navigation across the deserts of Syria and Iraq follows a straight line ploughed in the sand.

Sunday

31 Fokker F.VII/3m *Southern Cross* missing in Northwest Australia on the first leg of a planned flight from Australia to England (wikipedia). See April 11, 1929.

## April 1929

-- In Canada the Royal Canadian Navy proposed obtaining destroyers to protect merchant shipping in Canadian waters in the event of a war. To begin this the first warships specifically built for Canadian service were ordered from England, *HMCS Saguenay* and *HMCS Skeena* (M. Milner). See May 21, 1931 and November 1934.

Tuesday to Saturday

2-6 An aircraft flown by a mercenary pilot supporting rebelling Mexican soldiers attacking Naco, Sonora, Mexico, dropped at least 3 bombs over the border in Naco, Arizona, the first bombs dropped on the USA by a foreign military (wikipedia). (The first bombs dropped in the USA were dropped on black residents of Tulsa, Oklahoma, in the race riots of 1921).

Saturday

6 Residents of the island of Heligoland in the North Sea, ceded to Germany from Britain in 1890, stage a demonstration demanding the Islands return to British rule (wikipedia).

Thursday

11 After 12 days the missing Fokker *Southern Cross* was found with it's crew safe in Australia (wikipedia). See July 10, 1929.

Sunday

14 First India to England airmail flight completed (wikipedia).

Wednesday to Friday

24-26 First non-stop flight from Cranwell, England to Karachi, India by an RAF Fairey Long Range Monoplane, 6,647 km (4,130 miles) in 50 hours and 37 minutes (wikipedia).

26 *Great Western Airways* Stinson G-CANI was chartered by Imperial Oil to carry some of its people over it's property (Turner Valley?) so they could assess the geology from the air (B.W. Gowans). See June 1, below.

Tuesday

30 Fairchild 71 utility aircraft enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

## May 1929

-- During the month the initial proposed *Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act* was introduced to increase tariffs on agricultural imports into the USA as a way of addressing the low prices paid to farmers. As



the economy began to collapse in the upcoming Great Depression legislators began adding more items into the proposed act until it placed tariffs on import of more than 20,000 items, mostly manufactured products (wikipedia). See May, 1930.

#### Wednesday

1 In Berlin Communists attempting to celebrate May Day in defiance of a police order are attacked by police, sparking 4 days of riots and hundreds of arrests, including of policemen who sided with the Communists (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

11 Riot by students at Baptist Des Moines University in the USA, in part over objections to enforced teaching of fundamental religious theories including the denial of the theory of evolution, resulted in the University being permanently shut down by it's fundamentalist religious supporters, which included strong support of the Baptist organization in Toronto (wikipedia; <https://dmlocalhistory.wordpress.com/2012/09/11/old-des-moines-university/>; <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1929/05/13/page/1/article/cops-quell-new-college-riot>).

#### Thursday

16 First Academy Awards presentation in Hollywood, Great War flying epic *Wings* wins best picture (wikipedia).

#### Friday

17 RCAF Vedette G-CYZF entered a spin on a test flight, Canadian Vickers pilot **C.S. Caldwell** bailed out and became the first Canadian member of the Caterpillar Club, those whose lives are saved using an Irvin parachute (K.M. Molson).

#### Sunday

19 Modified Ryan B-1 (the basic aircraft modified for the Lindbergh flight) *Fort Worth* takes off at Fort Worth Texas to attempt a new endurance record for flight using in-flight refuelling (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

26 Modified Junkers W.33 sets a new world altitude record of 41,800' (12,740 m) (airwaysmag.com).

Private venture aircraft *Fort Worth* sets new endurance record for aircraft of 7 days, 4 hours and 31 minutes (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

29 A series of explosions occur in the Ottawa sewer system, probably due to dumping of waste petrochemicals, but exact cause or source never determined (wikipedia).

#### Thursday

30 General Election in England returns a hung parliament, with the Liberals holding the balance of power. This was called the 'Flapper' election as for the first time women under 30 were

allowed to vote (wikipedia).

Friday

31 Henry Ford signs a contract to supply vehicles to the Soviet Union and build a factory there (wikipedia), breaking the path for other US firms to begin trading with a country the US government did not then recognize (<http://www.history.com>). This was the founding of the GAZ Truck factory at Nizhny Novgorod which would produce versions of the Ford Model AA truck for the Soviet Army, before and during the coming war, an important step in the modernization of the Russian military.

In the mid 1930s, however, the Soviet government began renegeing on this agreement, to the point of preventing US Ford workers and their families from leaving the country. They and immigrant workers to the USSR from other countries (including USA and Canadians) who had immigrated to support the ideals of Communism were caught up in the Red Terror, and almost all ended up in the Gulags, abandoned by their home countries due to their beliefs. Ford abandoned his workers and the factory as well [see Robert Robinson (engineer) on wikipedia for an example of one workers story].

## June 1929

-- Germany accepts the *Young Plan* for payment of final reparations to the USA for the 1914-1918 World War. These planned payments would continue through to 1988 (LoN). Opposition to the adoption by the Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party brings in many donations and makes Adolf Hitler a national figure in German Politics (D. Sommerville).

-- The permanent force of the Canadian Army held summer manoeuvres. In 1928 they had held the first summer manoeuvres since the Great War, which had been a disaster, showing how the lack of practical training due to low funding had eroded the force to a low level. Training had been improved in the intervening year and there was improvement, but following the onset of The Great Depression there were no further funds for summer training until 1938 (S.J. Harris).

Saturday

1 *Western Canada Airways* Fokker Super Universal G-CASN begins a contract to photo map the Turner Valley region of Alberta after the discovery of natural gas, one of the earliest applications of an aircraft to petroleum exploration. The contract is completed by June 27 (B.W. Gowans).

Tuesday

4 Conservative PM Baldwin resigns in England (wikipedia).

Wednesday

5 In the second mass flight undertaken by the Italian Air Force for propaganda purposes 41 Italian seaplanes take off on a tour of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The first of

these flights, later called "Balbos" after their creator Deputy Minister for Air General Italo Balbo, had toured the Western Mediterranean in May and June of 1928 (H.W. Neulen).

Friday

7 In England the Conservative Party concedes power rather than form a coalition, resulting in a Labour government with Ramsay MacDonald as Prime Minister (wikipedia).

Tuesday

11 Royal York Hotel opens in Toronto, Ontario, the largest hotel in the Commonwealth (CBC *As It Happens*).

Wednesday

12 Anne Frank born in Germany (wikipedia).

Monday

17 Murchison Earthquake in New Zealand (7.8 Richter) damages the town of Murchison and causes 17 deaths (wikipedia).

*Imperial Airways* Handley-Page W.10 airliner G-EBMT *City of Ottawa* ditches into the English Channel after an engine failure on a flight to Paris, 7 passengers lost including 1 Canadian (**Leon Thomas Malcolm**), 2 Australians, 1 USA, 1 Swiss, 1 Dutch and 1 English. The 2 crew and 4 passengers who survived were rescued with injuries (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1929.htm>). The passengers that died were trapped in the cabin and drowned after being thrown forward from their seats (wikipedia). The use of seat belts in aircraft is a direct result of this loss.

Wednesday

19 The mass flight of Italian flying boats returns to Italy to wide acclaim (H.W. Neulen). See Dec. 17, 1930.

Under Mussolini aircraft, and especially pilots, were lionized as an ideal, representing the modern technological advancement of the State combined with the image of the Hero (important symbols in fascist ideology). The Italian Air Force was at the forefront of aircraft technology in this period, although much of that was for propaganda purposes it also had direct military applications. Hitler would also seize on the new and expanding science of aeronautics as an ideal when he came to power.

Friday

21 An agreement brokered by the US Ambassador to Mexico brings an end to that country's Cristero War, which had cost 90,000 lives over the previous 3 years.

A Dornier 'Wal' flying boat, M-MWAP "*Numancia*", left Spain for the Azores on the first leg of a trip across the Atlantic (and possibly around the world), commanded by Maj. R. Franco. In the dark it overflew the islands due to poorly forecast winds and landed in the open sea (J. Stroud). See June 28, below.

## Thursday

27 First demonstration of colour television at the Bell Telephone Laboratories (wikipedia).

## Friday

28 The aircraft carrier *HMS Eagle*, searching for the missing Spanish flying boat "*Numancia*", spotted the aircraft and retrieved it and its crew after a week adrift in the Atlantic. Maj. Franco was later demoted for his criticism of Spanish weather forecasting and rescue attempts. His brother was Col. (later Gen.) Francisco Franco (see Oct. 4, 1934).

In Germany the 10th anniversary of the *Treaty of Versailles* is celebrated as a day of mourning, while President Hindenburg published a proclamation denouncing the treaty (wikipedia).

The first *Max Planck Awards* for achievement in Physics awarded by the German Physical Society to Max Planck and Albert Einstein (wikipedia).

## Sunday

30 Reported airmail flown in the last 12 months in the United States exceeds 7,700,000 lbs., up from 810,000 lbs. in 1926. The continental USA provided a large area with unified rules and a need for fast and efficient delivery of air mail, especially for its banking industry, which found great savings in reduced time between writing and crediting cheques and drafts. This need helped develop an advanced day and night navigation system (the infant airline network of today), as well as improving aircraft maintenance systems, engines and equipment to ensure reliable and economic delivery (FP).

In Europe, where smaller countries relied on railways for quick mail delivery, the emphasis was on passenger flying, on short routes internally and long routes to colonies internationally.

In countries and areas with large undeveloped areas (Canada, Russia, Australia, Alaska, Africa, South America and New Guinea), the ability of aircraft to travel across obstacles into remote places was the driving force in developing charter airlines, and the persona of the "Bush Pilot". In Canada between the wars these operations flew more freight by weight than flown in the rest of the world combined, mostly on small float or ski equipped aircraft. In contrast to the airmail operations in the USA, Canadian pilots learned to operate in remote areas with minimum equipment carrying large and varied loads in all kinds of weather without ground based navigation aids (see details of the MacAlpine search, below, for many examples of this). *Western Canadian Airways* (later *Canadian Pacific Airlines*), founded by James Richardson of Winnipeg to operate charter or bushplane services, was the only airline in the Commonwealth that made a profit without any government subsidy between the wars, in large part due to its pioneering work using radio for communications between its remote stations (K.M. Molson).

## July 1929

Sunday

7 A 2-day passenger service across the United States by aircraft during the day and railroad at night is introduced by *Transcontinental Air Transport* (M.J.H. Taylor). See September 3, 1929 below.

Wednesday

10 After refurbishing, the Fokker F.VII/3m *Southern Cross*, flown by Charles Kingsford-Smith, makes a new record time of 12 days, 21 hours and 13 minutes from Australia to England (wikipedia). See June 25, 1930.

Friday

12 In California the flight endurance record with in-flight refuelling is increased to over 10 days by a Buhl Airsedan named *Angelino* (wikipedia).

Wednesday

17 Robert Goddard launches a rocket with a camera, the first US rocket to carry scientific instruments (wikipedia; M.J.H. Taylor). This idea was not new, and in 1906 the German Army had tested a developed mobile rocket with launcher designed to take images of enemy positions and return the camera by parachute, but found aircraft were better at the same task at that time (A. Price, *The Kaiser's Curious Camera*). See October 24, 1946.

The USSR breaks off relations with China and begins military mobilization as a result of an escalating dispute over control of the Chinese Eastern Railway (wikipedia).

Sunday

21 A fire that got out of control in a high wind destroyed most of downtown Wainwright, Alberta (peel.library.ualberta/newspapers/WWS/1929/07/24/01).

Monday

22 Soviet forces begin operations against China along the Manchurian border (wikipedia; <http://forum.axishistory.com/viewtopic.php?f=101&t=17375>).

Wednesday

24 French Prime Minister Poincare resigns for health reasons and is replaced by Aristide Briand, one of the author's of the *Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928* which outlawed war (wikipedia).

*Kellogg-Briand Pact* takes effect. China and the Soviet Union, both signatories, are in negotiation to end the railway dispute in Manchuria and pledge neither army will move unless attacked (wikipedia).

Friday

26 Three Italian anti-fascists, E. Lussu, F.F. Nitti and C. Rosselli, held on the island of Lipari off Sicily, are rescued by an airplane that takes them to Tunisia (wikipedia).

A heat wave in Italy kills 10 people (wikipedia).

Saturday

27 The Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoner's of War, Geneva, July 27, 1929, known simply as "*The Geneva Convention*", is signed. Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, India and the USA are among the 53 signatories (wikipedia).

Monday

29 First flight of the Dornier DO-X 12 engined flying boat (wikipedia).

A half million textile workers in Britain strike to protest a 12.5% wage cut (wikipedia).

Tuesday

30 A Curtiss Robin based out of St. Louis, Missouri, USA, extends the refuelled flight endurance record from 10 to 17 days (wikipedia). In the last 7 months the flight endurance record has nearly tripled, from 6 days to 17!

Wednesday

31 Troops are on alert in cities across Europe due concerns of communist demonstrations on August 1, *International Red Day* (wikipedia).

## August 1929

Thursday

1 Only a few reports of trouble on *International Red Day*. In Nuremberg the 4th Party Congress of the fascist Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party, also called in English the Nazi Party) opens with 60,000 participants, while in Berlin 300,000 mark the 15th anniversary of the beginning of the World War with an anti-war demonstration (wikipedia). It should be pointed out that the Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party name was deliberately misleading, as it was a fascist party that represented neither Socialist ideals or workers.

Sunday

4 The rigid airship *Graf Zeppelin* lands at Lakehurst, New Jersey, completing it's third transatlantic flight (wikipedia).

Thursday

8 Airship *Graf Zeppelin* begins an announced round-the-world flight from Lakehurst, New Jersey, departing to Germany.

Wednesday

14 As talks to find a peaceful solution to the railway dispute in Manchuria falter sporadic shooting erupts between Chinese and Soviet troops (wikipedia).

*Graf Zeppelin* departs Freidrichshafen, Germany for Tokyo, Japan, non-stop across the USSR, a trip of 11,246 km (wikipedia).

Thursday

15 Sponsored by Texaco a Buhl Sesquiplane *Spokane Sun God*, flown by N.B. Mamer and A. Walker, takes off from Spokane, Washington for New York City nonstop using in-flight refuelling (R.K. Smith). Prior to this endurance, not distance, was the goal of these flights using in-flight refuelling.

In England textile workers agree to go back to work while the wage cut goes to arbitration (wikipedia).

Friday

16 Riots in Palestine between Palestinians and Jews break out, claiming hundreds of lives in the next week, over access to worship at the Wailing Wall (wikipedia). As part of the response the Royal Navy aircraft carrier *HMS Courageous* launches all it's aircraft off Jaffa to land and operate for a month from an airstrip in Gaza, Palestine, a plan formulated by the air group commander *W/C R. Collishaw DSO OBE DSC DFC RAF (Can.)* (wikipedia; M. Bechthold).

Saturday

17 The Buhl *Spokane Sun God* reaches New York, and turns around without landing (R.K. Smith).

*Rutledge Air Services Ltd.* American Eagle CF-AHX used to deliver needed farm machinery parts from Calgary to Blackie, Lethbridge and Vulcan, Alberta, where the harvest is in full swing (B.W. Gowans).

Sunday

18 First *Women's Air Derby*, a cross country air race from California to Cleveland, Ohio, begins (wikipedia).

Monday

19 Airship *Graf Zeppelin* circles Tokyo before landing in Japan, completing it's non-stop flight over the Soviet Union (wikipedia).

Tuesday

20 Returning to Spokane Mamer and Walker land the Buhl *Spokane Sun God* after a nonstop return flight to New York using aerial refuelling, a flight of over 7,000 miles (11,265 km) in just under 116 hours (R.K. Smith). Their average airspeed is still slower than the *Graf Zeppelin* achieved on it's Germany to Japan flight, without refuelling, over nearly the same distance.

Friday

23 A modified TB-1 bomber URSS-300 "*Strana*" leaves from Moscow on a flight to New York, arriving Nov. 1 in 137 flying hours (M.J.H. Taylor; 1000aircraftphotos.com).

After repairing damage from ground handling the airship *Graf Zeppelin* departs Japan for the USA (wikipedia).

Saturday

24 MacAlpine Expedition, A Fokker Super Universal G-CASP (leased from *Western Canada Airways*) and a Fairchild FC-2W2 CF-AAO of Dominion Explorers Ltd. left Winnipeg, Manitoba, on a planned mineral survey flight across the NWT carrying a party of mining exploration geologists. The planned route was to Churchill, Man., then explore the west coast of Hudson's Bay to Chesterfield Inlet before flying inland to Baker Lake, NWT. From there the party would fly north west across the Barrens to Bathurst Inlet, along the Arctic coast to Coppermine, then south to explore northern shore of Great Bear Lake, meeting and picking up a Dominion Explorers party already in the region. From there they would fly to Fort Norman on the Mackenzie River, fly north to Aklavik before returning south down the Mackenzie, across Great Slave Lake, to Lake Athabasca, The Pas and back to Winnipeg. The party of 7 men was led by Lt Col (ret'd) C.D.H. MacAlpine, president of Dominion Explorers Ltd. (WCA Archives).

Martial Law declared in Jerusalem to try to control the rioting. Yassar Arafat born in Cairo (wikipedia).

Monday

26 German airship *Graf Zeppelin* circles Los Angeles, California, before landing, the first non-stop crossing of the Pacific Ocean by air (wikipedia).

The first *Women's Air Derby* finishes at Cleveland, Ohio, landing before a crowd of 18,000 people. Of the 20 women racing 15 completed the race. One pilot was killed in a crash, while suspected acts of sabotage were reported (wikipedia).

MacAlpine Expedition, The air party landed at Churchill, Man., where tide carried the anchored Fokker out to sea where it sank. In the recovery operation the airplane was destroyed (WCA Archives).

At RCAF Station Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, **Sgt J.M. Ready** saved his life parachuting from DH.60 Moth G-CYXH (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

27 *Graf Zeppelin* departs Los Angeles for Lakehurst (wikipedia).

On a tour across Canada with his son, his brother and nephew, Winston Churchill writes to his wife from Banff of the impression Canada had made on him on this trip, and on how it was developing economically. He mentioned that if Neville Chamberlain became Conservative Party leader he would consider giving up on politics and settling in Canada (R. Langworth). See February 15, 1930.



Thursday

29 Round the World flight of *Graf Zeppelin* ends at Lakehurst, New Jersey, completing 35,200 km (21,873 miles) in 21 days, 5 hours and 31 minutes total time, about 12 days of actual flight time, with only 3 stops on the way (wikipedia; M.J.H. Taylor). The flight was notable in that the airship carried fare paying passengers.

## September 1929

- Britain announces sponsorship of Iraq in the *League of Nations*, marking the beginning of withdrawal of Britain's direct control over that country that began during the 1914-1918 World War.
- Dr. Alexander Fleming publishes a paper on his observed effects of penicillin mold on bacteria in the British *Journal of Experimental Pathology*, beginning the field of antibiotics.
- At about this time F/L F. Whittle RAF, the son of a mechanic, who had become an RAF Apprentice and was then sent as an officer cadet to RAF Cranwell due to his mechanical and mathematical skills, sent to the Air Ministry a proposal to develop a gas turbine engine for aircraft propulsion (wikipedia).

Tuesday

3 In New York, Stock Market prices reach a new high on the Dow Jones average (wikipedia).

Ford Trimotor NC9649 *City of San Francisco* of *Transcontinental Air Transport* (later *TWA*) enroute to Los Angeles flies into a mountainside in New Mexico in a thunderstorm, killing all 8 on board. This was part of the new 2-day train/aircraft transcontinental service, and the crash, the airlines first, led many to question the future of air passenger flights in the USA (wikipedia; aviation-safety.net; <http://www.lostflights.com>).

Wednesday

4 MacAlpine Expedition, A second *Western Canada Airways* Fokker Universal, G-CASK, leaves Winnipeg for Churchill to support the MacAlpine group (WCA Archives).

Thursday

5 Prime Minister Briand of France proposes a "United States of Europe", and the establishment of an international force to ensure the prevention of war under the *Kellogg-Briand Pact* (wikipedia).

Saturday

7 In a settlement of the fighting in Jerusalem, praying by Jews at the wailing wall under the protection of Moslem policemen allowed, while a commission would look into the disputes between Jews and Moslems who both claim this site as holy (wikipedia).

1929 Schneider Trophy for floatplanes won by Supermarine S.6 aircraft at Calshot, England

(wikipedia).

MacAlpine Expedition, Fokker G-CASK joins the MacAlpine Fairchild CF-AAO and party at Baker Lake, NWT (WCA Archives).

Sunday

8 MacAlpine Expedition, The two floatplanes with a party of 8 men leave Baker Lake for Bathurst Inlet, via Beverly Lake and Pelly Lake, expecting to arrive on September 10 (WCA Archives).

Monday

9 Saskatchewan provincial election won by Conservative party with alleged support of the Klu Klux Klan (wikipedia; www.schudak.de)

Tuesday

10 Gloster VI seaplane *Golden Arrow* flown by F/L G.H. Stainforth RAF establishes a new World Speed Record for aircraft of 336.3 mph (541.4 km/hr). It had not competed in the Schneider race due to technical problems (wikipedia).

The railway from The Pas to Churchill, Manitoba, opened (www.schudak.de).

Wednesday

11 Soviet troops advance into Manchuria (wikipedia).

Thursday

12 Supermarine S.6 flown by S/L A.H. Orlebar RAF takes the World Speed Record for aircraft with a speed of 357.7 mph (575.5 km/hr).

Saturday

14 Six people killed in an air accident of a *Skyways Ltd.* aircraft near Thorold, Ontario.

As the *Young Plan* took effect to settle Germany's reparation debt various armies stationed in the Occupied Rhineland begin leaving. On this date the occupying British Army began withdrawing its troops (wikipedia).

Wednesday

18 MacAlpine Expedition, The MacAlpine party is now 10 days out of contact and overdue at Bathurst Inlet. Preparations begin to search for the missing aircraft (WCA Archives).

Monday

23 MacAlpine Expedition, *Western Canada Airways* aircraft are ordered to fly to their base at Stoney Rapids, Saskatchewan, to organize a search for the missing survey party (WCA Archives).

Tuesday

24 USAAC Lt. 'Jimmy' Doolittle takes off, flies a circuit and lands an aircraft without any visual reference, using only instruments and radio guides, inside a sealed and blacked-out cockpit,

to demonstrate the use of newly developed aids to improve flight safety (wikipedia).

In Germany a formal bill and petition calling for a referendum to end all war reparations under the *Versailles Treaty* is submitted to the Government (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 MacAlpine Expedition, *Western Canada Airways* Fokker Super Universal G-CASM, pilot **C.H. 'Punch' Dickins** and engineer **W.S. Tall**, leave Fort McMurray, Alberta to search Great Bear Lake for signs of the missing party (WCA Archives).

MacAlpine Expedition, WCA Fokker Super Universal G-CASO, **F.R. Brown** and engineer **P.L. Davis**, with Dominion Explorers Fairchild FC-2W2 CF-ACZ, pilot W.A. Spence and **E.G. Longley**, left Stoney Rapids to Dubawnt Lake, NWT, delayed by fog. (WCA Archives).

Friday to Sunday

27-29 French Bréguet 19 aircraft *Point d'Intérrogation* ("Question Mark") flies from Paris to Qiqihar, Manchuria to establish a new world non-stop distance record for aircraft of 7,905 km (4,912 miles) (M.J.H. Taylor).

Friday

27 MacAlpine Expedition, After leaving supplies at Dubawnt Lake Fokker G-CASO and Fairchild CF-ACZ continue to search north. Hindered by fog they reach the Beverly Lake fuel cache, where they confirm that the MacAlpine party had visited the site. Other WCA aircraft from Stoney Rapids fly further supplies into Dubawnt and Wholodaia lakes in support (WCA Archives).

Saturday

28 MacAlpine Expedition, G-CASO and CF-ACZ fly a search from Beverly Lake to Pelly Lake, but are forced back by bad weather to land at Baker Lake (WCA Archives).

Monday

30 MacAlpine Expedition, Flying north of Great Bear Lake the Dickins/Tall crew find the local Dominion Explorers Ltd. land party, including **G.A. Labine**, which they pick up (WCA Archives). Returning over the eastern shore of Great Bear Lake Labine notes an island with heavy mineralization, and asks Dickins to note the location so he can return the next season (G. Vachon). See March, 1930.

In Frankfurt the first flight by a rocket powered aircraft, the Opel RAK.1, by Fritz von Opel. The aircraft flew 1.5 km in 75 seconds (wikipedia).

## October 1929

-- Britain declared that as a "gesture of goodwill" to the USA it would withdraw or close it's Royal Navy bases in the Caribbean and Halifax. This was done without informing the Canadian

Government and was seen as a major blow to the defence of Canada if there was ever a military threat from the USA, which presumed naval support from England on the US coasts while land forces from England were sent to back up the Canadian military (S.J. Harris). See note under 1930, below.

Tuesday

1 MacAlpine Expedition, The Fokker G-CASM returns with the prospecting land party to Fort Fitzgerald, Alberta (WCA Archives).

MacAlpine Expedition, Fokker G-CASO and Fairchild CF-ACZ attempt to reach Pelly Lake, but are forced to return to Baker Lake by bad weather (WCA Archives).

MacAlpine Expedition, The Fokker G-CASL, used for supply flights along the Dubawnt River, sank at the beach mooring at Wholodaia Lake overnight (WCA Archives).

The Fairchild FC-2L enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

England and the Soviet Union resume diplomatic relations (wikipedia).

Wednesday

2 MacAlpine Expedition, Fokker G-CASM with Dickins and Tall leave Fort Fitzgerald for Fort Reliance, on the far western end of Great Slave Lake (WCA Archives).

MacAlpine Expedition, WCA staff salvage, re-furbish and re-certify the sunken G-CASL by evening (WCA Archives).

Thursday

3 MacAlpine Expedition, In G-CASM Dickins and Tall search up Artillery Lake and the Back River, then towards Bathurst Inlet, which they are unable to reach due to cloud, then search the Thelon River before returning to Fort Reliance after 6 hours flying. There they are weathered in by snow (WCA Archives).

MacAlpine Expedition, From Baker Lake G-CASO and CF-ACZ reach Pelly Lake, but find no trace of the MacAlpine party. Freezing conditions force the floatplanes to return to Baker Lake. Skis are shipped to them there by an RCMP launch [via the new railhead at Churchill?] (WCA Archives).

MacAlpine Expedition, Three aircraft are based at Wholodaia Lake searching for the missing aircraft, but freezing and uncertain weather limits what the floatplanes can do (WCA Archives).

Monday

7 MacAlpine Expedition, Dickins and Tall return to Fort Fitzgerald to report (WCA Archives).

Tuesday

8 MacAlpine Expedition, The Fokker G-CASM with Dickins and Tall fly from Fort Resolution across Great Slave Lake and up the Yellowknife River to Red Rock Lake, the Coppermine headwaters, then SE to Point Lake and return, a 7½ hour search. They note that snow is on the ground north of Great Slave Lake, and ice is forming on the lakes, making further flights using float equipped aircraft impractical (WCA Archives).

Wednesday

9 Order in Council passed in Ottawa to acquire land near Belleville, Ontario, for the construction of the new main base for the RCAF, to be named RCAF Station Trenton. Clearing of land was already in progress (E.A. Johnson et al).

MacAlpine Expedition, The three search planes at Wholodaia Lake, Fokker Super Universals G-CASL (A.D. Cruikshank and A.H. Walker) and G-CASQ (H. Hollick-Kenyon and W.B. Nadin) of WCA, and G-CARK (J.D. Vance and B.C. Blasdale) of *Northern Aerial Mineral Exploration Ltd.* (N.A.M.E.), fly a search to Beverly Lake. They find the rivers and lakes now frozen over with thin ice, unusable by float or ski aircraft. North of Beverly Lake snow closes in, and they are forced back to land at Baker Lake, joining the other 2 floatplanes there (WCA Archives).

Thursday

10 MacAlpine Expedition, Dickins and Tall return to the WCA base at Cooking Lake near Edmonton, Alberta, in Fokker G-CASM, for overhaul and the switch to skis (WCA Archives).

MacAlpine Expedition, With inland lakes now frozen over, but with ice not yet thick enough to land on, an attempt is made to fly floatplanes G-CARK and CF-ACZ from Baker Lake to the still open waters at Bathurst Inlet, but the heavy load of fuel, supplies and skis prevents the aircraft from taking off. Attempts are made again on Oct. 11 and 12 without success. All the aircraft were then beached, and work began to switch them over to skis sent from the south, and winterize them for cold weather operations using locally made items (WCA Archives).

Kabul in Afghanistan seized by forces under Nadir Khan in the civil war in that country (wikipedia).

Saturday

12 German Government issued a statement warning that the plan for a referendum to end war reparation payments would lead to civil unrest and international problems (wikipedia). This referendum did in fact lead to a series of events that resulted in the Nazi party gaining power in 1933. See October 26, below.

The *Warsaw Convention*, an international agreement of rules and rights for international air travel, signed. It would go into effect February 13, 1933, and would be in effect until replaced by the *Montreal Convention* in 2003 (wikipedia).

Monday

14 First flight of the British airship R-101. Flying over London it brings traffic to a stand-still as hundreds of thousands pour into the streets to see it (wikipedia). The building of large

airships designed to fly passengers to British colonies and dominions was a national program with much popular support at this time, influenced by the success of the German civil airship program. There were two competing designs, the R-100, designed and built by private firms under contract, and the R-101, designed and built by Government agencies.

Tuesday

15 Civil war in Afghanistan ends as Nadir Shah proclaimed ruler. He attempted to continue modernization of the country while working with religious leaders (wikipedia).

Further aerial photography of the Turner Valley undertaken by *Western Canada Airways* new Junkers W.34 CF-ABK for Imperial Oil (B.W. Gowans).

Wednesday

16 Plans for referendum to end war reparations go ahead in Germany (wikipedia).

Great Depression Widespread losses on the New York Stock Exchange (wikipedia).

Thursday

17 MacAlpine Expedition, The N.A.M.E. Fokker G-CARK is damaged by a storm at Baker Lake (J.R. Ellis). Although flown south in 1930 it was not repairable.

Friday

18 Women are legally defined as "Persons" in Canada on a ruling by the Privy Council in England that overturned a decision of the Canadian Supreme Court that women were ineligible to hold office as judges or elected officials as they were not "persons" as defined by law. This famous case also establishes the "living tree doctrine", that a constitution is organic and must be read "in a broad and liberal manner so as to adapt it to changing times", rather than literally, as is the case in the USA (wikipedia).

Great Depression After a brief rise stock prices fall again in New York (wikipedia).

Saturday

19 Great Depression A wave of selling on the New York Stock exchange increases losses (wikipedia).

Sunday

20 Right wing demonstrations in favour of the referendum repealing war reparations fight with police in Berlin, 2 killed (wikipedia).

Monday

21 Dornier DO-X flying boat takes off with a record 169 people on board (10 crew, 150 passengers and 9 stowaways), the first aircraft to carry over 100 people in flight (M.J.H. Taylor).

Great Depression Stock prices fell again on the New York Stock Exchange as traders swamped the phone lines with calls (wikipedia).

MacAlpine Expedition, At Baker Lake the 4 serviceable aircraft were moved through the rough shore ice on a pathway hand carved by axes onto an airstrip laid out on the smooth lake ice (WCA Archives).

#### Tuesday

22 In France the government of Prime Minister Briand falls after plans to withdraw French soldiers from the Occupied Rhineland are defeated. He is replaced by André Tardieu after several attempts to form viable governments (wikipedia).

Great Depression Modest gains were made on the New York Stock Exchange (wikipedia).

MacAlpine Expedition, Baker Lake, Fairchild CF-ACZ damages it's tail skid, but is repaired by the next day (WCA Archives).

#### Wednesday

23 MacAlpine Expedition, Fog at Baker Lake grounds search aircraft (WCA Archives).

Great Depression After a single day of gains the prices on the New York Stock Exchange fall again (wikipedia).

#### Thursday

24 MacAlpine Expedition, Fog continues at Baker Lake (WCA Archives).

Great Depression In New York the Stock Market opened with large numbers of panic selling, and prices began to fall quickly. By noon investment banks were trying to stop the fall and making purchases. A record number of shares were sold on this day, but the actions of bankers limited the overall fall of prices (wikipedia). This day was later known as *Black Thursday*, and is considered the beginning the Great Depression.

#### Friday

25 MacAlpine Expedition, Now ski equipped, Fokkers G-CASO, G-CASL and G-CASQ with Fairchild CF-ACZ leave Baker Lake and fly beyond Pelly Lake before being forced to land by weather (WCA Archives).

Great Depression Assurances by the US President and business leaders on the stock market and industry lead to a profit on the New York Exchange (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

26 MacAlpine Expedition, The four ski equipped aircraft arrive at Bathurst Inlet, having searched the route from Pelly Lake, and as far down the coast as the Burnside River. On landing, however, G-CASQ went through the ice and was out of the search while it's crew partially dismantled the aircraft to pull it out and overhaul the engine (WCA Archives). This requires careful handling in winter to ensure water inside the hollow tubes of the fuselage does not freeze and burst the tubing.

Great Depression Stock trading in New York was moderate, but prices fell slightly (wikipedia).

In Munich Adolf Hitler appears with right wing leaders supporting the referendum to end war reparations (wikipedia).

Sunday to Tuesday

Oct. 27 to Nov. 5 MacAlpine Expedition, The remaining Fokkers G-CASO and G-CASL with Fairchild CF-ACZ made daily flights from Bathurst Inlet searching for the missing party. A broken undercarriage on the Fairchild was repaired using local materials Oct. 31 (WCA Archives).

Monday

28 Great Depression Stock market prices in New York fell 12.8%, the largest fall ever seen and the largest until 1987.

Tuesday

29 Great Depression In New York stock prices fell another 11.7%. Sellers are said to outnumber buyers by 10 to 1 (wikipedia). Known as *Black Tuesday*, events in the Stock Exchange are witnessed by Winston Churchill, then on his way back to England from his tour of Canada and the USA (R. Langworth).

Wednesday

30 Great Depression With extreme low stock prices buyers looking for bargains pushed the market up 12.3% (wikipedia).

Ontario election, Conservative party in favour of selling liquor re-elected, defeating parties supporting continued prohibition (wikipedia).

Thursday

31 Great Depression In a half day of trading the New York Stock Exchange is up 5.8%. The Exchange is then closed until Monday so the accounting of the huge number of stocks traded in the last week could be finished (wikipedia). Total losses in the month exceeded \$16 Billion in 1930 dollars (over \$200 Billion today) ([http://www.hyperhistory.com/online\\_n2/connections\\_n2/great\\_depression.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/connections_n2/great_depression.html); <http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>).

Nova Scotia referendum on prohibition votes to repeal it, Prince Edward Island is now the only dry province in Canada (wikipedia).

## **November 1929**

-- Having defeated Nikolai Bukharin, his last political rival in the Soviet Russia, Josef Stalin reverses his support for Lenin's economic plans and begins collectivization of farms, causing great disruption, famine and internal deportations throughout Russia. The scale and cruelty of these actions is hard to conceive in a simple chronology. See March 15, 1938.



-- Co-operation between US Standard Oil of New Jersey and Germany's I.G. Farben chemicals on producing oil from coal resulted in an agreement between the two concerns to set up an American company and factories, Standard I.G. Company, which would continue development on a shared basis. This agreement would give I.G. Farben, which had researched the process but did not have the knowledge of developing high-performance fuel blends and limited financial resources for the development of the process to exploit it, and the assistance to convert it to commercially viable products far faster than they would have on their own (<https://modernhistoryproject.org>). See December 1933.

Saturday

2 In Germany the number of people needed to support a national referendum on war reparations barely exceeds the 10% of voters needed to make it happen (wikipedia). Planning begins for a national vote, see December 22, 1929.

Monday

4 Great Depression New York Stock Exchange re-opens expecting buyers to continue purchasing, but instead the market fell 5.8% over the day (wikipedia).

Tuesday

5 Dornier DO-X flying boat leaves Germany enroute to South America (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

MacAlpine Expedition, A radio message from Cambridge Bay reports that the MacAlpine party had arrived there, 2 months after leaving Baker Lake. Flying to Bathurst Inlet the aircraft had become lost and landed, out of fuel, near an Inuit camp at Dease Point. There they found it was too late to travel by boat across the Dease Strait to Cambridge Bay, and so they pulled the floatplanes ashore and built shelters for them, then a house for themselves, from stones, moss, canvas and parts from the aircraft. They hunted and fished for what they could, and additional supplies of food were given to them by the Inuit. As soon as it was possible the Inuit took the party across to Cambridge Bay by sled, a difficult trip. Without the help from the Dease Point Inuit the party would likely not have survived (WCA Archives).

Wednesday

6 Great Depression Prices in the Stock Market in New York fell nearly 10% during the day (wikipedia).

Thursday

7 Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) opens in New York City (wikipedia).

MacAlpine Expedition, After two days of fog the three search planes from Bathurst Inlet fly into Cambridge Bay to meet the MacAlpine party there (WCA Archives).

Monday

11 MacAlpine Expedition, After moving some of the rescued MacAlpine party to Bathurst Inlet a storm

grounded the aircraft for two days. Meanwhile the pilots planned the route to take the party south over the radio. On the 11th the aircraft met at the Burnside River base and refuelled (WCA Archives).

Ambassador Bridge between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan, USA, opened (wikipedia).

Norway relinquishes it's claims to high Arctic islands explored and mapped by Otto Sverdrup on his 1898-1902 expedition (Kenn Harper <http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories>).

Tuesday

12 MacAlpine Expedition, The Fokkers G-CASO and G-CASL, the salvaged G-CASQ (operating with only 1 magneto and a shortened propellor), with the Fairchild CF-ACZ leave Burnside River with the rescued party, but are forced to land a few hours later at Muskox Lake by weather (WCA Archives).

Wednesday

13 Great Depression The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at just under 200 points on this day, a 52% loss from it's peak in early September, as prices bottom out in the Stock Exchange (wikipedia). Many banks which had invested in stocks had their assets wiped out, forcing them to close, with the loss of their client's funds. Other people rushed to withdraw their funds from banks which had survived the crash, and this led to more bank failures. Businesses were unable to meet their payrolls as their banks failed or they could not make payments on loans, and they could not re-finance with other banks as their stock value was worth nothing, so they went bankrupt. This put workers out of work, and they began to lose their homes through non-payment on mortgages. With so many out of work wages fell, meaning even less money to purchase manufactured goods or food, leading to more losses to businesses and farmers.

Thursday

14 MacAlpine Expedition, After waiting out a storm at Muskox Lake the rescue aircraft take off, but the Fairchild CF-ACZ was damaged. It was decided to leave three men behind to repair the aircraft while the other three aircraft went on to the Dominion Explorer base at Fort Reliance on Great Slave Lake, but they were unable to find it, so landed at an old post, Hornby's Camp (WCA Archives).

Friday

15 MacAlpine Expedition, In the morning it is found that G-CASL has engine problems. Nearly out of fuel the Fort Reliance base is located, however, and the MacAlpine party brought there (WCA Archives).

Saturday

16 MacAlpine Expedition, In the morning Brown, Davis and G. Blanchet in G-CASO leave Fort Reliance to take fuel and equipment back to CF-ACZ at Muskox Lake (WCA Archives).

## Monday

18 Grand Banks Earthquake, a 7.2 magnitude undersea event off Newfoundland causes tsunamis that devastated villages in the Burin Peninsula, killing 28 and leaving more than 10,000 Newfoundlanders homeless, in Canada's worst recorded earthquake. Undersea telegraph cables are severed and waves were recorded as far away as Portugal. Damage to the sea bed is also thought to have caused reduced fish catches for several years. The area was struck by a blizzard the next day, and it was not until the 21st that the news reached outside the stricken area (wikipedia; www.mysteriesofcanada.com).

## Tuesday

19 MacAlpine Expedition, At Fort Reliance the pilots were becoming concerned that G-CASO had not returned. With only one aircraft operational, and unable to make radio contact, it was decided to send Fokker G-CASQ to Fort Resolution for assistance (WCA Archives).

## Wednesday

20 MacAlpine Expedition, Cruikshank and Walker leave Fort Reliance in Fokker G-CASQ, but bad weather forces them to fly north across Great Slave Lake (which is still open water) to land their ski plane at Dettah on Yellowknife Bay (WCA Archives).

## Thursday

21 MacAlpine Expedition, Cruikshank and Walker fly back across Great Slave Lake to Fort Resolution, where they are able to report the rescue of the MacAlpine party, and the need for assistance for the other three aircraft (WCA Archives).

Great Depression In the Stock Market the Dow Jones Average climbed to nearly 250 points from the low of a week ago. Trading would remain level for the rest of the year while business and governments responded to the financial loss. Labour and business leaders meeting with US President Hoover agreed to freeze wages to promote stability in the market (wikipedia).

## Saturday

23 MacAlpine Expedition, In the Fokker G-CASQ, Cruikshank and Walker leave Fort Resolution for Fort Reliance, but are forced to land and overnight due to bad weather (WCA Archives).

Great Depression The US President sends telegrams to all state governors encouraging state sponsored construction programs of public works to help the economy (wikipedia).

## Sunday

24 MacAlpine Expedition, After clearing a runway through the heavy fallen snow Cruikshank and Walker in Fokker G-CASQ arrive back in Fort Reliance (WCA Archives).

## Monday

25 MacAlpine Expedition, A planned search for the missing G-CASO is prevented when the engine on G-CASQ acts up. The rest of the day is spent overhauling the engine. The shortened propellor and non-working instruments (from the immersion at Bathurst Inlet) are switched with better components from the grounded G-CASL (WCA Archives).

Tuesday

26 MacAlpine Expedition, Repaired G-CASQ leaves Fort Reliance to take fuel and supplies to the party with CF-ACZ at Muskox Lake, but on the way finds the missing G-CASO wrecked at Aylmer Lake, having smashed it's undercarriage taking off from an overnight stop. After landing and finding the crew safe, the engine suffers an oil problem and they are forced to remain overnight (WCA Archives).

Wednesday

27 MacAlpine Expedition, After repairing the engine on G-CASQ, Cruikshank and Walker fly to Muskox Lake where they find the three men there out of food and in poor shape. The engine of CF-ACZ is running roughly, and the oil line on G-CASQ breaks again, forcing them to remain overnight (WCA Archives).

Thursday

28 MacAlpine Expedition, In the morning at Muskox Lake the Fairchild CF-ACZ crashes on take-off and is too damaged to repair (it was salvaged the next summer). The 5 men then left in G-CASQ to Aylmer Lake, where they took off a cylinder from the crashed G-CASO's engine to replace the damaged one on G-CASL, and then all 8 men with baggage squeezed into G-CASQ and returned to Fort Reliance (WCA Archives).

Thursday to Friday

28-29 Bernt Balchen and Harold June pilot a Ford Trimotor over the South Pole in a flight lasting 18 hours and 41 minutes, with photographer Ashley McKinley and navigator US Navy Cdr Richard Byrd as passengers (wikipedia).

Friday

29 At Lisbon the DO-X catches fire and is damaged (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

Saturday

30 MacAlpine Expedition, After re-conditioning the two Fokkers, and being joined by a third aircraft, the MacAlpine party and their rescuers leave Fort Reliance for Stoney Rapids in Saskatchewan (WCA Archives).

In the continued fighting in Manchuria over railroad rights Soviet aircraft attack a train containing members of the American Red Cross (wikipedia).

## **December 1929**

Monday

2 US intervenes diplomatically in the Chinese Eastern Railway dispute, seeking an end by peaceful means with the help of other nations that had signed the *Kellogg-Briand Pact* (wikipedia).

Tuesday

3 Great Depression, US President Hoover announces to Congress that with the measures he had taken with business and labour, and to encourage Federal and State construction programs, that the worst effects of the stock market crash were over (wikipedia). But the economic situation continued to deteriorate as manufacturing in the USA, and increasingly overseas, continued to decline.

Wednesday and Thursday

4th and 5th, MacAlpine Expedition, the aircraft with the MacAlpine parties arrive in Winnipeg. In the summer of 1930 G-CASO was found to be too damaged to salvage, and G-CARK was written off, but the two aircraft left stored at Dease Point, Fairchild CF-AAO and Fokker G-CASK, were recovered, ending one of the longest search operations of the time, carried out in very difficult conditions in a region still largely unmapped (WCA Archives).

Thursday

5 Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. founded (wikipedia).

Thursday

12 Last British soldiers in the Occupied Rhineland leave Germany (wikipedia).

Monday

16 Income tax reduction bill enacted in the USA (wikipedia).

First flight of the British R-100 airship (wikipedia).

17 An RAF Fairey Long Range Monoplane J9479 takes off from Cranwell in England for South Africa in an attempt to take the world record for non-stop flight, but crashed in the Atlas Mountains of Tunisia killing the two man crew (wikipedia).

Sunday

22 National referendum in Germany on ending war reparations fails to get 50% voter turnout to succeed, only 14.5% of eligible voters cast ballots. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of ending the payments, but without the required turnout it was meaningless. However the inclusion of the Nazi Party under Hitler in the group of organizers increased the party's stature and led to significant gains in its support (wikipedia).

Monday

23 Chinese Eastern Railways conflict ends with China being forced to return the railway to Soviet control (wikipedia).

Saturday

28 New Zealand police in mandated Western Samoa fire into a demonstration after rocks were thrown at them, killing 11 people. One policeman also killed. This event led to demands for independence of Western Samoa (wikipedia).

Sunday

29 All India Congress meeting in Lahore declares Indian independence from Britain in response for not being granted independent Dominion status like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Newfoundland.

Great Depression Archbishop of Canterbury makes a world wide radio broadcast appealing for all British citizens to help England economically in the coming year as economic effects of the US Stock Market Crash spread (wikipedia).

## **1930**

The RCAF had been expanding it's work in support of Government operations and aerial photo mapping in the last two years, and this year despite the world wide recession was voted it's largest budget to date. Although the rate of expansion would be curtailed by the recession there was a substantial increase in the photo mapping work done this year across Canada and into the North, while forestry flying in the eastern Rockies continued. Long distance flights were undertaken into the NWT including support for radio stations being built there. The first instrument flying course was taught at Borden, while an air demonstration team of Siskin Fighters was formed and toured across Ontario (CCMA).

During this year the US Army and Navy began planning War Plan RED, in case of a war with the British Empire. To protect themselves from an invasion from the north the plan included a surprise invasion of Canada, with later incorporation of Canadian Provinces into the USA (wikipedia). See May 1, 1935. Ironically, plans for the defence of Canada against an attack by the USA were dropped in this year (S.J. Harris). Both actions may have been the result of the withdrawal of the Royal Navy from Halifax and Caribbean bases announced in October.

## **January 1930**

Sunday

12 Hockey player **Tim Horton** born in Cochrane, Ontario.

Thursday

16 When the Air Ministry finds his proposal for a gas turbine engine for aircraft to be "impracticable", F/L Whittle takes advice of a supporter and patents his idea (wikipedia; F. Whittle).

Wednesday

22 Excavation begins in New York for construction of the Empire State Building (wikipedia).

Tuesday

28 In Spain the military rule of General Primo ends due to the world wide economic collapse when he can no longer depend on support from the Army. King Don Alfonso XIII sets up a new military regime, the latest in over a century of misrule. Spain was the poorest region of Europe at that time, with a very wealthy land owning class while most people were landless. The King and

the land owners are supported by a Catholic church subsidized by the Government as it's state religion, running the education system and many businesses, while voting was controlled by the land owners through financial means and intimidation. Many Spaniards, unable to farm, had emigrated to cities or abroad to find work (SCW). See April 12, 1931.

Wednesday

29 To show that an airmail service between Calgary and Vancouver was feasible **W.L. Rutledge** and **P.J.R. Payne** flew *Rutledge Air Service* Curtiss Robin CF-AHH non-stop from Calgary to Vancouver, but they were unable to land due to heavy fog. They turned back and landed safely at Merritt, BC (B.W. Gowans).

Friday

31 3M Corp. first markets "Scotch Tape" (wikipedia).

Repaired DO-X flying boat leaves Lisbon for Africa, but is again damaged in a landing mishap in the Canary Islands (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

## February 1930

-- Hawker Hart light biplane bomber goes into service with the RAF. It is faster than contemporary RAF fighters, which with the speed records of the braced monoplane Gloster VI and Supermarine S.6 Schneider seaplanes, leads to consideration of new specifications for fighter designs in England. In particular an "impossible" specification was produced in October, 1931 for a fighter capable of 250 mph while armed with 4 machine-guns (F.K. Mason). See Feb. 19, 1934.

-- Research at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children resulted in the marketing of a pre-cooked vitamin enriched cereal for infants, called Pablum, which played a major role in reducing the incidences of Rickets and other malnutrition problems (Canadian Medicine: Doctors and Discoveries, Wayback Machine.)

Saturday

15 In this dates issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*, Winston comments on Canada, based on his recent tour of the country, "*Canada ... is a magnet exercising a double attraction drawing both Great Britain and the United States toward herself and thus drawing them closer to each other. She is the only surviving bond which stretches from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean. In fact, no state, no country, no band of men can more truly be described as the linch-pin of peace and world progress.*" (found in W.D. Peterson, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Formation of the Modern World*, Vol. 4, Routledge, 2016).

Tuesday

18 Clyde Tombaugh confirms existence of the Dwarf Planet he names 'Pluto' (wikipedia).

## March 1930

-- G.A. Labine and C. St. Paul are flown in to Great Bear Lake by C.H. Dickins to establish a camp near his sighting of the previous October (G. Vachon). See May 16, 1930.

Sunday

2 Mahatma Gandhi informs British Viceroy of India that civil disobedience will begin in 9 days (wikipedia).

Wednesday

12 Mahatma Gandhi begins his "March to the Sea" to protest the Salt Monopoly in India (wikipedia).

Canadian fighter ace W.G. "Billy" Barker VC, DSO and Bar, MC and Two Bars, Croix de Guerre (France), and two Silver Medals of Military Valour (Italy), killed in the crash of a Fairchild KR-21 CF-AKR during a demonstration flight in Ottawa (wikipedia). Barker was and remains Canada's most decorated soldier.

Tuesday

18 Great Depression As the effects of the collapse of US stocks spreads other countries are affected. On this date Britain has 1.5 million out of work, an increase of a million since the beginning of the year (wikipedia).

Tuesday

25 US airline *American Airways* formed (wikipedia).

Friday

28 In Turkey the names of Constantinople and Angora are changed to Istanbul and Ankara (wikipedia).

Sunday

30 Great Depression In Australia unemployment from the financial crash reaches 13%, Government calls for Australians to increase exports of produce and reduce imports (wikipedia).

Monday

31 Total manpower of the RCAF is 175 officers and 669 enlisted men (CCMA).

## April 1930

Tuesday

1 Fighter Flight RCAF formed at Camp Borden, Ontario, on Siskin aircraft, Canada's first modern military aircraft since the Imperial Gift of 1919 (RCAF Sqns.). These aircraft, already obsolescent when obtained in 1927-28, were purchased as a stop-gap after a long search by the RCAF for a fighter that could operate in Canadian conditions (C. Vincent), including testing with skis in severe winter conditions in Edmonton.



Saturday

5 Mahatma Gandhi reaches the sea and makes salt, in defiance of the Salt Monopoly laws in India (wikipedia).

Sunday

6 USN Lt. Apollo Soucek sets a world altitude record of 43,166 feet in a Wright XF3W-1 over Dayton, Ohio (wikipedia).

Friday

11 Great Depression Trading suspended in the Tokyo Stock Exchange due to panic selling (wikipedia).

Sunday

13 In Bombay, India, 500,000 peacefully protest the Salt Tax by making salt (wikipedia).

Monday

14 In Calcutta Indian Congress leader Jawaharlal Nehru is arrested for making salt (wikipedia).

Tuesday

15 Riots break out in Calcutta over the arrest of Nehru and others (wikipedia).

Thursday

17 Neoprene is invented (wikipedia).

In India further arrests are made of people breaking the salt law, while Mahatma Gandhi speaks out against riots as happened in Calcutta, urging nonviolent methods of protest (wikipedia).

Friday

18 An armed group of Indian Independence members attempted to take over Chittagong in Bengal by force, but failed (wikipedia).

Saturday

19 Great Depression Unemployed workers in Warsaw seeking assistance clash with police, 3 killed (wikipedia).

Tuesday

22 *London Naval Treaty*, an extension of the *Washington Naval Treaty*, regulates submarine warfare and limits naval shipbuilding until 1937. Signed by UK, USA, Japan, France and Italy (wikipedia). This was the last major disarmament treaty signed in the period before the war (LoN).

Monday

28 First book of the *Nancy Drew* series published.

Wednesday

30 Having refused to accept, and been exempted from, limits in tonnage outlined in the *London Naval Treaty*, Italy announces 29 new naval ships to be built in 1931 (wikipedia).

## May 1930

Friday

2 Great Depression *Dunning Tariff* introduced in Canada, giving preference to importation of British goods while raising the tariffs paid on US goods (wikipedia). This was a reaction to the additions of tariffs of goods produced in Canada under the still growing proposed *Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act* being discussed in the USA.

Monday

5 Mahatma Gandhi is arrested in India (wikipedia).

English pilot Amy Johnson leaves England for Australia in her DH.60 Gypsy Moth biplane G-AAAH "*Jason*" (wikipedia).

Great Depression An open letter signed by over 1,000 economists is published in the *New York Times*, asking President Hoover to veto the *Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act*, due to the effect it would have on trade world-wide (wikipedia).

Tuesday

6 4,000 people are killed in an earthquake in Persia (Iran) (wikipedia).

Rioting in India due to the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi, some 20 people killed. Demonstrations, usually peaceful but some violent, continue across India in the coming weeks (wikipedia).

Great Depression Boycott in China of Japanese goods forces Japan to sign a tariff agreement with China (wikipedia).

Tuesday

13 Great Depression Unemployment in England reaches 1.7 million (wikipedia).

Thursday

15 The Hawker Tomtit trainer enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

Friday

16 At Great Bear Lake **G.A. Labine** discovers radium bearing pitchblende ore. Radium was then the rarest mineral on earth and valued at \$70,000 per gram (G. Vachon). The pitchblende runs in a vein on the shore of the lake that also includes silver, copper and uranium as well as other metals, which gives the future mine its name, Eldorado, after the fabled mine sought by the Spanish in America. See 1933, below.

Saturday

17 The *Young Plan* of renegotiated payments by Germany of war reparations goes into effect. French government decides to withdraw remaining French troops from the Occupied Rhineland (wikipedia).

Aristide Briand, now France's Foreign Minister, submits his proposal of a United States of Europe to the European members of the *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

Saturday

24 Amy Johnson lands in Australia, establishing a new record time and becoming the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia (wikipedia).

In India Muslim leaders call on Muslims to join the mostly Hindu Independence Movement (wikipedia).

## June 1930

Monday

2 USAAC P-1B Hawk 27-76 crashed near Kitchener, Ontario, Lt M.F. Slight USAAC bailed out, safe (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

5 Great Depression Industrialists in France warn the USA that passage of the *Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act* would lead to an international tariff war (wikipedia).

Wednesday

11 Sculptor Vernon March dies in England. His sisters and brothers continue to work to complete his last statues, the bronze figures for the National War Memorial in Ottawa (wikipedia). See July 1932.

Canadian Pacific liner *RMS Empress of Britain* launched in Scotland, ceremony broadcast live to Canada and the USA (wikipedia). See May 27, 1931.

Monday

16 Great Depression Dow Jones Index falls, believed due to worries about the *Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act* (wikipedia).

Tuesday

17 Great Depression, US President Hoover signs the *Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act*, that raised tariffs on thousands of imports into the US. Tariffs on raw materials rose from 50% to 100% under this Act, for example (LoN). Supposed to protect US Industry from the effects of the Depression, it has been credited with actually making it worse world wide as other countries retaliated. Canada had been the first to react and another effect was to drive Canada's economy into a closer relationship with other Commonwealth countries (via non-tariff trade agreements)

(wikipedia), with impacts on Canadian economic development and its later recovery from the effects of the depression.

During this period many US firms that had set up Canadian operations in the previous decade decide to close these either to cut costs or due to the effects of the tariffs, and the industrial base in Canada which had been expanding since the 1914-1918 World War is devastated. Industrial output in Canada fell by 40% by 1932, and combined with the effects on agriculture and resource industries such as mining and logging, unemployment in Canada reached 27% of the workforce the following year (wikipedia). The Depression, combined with poor policies to address it, damaged the Canadian economy more than any other industrialized country in the 1930s.

One company that went the other way was a firm that had just developed a new processed snack food, but whose US assets had been seized. It set up production in its Canadian facility of the new snack and Hawkins Cheezies have been a Canadian staple ever since.

Besides effects in Canada, US investment around the world and especially in Europe fell, leaving those economies more vulnerable economically. See May 11, 1931.

Saturday

21 Col Roberto Fierro of the Mexican Air Force makes the first non-stop flight from New York to Mexico City in the Lockheed Sirius X-BADA *Anahuac*, in 16 hours and 35 minutes (wikipedia; <http://1000aircraftphotos.com>).

Wednesday

25 Australian Sir Charles Kingsford Smith flies across the Atlantic in the Fokker F.VII/3m *Southern Cross*, landing at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, on his way to Oakland, California, which would complete a round-the-world flight. He had left Oakland, crossing the Pacific Ocean to Australia via Hawaii and Fiji in this aircraft, May 31, 1928.

Thursday

26 The *John B. King*, a drilling ship working near Brockville, Ontario, explodes when lightning sets off dynamite charges, killing 30 crew, 12 rescued by a US Coast Guard vessel ([www3.gendisasters.com](http://www3.gendisasters.com); wikipedia).

Monday

30 Withdrawal of French troops from the Rhineland completed, ending the 11 year occupation (wikipedia). The region remains unoccupied by the German military under the terms of the *Versailles Treaty*. See March 7, 1936.

## July 1930

Wednesday

2 Great Depression Italy imposes a tariff on US vehicles (wikipedia).

#2 (GP) Detachment RCAF flight of 2 Fairchild floatplanes leaves Fort McMurray, Alberta for an inspection tour of the Mackenzie River area (CCMA). See July 24, 1930.

Friday

4 The Fairchild 51 utility aircraft enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

#2 (GP) Detachment RCAF flight of a Vedette and a Fairchild 71 leave Ottawa for a survey flight into the NWT (CCMA). See October 1, 1930.

A Stinson Detroiter aircraft lands at Chicago having increased the record for refuelled flight to 23 days, 1 hour and 41 minutes (wikipedia).

Monday

7 Creator of Sherlock Holmes, author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, dies in England (wikipedia).

Saturday

12 Actor **Gordon Pinsent** born in Newfoundland.

Thursday

17 Construction of the Boulder Dam begins in the USA (wikipedia).

Friday

18 In a dispute over the budget and Presidential powers in Germany, President Hindenburg dissolves the Reichstag and calls for an election in September (wikipedia). This began a series of elections and crises in Germany that were exploited by Adolf Hitler and ended up with the Nazi Party in power despite never obtaining a majority vote.

Thursday

24 #2 (GP) Detachment RCAF Fairchild floatplanes return to Fort McMurray having flown to Aklavik and to Herschel Island, the first RCAF party to reach the shores of the Arctic Ocean (CCMA).

Monday

28 Canadian Federal Election, Conservative Party under **R.B. Bennett** wins on a platform of protecting industry and products from US competition while seeking trade agreements with England, beating the Liberal Party (wikipedia). In Quebec the Conservatives are supported by journalist and publisher **Adrien Arcand**, a fascist and follower of Adolf Hitler (wikipedia). See February, 1934.

Tuesday

29 British Airship R-100 departs from Cardington, UK, on it's first trans-Atlantic flight to Canada to prove the route for passenger service.

## August 1930

-- The Great Depression, the General Motors assembly plant in Regina, Saskatchewan was closed just 2 years after it was opened. When it was built Saskatchewan had the third largest population of provinces in Canada, and had been riding an economic boom based on the price of wheat. The Depression changed that and the province has never recovered. The GM plant re-opened seasonally for several years until it was taken over in 1941 by the Department of National Defence for the production of military equipment, primarily anti-tank guns (Daniel Wyatt, *Regina - Motor City*, danielwyatt.blogspot.ca, 2013).

### Friday

1 After surviving a severe wind shear over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, R-100 arrives at St. Hubert, Quebec, docking at a special airship mast built to service future planned trans-Atlantic flights. Similar masts had been erected in Egypt and India.

### Saturday

2 Outside of Moscow units of the Soviet Army make the first parachute assault jumps in an exercise. This leads to the formation of the first units dedicated to using airborne tactics (wikipedia). At this time only Italy had explored the idea of parachutes for dropping combat soldiers.

### Sunday

3 First experiments by the Japanese Naval Air Force of the technique of dive bombing (wikipedia).

### Tuesday

5 Sailors from the Norwegian ship *Bratvaag* on a scientific expedition find the remains of the men of the *Andrée Arctic Balloon Expedition*, missing since 1897, on the usually ice and fog bound island of Kvitøya (wikipedia).

### Wednesday

6 Unemployment in England reaches 2 million (wikipedia).

### Thursday

7 **R.B. Bennett** replaces **William Lyon Mackenzie King** as Prime Minister of Canada.

### Tuesday

12 Birdseye Frozen Foods markets their first products, the beginning of the frozen food industry. Founder Clarence Birdseye had developed the process after observing fresh caught fish quick frozen tasted fresh when thawed while learning to ice-fish from Inuit in Labrador (wikipedia; <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/04/crash-1929-wall-street-what-the-great-depression-reveals-about-our-future> Timeline of Turmoil).

### Wednesday

13 After repairs, and aerial tours over Ottawa and Toronto, R-100 leaves St. Hubert for England. RCAF Chief Aeronautical Engineer **G/C E.W. Stedman** is a passenger on the flight (CCMA).

A meteor between 1,000 and 25,000 tons caused an air burst (probably less than 1 megaton) and possible crater in the remote region of the Curuçá River in Brazil. One of the most important meteor events of modern times, this only came to light in 1995 from church records in the Vatican (wikipedia). The site remains largely uninvestigated.

Friday

15 Great Depression Due to the acute unemployment situation the new Canadian Government suspended immigration from Europe (not including England) except those with farming experience (wikipedia). This would affect Canada's policy on accepting refugees in the coming decade.

Saturday

16 R-100 returns to Cardington (CCMA). Further flights are planned.

First *British Empire Games* (now the *Commonwealth Games*) open in Hamilton, Ontario (www.schudak.de).

Thursday

28 A heat wave in London, England, killed 24 people (wikipedia).

## September 1930

Monday

1 Great Depression In Budapest police clash with demonstrating workers. Japanese Finance Minister proposes international discussion on the economic situation (wikipedia).

Monday to Tuesday

1-2 The Bréguet 19 *Point d'Intérrogation* flies from Paris to New York non-stop in 37 hours, 18 minutes, first east to west flight between the two cities (M.J.H. Taylor).

Wednesday

3 A hurricane which struck the Dominican Republic killed over 8,000, the 5th deadliest hurricane on record (wikipedia).

Monday

8 First appearance of the cartoon strip *Blondie* (wikipedia).

Special two week session of Parliament in Ottawa to find ways to reduce unemployment in the country, ends with plans for increased tariffs on many goods (LoN).

Sunday

14 Canadian/Australian team of **Harold Bromley** and Harold Gatty attempt to fly across the Pacific Ocean from Japan to the USA non-stop in the Emsco monoplane *City of Tacoma*, but are forced to turn back due to technical problems (T. Gywnn-Jones;

search.tacomapubliclibrary.org). See June, 1931.

In the German elections the Social Democratic Party remained the largest party in the Reichstag with 143 seats, a loss of 10 seats. The National Socialist (Nazi) party won 107 seats, an increase of 95 seats, and with just over 18% of the total vote they are now the second largest party in the Reichstag (wikipedia). The German Communist Party also increases its seats by 23 to 77 to be the third largest party (D. Sommerville; wikipedia). Other parties made up the remaining 250 seats. The effects of the Great Depression and political instability led to demonstrations and street battles between Communist Party and Nazi Party supporters growing larger and more violent over the coming years (LoN).

Friday

26 In the continued fight for independence in India 15 people were shot and killed in a demonstration (wikipedia).

## October 1930

Wednesday

1 The natural resources in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta handed from Federal to Provincial control (www.schudak.de). The responsibility of monitoring and supporting the exploration of these resources, carried out by the RCAF, also passed to the provinces (D. Morton).

#2 (GP) Detachment RCAF Vedette and Fairchild 71 floatplane flight returns to Ottawa, having also reached Aklavik, then checked fuel caches and photographed water routes from Great Bear Lake to Fort Reliance on Great Slave Lake, the Coronation Gulf, the Coppermine River, Chesterfield Inlet, Wager Bay, Repulse Bay, and the Hudson Bay coast to Churchill (CCMA).

Sunday

5 British Airship R-101 flying to India via Egypt crashed in France with heavy loss of life, due to failure of the outer fabric and loss of gas from damaged forward gas cells in rough weather (P.G. Masefield). This crash will end the British airship program (wikipedia). Eventually the more successful R-100 will be scrapped. The passenger airship masts in England, Egypt, India and Canada would remain for years, unused.

Thursday - Friday

9-10 Wright-Bellanca WB-2 NX237 '*Maple Leaf*' (formerly '*Columbia*' and '*Miss Columbia*') departs Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, for Croydon, England, flown by **Errol Boyd** and Lt. Harry Connor USNR. A fuel blockage forced them to land in the Scilly Islands, but this was the first Trans-Atlantic flight by a Canadian, and NX237, the aircraft Charles Lindbergh had first planned to fly the Atlantic in, was the first aircraft to have flown the Atlantic twice (Dr. L. Daly <http://www.planecrashgirl.ca/2017/11/09/columbia-nx237/>). See September 1937 below.

Sunday

12 An Anti-Nazi rally of 100,000 is held in Berlin on the eve of the re-opening of the Reichstag



(wikipedia). See October 13, 1930.

Monday

13 Prototype Ju 52 transport flies. Only 5 of these single engined transports are built (including *Canadian Airways* CF-ARM) before production was switched to the more successful Ju 52/3m three engined version (M.J.H. Taylor).

A large group of around 300 Nazi members rampaged through downtown Berlin, firing handguns and smashing windows of stores, mostly Jewish owned, while in the Reichstag elected Nazi party members disrupted all the proceedings by showing up in their party uniforms, an act forbidden by the rules of the house (wikipedia).

Wednesday

15 Great Depression Half a million unemployed workers held a parade in Berlin (wikipedia).

Sunday

19 In a private discussion about the recent election in Germany at the German Embassy in London MP Winston Churchill acknowledged Hitlers statement that he would not wage a war of aggression, but personally believed he or his followers would resort to armed force at their first opportunity if they gained power (<http://www.scottmanning.com/content/churchills-earliest-warning-about-hitler/>).

Tuesday

21 Mine explosion in Germany kills 271 (wikipedia).

Saturday

25 Second serious mine explosion in Germany kills 98 miners (wikipedia).

Monday

27 In Japanese Taiwan an indigenous tribe feeling oppressed by strict Japanese rules rebelled at the village of Wushe, attacked police stations to obtain arms, then a school which was hosting a regional athletic event, killing over 130 Japanese and wounding over 200, many women and children. A strong Army force was sent to attack the rebels, but they were holding out in the mountains. Japanese Army Air Force planes were used to force them out, using mustard gas, believed to be the first use of chemical warfare in Asia. Over 600 of the rebel group were killed during the reprisals. This was the last major uprising against Japanese rule on the island (wikipedia). See February 27, 1947.

28 Great Depression As part of a project to help unemployed in New York they were given surplus apples to sell in the street. This became one of the symbols of the times (wikipedia).

## November 1930

Saturday

1 The Detroit-Windsor tunnel is opened (wikipedia).

Sunday

2 Haile Selassie crowned Emperor of Ethiopia (wikipedia).

Tuesday

4 In the mid-term US elections Republicans take serious losses (wikipedia).

Friday

7 Great Depression Bank of Tennessee failed, sparking a series of bank runs in the southern USA that forced many other banks to close (wikipedia).

Wednesday

12 Meetings in London of British Government and leaders of the Indian Independence Movement (wikipedia).

Saturday

15 Great Depression In protest about police brutality towards demonstrating workmen, a 48 hour strike was called in Madrid, Spain. Riots broke out between police and strikers (wikipedia).

Monday

17 Great Depression In Madrid the strikers were joined by 200,000 workers and students, while the city of Barcelona also went on strike (wikipedia).

Tuesday

18 Great Depression In Italy wages of all Government employees (including Mussolini's) were cut to help make up for the budget deficit (wikipedia).

Due to the economic depression the Pittsburgh Pirates NHL Hockey team is re-located to Philadelphia, and renamed the Quakers (wikipedia; K. Cuthbertson). See September 26, 1931.

Wednesday

19 Great Depression In Spain ten more cities had gone out on strike; Barcelona strike called off after 3 days of riots (wikipedia).

Thursday

20 Great Depression German Foreign Minister states Germany may have to seek a moratorium of it's war reparations payments under the *Young Plan* due to the economic crisis (wikipedia).

Tuesday

25 The Avro 504N trainer is struck off service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

## December 1930

Tuesday

2 Great Depression, US President Hoover asks Congress for \$150 million to help generate jobs and stimulate the economy as the Depression deepens, but blames economic problems outside of the USA for continuing the Depression (wikipedia). Much of this disruption in other countries was caused by US policies, especially the *Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act*.

Friday

5 The US made film version of *All Quiet on the Western Front* opens in Germany, but Nazis led by Joseph Goebbels interfere using smoke bombs, sneezing powder and physically attacking members of the audiences. The film is banned in Germany on December 11 following nightly protest and disruptions of it's showing by Nazi party members, who view the film as an insult to the memory of the German soldiers of the war (E. Dee). See December 16, 1943.

Wednesday

10 Great Depression Massive bank runs took place in Brooklyn and the Bronx areas of New York (wikipedia).

Thursday

11 Great Depression New York based Bank of the United States closed (wikipedia).

Monday

15 Following another military uprising in Spain, Spanish Air Corps Maj. R. Franco with 500 followers seized the Madrid airport and declared a Republic. They send out the declaration by radio and by dropping messages by airplane. In response the Spanish Army shells the airport. Maj. Franco escapes to exile in Portugal by plane. In January the Air Corps was dissolved and re-organized to form a less independent force (wikipedia).

Wednesday

17 A flight of 14 S.55 flying boats leaves Italy under the command of General Italo Balbo for Brazil (H.W. Neulen).

Monday

22 First flight of the Soviet ANT-6, prototype of the TB-3 four engined bomber, the largest land plane in the world at the time (M.J.H. Taylor). An all metal design with a cantilever wing and a later enclosed cockpit, it preceded the Boeing 299 (B-17) by 5 years. Over 800 were built, the first modern strategic bomber force. See information under 1936, below.

## 1931

-- **Airman G. Bell** enlists in the RCAF, believed to be the first African-Canadian member of the Air Force (424 SH).

## January 1931

Tuesday

6 Italian General Balbo leads a flight of 14 S.55 flying boats from Portuguese Guinea to Brazil over the South Atlantic, three were lost but 11 arrive (wikipedia; *Aeroplane Monthly*, October 2021).

Wednesday

7 First non-stop flight from Australia to New Zealand by Guy Menzies in an Avro Avian (wikipedia).

Bellanca CH-300 *Tradewind* flies from Virginia to Bermuda on the first leg of a Transatlantic flight, flown by Lt W.S. McLaren USNR and Mrs. Beryl Hart (<http://www.bermuda-online.org/aviation.htm>).

Saturday

10 Bellanca CH-300 *Tradewind* leaves Bermuda for the Azores and disappears over the Atlantic (<http://www.bermuda-online.org/aviation.htm>).

Thursday

15 After touring Brazil the 11 remaining S.55 flying boats of General Balbo's flight are given to the Brazilian government and the surviving aircrew return to Italy by ship (H.W. Neulen; *Aeroplane Monthly*, October 2021). See July 1, 1933.

Monday

19 British-Indian talks on independence end with promise from England to allow India to advance towards self-government (wikipedia).

Friday

23 Great Depression The German Chancellor is attacked by unemployed workers when he arrives to give a speech to business owners (wikipedia).

Saturday

24 Great Depression A survey in the USA estimates unemployment there to be 4.5 million (wikipedia).

Monday

26 Mahatma Gandhi is released from jail (wikipedia).

Tuesday

27 Pierre Laval appointed Prime Minister of France (wikipedia).

## February 1931

Sunday

1 Indian National Congress with Mahatma Gandhi vote to continue civil disobedience campaign until all political prisoners in India are freed (wikipedia).

Monday

2 German Nazi Party proposes in the Reichstag that Germany formally withdraw from the *League of Nations*, rejected in committee (wikipedia).

Tuesday

3 Much of the town of Napier, New Zealand, is destroyed by a 7.9 magnitude earthquake which kills 256 people (wikipedia).

Sunday

8 King Alfonso XIII of Spain calls for national elections in March, and free speech and freedom to assemble is allowed for the duration of the elections (wikipedia).

Tuesday

10 In protest to reforms in the Reichstag, which included removal of immunity from prosecution for sitting members, the members of the Nazi party lead a boycott and walk out of the chamber (wikipedia).

Saturday

14 Prime Minister of Spain Dámaso Berenguer resigns, citing the time allowed for the elections was too short. The national elections are cancelled (wikipedia). See April 12, 1931.

Thursday

26 La Placita Raid, In Los Angeles US Immigration officials surrounded 400 people, mostly of Mexican descent, in a park and forced them to prove they had entered the USA legally. Many were deported. This is one of a series of actions endorsed by the US Government to force Mexican-Americans who had not sought US citizenship back to Mexico, which it was felt would open jobs for US citizens. Those who spoke out on labour conditions, as well as groups formed to protest the deportations, were also targeted as "communists", and deported or investigated. Between 500,000 and 2 million people, many born in the USA, were deported from states bordering Mexico between 1929 and 1936, many without due process. See February 24, 1942.

Friday

27 Canada banned importation of goods made in the Soviet Union, citing the need not to strengthen Communism. Canadian goods then banned in turn from the USSR (wikipedia).

## March 1931

Tuesday

3 Due to a popular newspaper campaign the song "*The Star Spangled Banner*" is proclaimed the official anthem of the USA, replacing the song "*My Country 'tis of Thee*", a poem sung to the music of "*God Save the King / Queen*" (wikipedia).

Wednesday

4 Negotiations held between Viceroy of India and Gandhi on India's future results in the *Gandhi-Irwin Pact*, freeing political prisoners, ending civil disobedience, the Salt Tax, and giving the Indian National Congress standing in constitutional reform in India (wikipedia).

A fire in Winnipeg destroys 10 aircraft (<http://www.orpheusweb.co.uk/vicsmith/OldAccs/Mar31.html>).

Friday

6 US aviator Ruth Rowland Nichols in the Lockheed Vega NR469M *The New Cincinnati* set an altitude record for women of 28,743 ft (8,761 metres) (wikipedia; <http://www.womeninaerospacehistory.com>). See April 13, 1931.

Saturday

14 In Hamburg, Nazi Party members murdered Ernst Henning, a Communist member of the city council (wikipedia). This sets off a series of attacks and fights between the Communists and the Nazi party. See March 28, 1931.

Sunday

15 While under charter to a film company to make a film about the Newfoundland seal hunt the sealing vessel *The Viking* exploded and sank while in the ice, killing 28 of the 141 sealers and film crew aboard (wikipedia).

Saturday

21 *Australian National Airways* Avro Ten (British built Fokker F.VII/3m) VH-UMF *Southern Cloud* airliner disappears on a flight from Sydney to Melbourne in bad weather. Despite a large search no trace of the aircraft or it's 2 crew and 6 passengers was seen. It remained a mystery until the crash site was found by chance in 1958 (wikipedia).

Saturday

28 Due to political unrest German President von Hindenburg invokes emergency powers curtailing the right of assembly and freedom of speech (wikipedia).

Sunday

29 Indian National Congress votes for complete independence of India as their only goal, and will accept nothing less (wikipedia).

Tuesday

31 *TWA* Flight 599, US built Fokker F.10 NC999E passenger aircraft broke up in the air and crashed

in Kansas killing 8, including passenger Knute Rockne, a famous football coach. This crash, with its high profile passenger, leads to improvements in air regulations in the US (wikipedia). Questions of the integrity of its previously repaired wooden wing lead to regulations for wider use of metal structures in US aircraft design.

An earthquake destroys Managua, Nicaragua, killing 2,000 (wikipedia).

RCAF Appropriations slightly down from previous year. Civil operations for other government agencies were reduced but photo mapping was increased. With the transfer of natural resource management to the western provinces air bases in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were placed on 'care and maintenance' status (B.W. Gowans). New aircraft brought in service were the Fleet 7B Fawn trainer and the Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker utility transport. Manpower of the RCAF is 177 officers and 729 enlisted airmen.

## April 1931

Wednesday

1 The Fleet Fawn training biplane enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

Tuesday

2 Contract let to Grumman Aircraft for the FF-1 fighter for the US Navy. (This design was later built in Canada as the Delphin and Goblin.)

Thursday

4 RAF Communication Flight Heliopolis, Egypt, Fairey IIIIF SR1143 stalled and crashed landing at Ismailia, **S/L J.K. Waugh DSC RAF (Can.)** killed, 2 crew injured (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Accf1939.htm>).

Sunday

12 In Spain, when the military government set up by King Don Alfonso XIII fails, he tries to return the country to constitutional rule (set aside in 1923) (SCW). Although national elections had been cancelled municipal elections are held on this date, which overwhelmingly elect Republican city governments that oppose the Monarchy and advocate for change.

Monday

13 Ruth Rowland Nichols in the Lockheed Vega NR469M *The New Cincinnati* establishes a new speed record for women of 210.6 mph (<http://www.womeninaerospacehistory.com>). See June 22, 1931.

Tuesday

14 Second Spanish Republic declared (wikipedia). As the results of the municipal elections are announced King Don Alfonso flees Spain for France, and an interim Republican government takes control of the country. This is opposed by the Catholic Church, who support the Monarchy and the landowners, and have lost the trust of the poor. The Catholic Primate

Archbishop of Toledo issues a proclamation urging the people to fight against any changes the new Government proposes in regard to the Church (SCW). See May 11, below.

## May 1931

Friday

1 Construction of the Empire State Building, world's tallest structure, completed in New York City (wikipedia). Most of the building is vacant due to the depression. The airship docking terminal at it's peak (illustrated in the movie *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*) is never used.

Saturday

2 In France a military exercise took place where the naval port of Toulon was attacked by 150 aircraft. Although curtailed by bad weather the results were clear, bombers could cause heavy damage in a concentrated attack (wikipedia).

Monday

11 Great Depression, Creditanstalt, largest bank in Austria, goes bankrupt, beginning collapse of Central European banks and affecting finance world wide (wikipedia). In part this is due to French influence, worried that a planned union of German and Austrian customs would lead to unification of the two countries. The customs plan is dropped, embarrassing the German government and strengthening support for the Nationalist Socialist Workers Party (D. Somerville). Foreign investment funds in Germany quickly disappeared at a time when 6 million Germans were out of work (LoN).

In Madrid, days after the publication of the Catholic Church proclamation to fight Government change, a church is set on fire by unknown arsonists. The fire department refuses to fight the fire, supported by the local residents. Soon other churches in the City are set on fire before the Government acts to protect them, declaring Martial Law. But within days church burning is widespread across central and southern Spain, the poorest region of the country. Whether these are the acts of poor people seeking revenge, or political parties, is not determined (SCW).

Wednesday

13 Paul Doumer elected President of France (wikipedia).

Thursday

14 Japanese pilot Yoshihara Seiji, who had flown from Berlin to Tokyo in a Junkers A.50, modified the aircraft with floats with the assistance of the *Hochi Shimbun* newspaper, named it *Hochi Nichi-Bei* (Hochi's Japan-USA) and attempted a non-stop flight from Japan to the USA, but was forced down by engine problems off the Kurile Islands, and later rescued by chance by a fishing boat (T. Gywnn-Jones).

Great Depression, 5 people are killed and 5 injured when soldiers open fire on marching workers



on strike to oppose wage cuts in Ådalen, Sweden. This event shocked the country and opened a debate in Sweden on the use of the military to back up the police which continues to this day, and directly led to the establishment of a national police policy in Sweden (wikipedia). See September 29, 1931.

Thursday

21 Destroyer *HMCS Saguenay*, the first warship designed to Canadian specifications, commissioned in Portsmouth, England (M. Milner). See June 10, 1931.

Friday

22 Religious equality declared in Spain by the provisional government (wikipedia).

Wednesday

27 Belgian balloonist Auguste Piccard and Paul Kipfer reach 51,775 ft (15,785 m) on an ascent from Augsburg, Germany (wikipedia).

CPR Liner *RMS Empress of Britain* leaves Southampton on her first scheduled crossing to Quebec City. At 42,000 tons she was the largest liner to sail between Canada and England (wikipedia). See June 16, 1939.

## June 1931

-- The Whittle patent for a jet engine is approved and publicly published (F. Whittle).

-- Italy made a major ten year loan to Albania, under terms where the funds were controlled by Italy, effectively putting the entire economy of Albania under Italy's control (LoN).

Wednesday

3 Repaired again, the DO-X flying boat leaves Africa for South America, crossing the South Atlantic in two days (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

Friday

5 Great Depression In an attempt to balance its budget Germany implements austerity measures by emergency decree (wikipedia).

Sunday

7 A bonfire that got out of control destroyed nearly the entire village of St. Victor de Trin, Quebec (www3.gendisasters.com).

Monday

8 The British committee on the Wailing Wall religious dispute states that the wall belonged to Muslims, but access to Jews was not to be prevented (wikipedia).

Wednesday

10 Destroyer *HMCS Skeena* commissioned in Portsmouth, England (M. Milner). See November, 1934.

Thursday

11 In Germany rioting breaks out in response to the emergency austerity measures, in particular a cut to unemployment payments (wikipedia).

Tuesday

16 Despite needing cash itself the Bank of England made a major loan to Austria to help stabilize the economy in Austria and Germany in the aftermath of the Creditanstalt failure (LoN).

Thursday

18 Tariffs on US produced items raised again by Canada to protect it's industry (LoN).

Saturday

20 Dornier DO-X arrives at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

Great Depression In a plan to stop the run on the German mark US President Hoover proposes to suspend payment of war debts owed by Allied countries to the USA for one year if those countries, in turn, agree to suspend Germany's war reparations payments to them for the same period (wikipedia; <http://library.cqpress.com>). See August 11, 1931.

Monday

22 In the remodelled Lockheed Vega NR496M, now renamed *Akita*, Ruth Rowland Nichols attempts to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, but is injured when the plane crashes when landing at St. John's, Newfoundland (<https://aviation-safety.net>; <http://www.nationalaviation.org>). See October, 1931. [NOTE: most references on the internet state this accident occurred at Saint John, New Brunswick, which is not correct.]

Tuesday to Wednesday

June 23 - July 1, American Wiley Post and Australian Harold Gatty fly around the world in the Lockheed Vega *Winnie Mae*, departing North America from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. Part of the route used from Alaska to Blachford Field, Edmonton, Alberta, followed the route which would be known as the Northwest Staging Route in the Second World War (wikipedia).

Thursday

25 Great Depression English, French and US banks finance a short term loan to the German Reichsbank to keep Germany solvent (wikipedia).

Sunday

28 National elections in Spain elect a Government led by a coalition of Socialists and moderate Republicans (SCW). See December, 1931.

## July 1931

Wednesday

1 *Trans-Canada Pageant* to promote flying toured across Canada July 1 to Sept. 12. Includes the RCAF Siskin Fighter Flight which also take part in the Cleveland Air Races in Ohio (CCMA).

Saturday

4 RCAF Lynx engined Fairchild FC-2 (G-CYXL?) crashed after the float spreader bar hit a tree top on approach to land on Artillery Lake, NWT, at a survey camp engaged in mapping out the Thelon Game Reserve, pilot and his mechanic **AC1 W. Skelding** safe (N.W. Emmott).

Monday

13 Great Depression Bank runs in Germany following the failure of the second largest bank in the country lead to the Government shutting down all banks by the end of the day for 2 days. The German Stock Market was also closed and did not re-open for several weeks (wikipedia).

Tuesday

14 Great Depression Hungary orders all its banks to close due to German financial crisis (wikipedia).

Wednesday

15 Great Depression Police clash with Communists demonstrating on behalf of the unemployed across Germany (wikipedia).

15-16 Lockheed Sirius NR115W *Justice for Hungary* flies across the Atlantic from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. Pilots E. György and M. Sándor, landed out of fuel 35 km short of their destination of Budapest (*Aeroplane Monthly*, April, 1996).

Thursday

16 Great Depression Banks opened in Germany only to allow withdrawals for payrolls (wikipedia).

Monday

20 Great Depression In London an international conference opened to discuss the financial situation in Germany, with representatives of England, the USA, Japan, France, Italy, Germany and Belgium, but accomplished little (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 Russell Boardman and John Bolando fly a Bellanca non-stop from New York to Istanbul, Turkey (M.J.H. Taylor).

Saturday

25 Great Depression Germany creates a new Reserve Bank, able to loan money to support commercial banks facing temporary shortfalls of credit or a bank run (wikipedia).

Tuesday to Thursday

July 28-August 6 Amy Johnson flies from England to Tokyo in a DH.80A Puss Moth aircraft (M.J.H.

Taylor).

Friday

31 Charles and Anne Lindbergh visit Ottawa, Ontario, in the float equipped Lockheed Sirius NR211, on their way to Alaska via Moose Factory Ontario, Churchill Manitoba, Baker Lake (Nunavut) and Aklavik NWT, exploring air routes for *Pan American Airways*. From Alaska the couple flew to the USSR, Japan and China, where they volunteered to help map the flood areas of the Yellow River until the aircraft was damaged. As a Reserve officer in the USAAC he also provided intelligence reports on the Canadian North to the US Military.

July-August, Huang He (Yellow River) floods in China, between 850,000 and 4,000,000 killed, worst natural disaster in recorded history (wikipedia).

## August 1931

Wednesday

5 DO-X leaves Rio de Janeiro for North America (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

Great Depression German banks re-open for regular business (wikipedia).

Monday

10 The Avro Tutor 621 biplane trainer enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

In North West China a Magnitude 8.0 earthquake kills 10,000 (wikipedia).

Tuesday

11 RCMP and Ontario Provincial Police round up 8 leaders of the Communist Party of Canada, including **Tim Buck**. They were tried under *Section 98* and received prison sentences of up to 5 years for sedition. Negative public reaction to this built across the country and leads to the beginning of the civil rights movement in Canada (wikipedia).

Great Depression The *Hoover Moratorium* plan for suspending War Reparations is signed in London (wikipedia). Although meant as a temporary measure to support Germany in its financial crisis, it marked the end of reparations payments as Germany and the rest of the world stayed stuck in the Economic Depression.

Saturday

22 Delayed by an engine failure the DO-X flying boat lands at Miami, Florida (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

After his budget focused on austerity is defeated British PM Ramsay MacDonald offers his resignation, but King George V suggests he form a coalition government instead (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/04/crash-1929-wall-street-what-the-great-depression-reveals-about-our-future> Timeline of Turmoil).

Monday

24 Labour government of Ramsay MacDonald in England replaced by coalition National Government with MacDonald remaining as Prime Minister (wikipedia).

Thursday

27 The DO-X arrives in New York (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008). There it would have its US built engines overhauled and upgraded in an attempt to improve its poor performance. Modern studies have shown the arrangement of the 12 engines in 6 pods mounted over the centre of the wing disturbed the aircraft's lift, causing the less than ideal performance of this aircraft which was intended to pioneer trans-ocean passenger service.

Saturday

29 Dirigible LZ-127 *Graf Zeppelin* departs Germany on its first passenger flight to Brazil (wikipedia). In contrast to the DO-X it flew from Germany to Rio de Janeiro non-stop August 29-September 1. It was slightly slower than the flying boat in the air, but was more reliable, far more comfortable, carried a much larger payload, and did not have to land to refuel. It returned to Germany September 5-7 non-stop (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

## September 1931

Tuesday

1 Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada in Havana, Cuba, heavily damaged by a bomb (wikipedia).

Great Depression Chilean sailors revolted over a planned cut in wages, taking control of their base (wikipedia).

Thursday

3 Great Depression German Stock Exchange re-opened (wikipedia). See September 21, 1931.

Sunday

6 Rebellious Chilean Navy sailors bombed by the Chilean Air Force in support of Army attacks. They surrender the next day (wikipedia).

Thursday

10 Hurricane hits British Honduras (Belize) killing an estimated 1,500 people (wikipedia).

Saturday

12 Mahatma Gandhi arrives in London to attend the second conference on Indian independence (wikipedia).

Sunday

13 Britain takes Schneider Trophy for all time when the Supermarine S.6b floatplane finishes the course with no opposition for a third consecutive victory (wikipedia). Other countries had

withdrawn or in the case of Italy, had run into technical problems. The Italian Air Force had requested a postponement of the race due to engine problems with their MC.72, but the RAF pointed out that in similar circumstances several years before other countries had also requested a postponement of the race in Italy which was refused, and the Italian aircraft set the precedent when it flew with no competition to win that years race. See April 10, 1933.

Tuesday to Wednesday

15-16 Invergordon Mutiny, RN sailors strike to protest over proposed heavy pay cuts. After hearing the complaints the Admiralty makes changes to the cuts, but the ringleaders were punished (wikipedia).

Friday

18 Manchurian Incident, Japanese owned railway damaged by a bomb near Mukden in Manchuria, probably by Japanese Army extremists to force Japanese government to take military action in China. Japanese Army blames nearby Chinese troops and attacks them the next day, initial event in what would lead to the Japanese annexation of Manchuria.

Sunday

20 Great Depression Losses on the London Stock Exchange due to the Invergordon Mutiny led the Government to announce England could no longer back the Pound with gold (wikipedia).

Monday

21 Great Depression The bill to take England off the gold standard is introduced, passed and given Royal Assent in 1 day as an emergency measure. The value of the British Pound fell almost 30% due to this action (LoN). German Stock Exchange closed again; it would remain closed for 7 months (wikipedia).

Saturday

26 Great Depression The Philadelphia Quakers hockey team announces it is unable to compete in this years NHL season, leaving only 9 teams in the league (wikipedia; K. Cuthbertson). See April 7, 1934.

Sunday

27 Great Depression In the wake of England's decision, Sweden, Norway and Egypt go off the gold standard (wikipedia).

Monday

28 Camp Borden, Ontario, **Sgt F.B. Brisco** bailed out of Avian IV.M #97 (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com).

Great Depression Denmark leaves the gold standard, while France and Germany create a body to improve trade relations between them (wikipedia).

Tuesday

29 Supermarine S.6b floatplane takes the world speed record for aircraft at 340 mph (547 km/h) (RAF Timeline). See April 10, 1933.

Great Depression In England 2.8 million are reported unemployed. Demonstrations in London by unemployed were broken up by mounted police (wikipedia).

Estevan, Saskatchewan, striking miners from Bienfait, Saskatchewan, with their families, attempt to parade through the town to raise support against non-union replacement workers, but are stopped by RCMP police blockades. The confrontation turned violent and the police fired on the strikers killing three and wounding several (wikipedia).

Wednesday

30 Great Depression Further protests by unemployed in England are met with police. Since leaving the gold standard the value of English currency had fallen 20% (wikipedia).

At the end of September the first RCAF units, including the Fighter Flight, begin re-deploying from Camp Borden to their newly constructed central base at Trenton, Ontario (CCMA).

## October 1931

-- In the repaired Lockheed Vega NR496M *Akita*, using a special back brace due to her injuries, Ruth Rowland Nichols established a new woman's record for distance, 1,977 miles, from Oakland, California to Louisville, Kentucky (wikipedia; <http://www.nationalaviation.org>). Ms. Nichols was the only pilot to hold the world records for speed, altitude and distance simultaneously. To this she would also add the record for altitude for diesel powered aircraft for women, which is still unbroken. As well she was the first woman to be licensed in the USA as a seaplane pilot, and was also a rated pilot for dirigible, glider, autogyro, amphibious aircraft, twin engined and four engined transports, and supersonic jets ([www.freightwaves.com](http://www.freightwaves.com)). Very active in flying and humanitarian work, she also later fought for the inclusion of women in the astronaut program (wikipedia).

Thursday

1 *KLM* begins regular scheduled flights from Amsterdam to Batavia, Indonesia (wikipedia).

Great Depression A march of unemployed in Glasgow is stopped by police, which soon erupts into a riot (wikipedia).

Friday

2 Great Depression Second night of rioting in Glasgow (wikipedia).

Saturday to Monday

3 to 5, Hugh Herndon and Clyde Pangborn make first non-stop crossing of the Pacific Ocean by an airplane, from Japan to Wenatchee, Washington State, USA in 41 hours in the Bellanca

Skyrocket NR796W *Miss Veedol* (wikipedia).

Sunday

4 Dick Tracy cartoon strip makes its debut (wikipedia).

Tuesday

6 Great Depression German Cabinet resigns (wikipedia).

Wednesday

7 Great Depression Unemployed in Manchester, England, are prevented from entering the town hall to address the council there and stage a sit-down demonstration that is broken up by police using fire hoses (wikipedia).

Friday

9 New German Cabinet formed (wikipedia).

Saturday

10 German President von Hindenburg meets with Adolf Hitler for the first time (wikipedia).

Sunday

11 German right wing parties, including the Nazi party, meet and form a coalition aimed at toppling the present German government in the Reichstag (wikipedia).

Monday

12 The mountaintop statue of *Christ the Redeemer* overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is dedicated (wikipedia).

Tuesday

13 Under the October 11 agreement, the right wing parties that had been boycotting the Reichstag for the last 8 months return (wikipedia).

Friday

16 German government narrowly survives a vote of confidence in the Reichstag, Nazi and other right wing parties walk out again (wikipedia).

Saturday

17 Al Capone sentenced to 11 years in prison for tax evasion (wikipedia).

Monday

26 First flight of the prototype DH.82 Tiger Moth bi-plane trainer (wikipedia). This is a development of the DH.60 Moth with a larger engine, which would become the basic military flight trainer in Commonwealth and other countries. Several are still flying today.

Tuesday

27 General Election held in England, coalition National Government wins an overwhelming majority



based on it's platform of austerity (wikipedia).

## November 1931

Tuesday

3 After riots between Communists and Nazis, including parades of uniformed Nazi Party members, all outdoor political assemblies are banned in Prussia (wikipedia).

Saturday

7 Mao Zedong proclaims Chinese Soviet Republic in China (wikipedia).

Sunday

8 Panama Canal closed for several weeks due to damage caused by earthquakes (wikipedia).

Wednesday

11 The name Armistice Day in Canada changed to Remembrance Day.

Thursday

12 Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto opens (www.schudak.de).

Saturday

14 British Imperial Conference on the relationships between England and Dominions ends with the approval of the *Statute of Westminster*. See December 11, 1931.

Canada's proposal for preferential tariffs for wheat in the new Commonwealth was not accepted, a major blow to Canadian farmers (LoN).

Friday

20 Great Depression The Dow Jones Average fell below 100 points (wikipedia).

British report on Palestine recommends against sale of land to foreigners as long as local Arabs remain landless, and an end to Jewish immigration while local Arabs remain unemployed. This conclusion was hotly debated in the British Parliament (LoN).

## December 1931

-- In Spain a new modern Constitution is adopted that establishes a parliamentary democracy and the separation of Church and State. The rights of the individual are established, women are given the right to vote. The new government embarks on a program of "non-revolutionary reform", attempting to make great changes in the country within it's legal and political system, in a gradual manner. The Jesuits are dissolved and their property nationalized, and civil marriage and divorce made legal. Later non-church controlled schools are established to provide an education for poor and working people, a move which the Church opposes openly. The rift between the Church and the State continues, and comes to dominate other, more

important, reforms (SCW). In other acts the minimum wage for farm workers is raised, and industrial and farm workers unions are encouraged. But many reform measures are seen as too timid, or too slow. A national Income Tax is introduced for the very wealthy, but it is kept small. Land Reform is introduced, but the law is too complicated to have much effect. The government begins to lose respect of the people, the Right wing monarchists, and the left wing radicals as well as the Church (SCW).

Tuesday

1 Second conference on Indian independence ends with no result (wikipedia).

Tuesday

8 Great Depression In another Emergency Measure German President von Hindenburg approves a bill designed to fight inflation by cutting prices, rents and wages (wikipedia).

Friday

11 British Parliament enacts the *Statute of Westminster* establishing legislative equality in self governing dominions of Australia, Canada, Irish Free State, Newfoundland, New Zealand and South Africa, creating the *British Commonwealth of Nations*. Under this act England's Parliament relinquished any rights to pass laws affecting Dominion countries (wikipedia). Separate Canadian foreign policy began from this act (Douglas & Greenhouse). India, however, was not included in this important decision.

Sunday

13 In New York City Winston Churchill, visiting the USA on a lecture tour, is struck by a taxi on 5th Ave. and nearly killed. He spent a week in hospital, and a further month in Bermuda to recover before resuming the tour (R. Langworth; [www.walkingoffthebigapple.com/2009/04/winston-churchill-in-new-york-sir.html](http://www.walkingoffthebigapple.com/2009/04/winston-churchill-in-new-york-sir.html)).

Thursday

17 Great Depression Japan leaves the gold standard (wikipedia).

Saturday

26 Investigating reports of theft on trap lines two RCMP constables travel by dog-sled to the cabin of Albert Johnson on the Rat River, NWT, but he ignores them, refusing to open the door of his strongly built cabin. They return to Aklavik for a search warrant.

Sunday

27 Indian independence leader Nehru arrested again (wikipedia).

Monday

28 Thousands greet Mahatma Gandhi in Bombay on his return to India (wikipedia).

Thursday

31 Returning to the Johnson cabin at Rat River one constable is shot through the locked door by Albert Johnson as they try to interview him. Unable to force him from his fortified cabin the

party returns to Aklavik with the wounded policeman.

Japanese veterans of the 1914-1918 World War, previously given Canadian citizenship for their service, are granted provincial voting rights in British Columbia, while pacifist Doukhobor, Mennonite and Hutterite residents are disenfranchised ([www.schudak.de](http://www.schudak.de)).

-- In the winter of 1931-1932 the Italian government in Libya constructed a heavy barbed wire fence with fortifications along its border with Egypt, to control and prevent its being crossed by supporters of the Omar Mukhtar, then leading a revolt against the Italian colonial government. This would become the main Italian defensive line at the start of the war in the desert in 1940 (wikipedia). On the western Libyan border the French would later build another series of fortifications along the border of Libya and Tunisia, known as the Mareth Line. See February 17, 1943.

## **1932**

-- During 1932 the first seizure of marijuana cigarettes was made in Canada, under the *Opium and Narcotic Drug Act*, which had been made law in 1923 (Giffen, Endicott and Lambert, *Panic and Indifference: The Politics of Canada's Drug Laws*, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 1991). See 1937.

## **January 1932**

Friday

1 Mahatma Gandhi tells Indians that the civil disobedience campaign will resume (wikipedia).

Monday

4 Gandhi arrested and interned in India (wikipedia).

Saturday

9 Assassination attempt on Japanese Emperor Hirohito (wikipedia).

Great Depression German Chancellor Brüning announces that due to the economic situation continued payment of war reparations by Germany is impossible (wikipedia).

A large party of police and volunteers return to the Rat River cabin and lay siege to it. Despite blowing part of the roof off with dynamite Johnson refuses to leave, and the party returns to Aklavik after supplies run low. Story relayed to south by the new radio service becomes a major news item, with Johnson termed the *Mad Trapper of Rat River*. Sometime after the siege Johnson left his cabin, trekking into the mountains on snowshoes.

Monday

11 In India the government bans meetings of groups of more than 5 people (wikipedia).

Thursday

14 Police and deputies return to the Johnson cabin to find it abandoned, split up into search parties in an attempt to locate him.

Saturday

16 A search party looking for Albert Johnson encounter him in Mackenzie Mountains, in a shoot out RCMP Constable **Edgar Millen** is killed. Johnson laughed when he had shot the Constable, the only communication he was heard to make in the entire chase. Constable Millen had interviewed Johnson when he first arrived in the Territory in the previous July, an RCMP task to ensure new arrivals were properly equipped to survive in the North. The search party returns to Aklavik and request back-up by aircraft, local hunters and trappers.

Wednesday

20 *Imperial Airways* extends it's African airmail service to Cape Town, South Africa (wikipedia).

Sunday

24 Italy declares that Libyan resistance to Italian occupation, begun in 1911, has ended (wikipedia).

Thursday

28 Manchurian Incident Japanese troops occupy Shanghai (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 Manchurian Incident Japanese Navy aircraft carrier *Kaga* operates in support of troops in Shanghai, first major use of carrier borne aircraft in combat (wikipedia).

Sunday

31 Manchurian Incident Japanese warships arrive at Nanking, US Navy and Royal Navy ships ordered to Shanghai to protect nationals living there (wikipedia).

## February 1932

Monday

1 Manchurian Incident Japanese carrier *Hosho* joins *Kaga* in combat operations in China (wikipedia).

Tuesday

2 *Reconstruction Finance Corporation*, set up to stimulate US economy, begins operations (wikipedia).

*General Convention on Disarmament* opens in Geneva, Switzerland; *League of Nations* recommends negotiations between China and Japan (wikipedia).

Thursday

4 1932 Winter Olympics open in Lake Placid, NY (wikipedia).

Manchurian Incident Japanese troops occupy Harbin, China (wikipedia).

Friday

5 Manchurian Incident First air to air fighting in Shanghai between Japanese naval and Chinese air force fighters (wikipedia).

Tuesday

9 In the Mackenzie Mountains trapper Albert Johnson was being tracked by **Wop May** in a Bellanca CH-300 aircraft CF-AKI flown in from Edmonton, Alberta, when a blizzard wiped out the trail. In the snowstorm Johnson is able to cross the mountains into the Yukon Territory.

Sunday

14 Wop May picks up the trail of Albert Johnson on the Bell River, tracking him from the air to the Eagle River. Without the aircraft Johnson would not have been re-located at all, nor could the police parties trailing him have been re-supplied.

Wednesday

17 RCMP party corners Albert Johnson on the Eagle River in the Yukon, where he is killed in a gun fight after wounding an RCMP officer. May, circling overhead, landed on the river and flew the badly wounded officer over the mountains in white-out conditions to hospital in Aklavik, arriving 50 minutes after take-off, saving his life (E.P. Gardiner). The usefulness of aircraft in the north to RCMP operations was apparent, and the force began planning it's own aircraft unit. See August 10, 1938.

Thursday

18 Manchurian Incident Japan declares Manchuria independent of China (wikipedia).

Monday

22 Manchurian Incident Japan's first air to air victory, by 3 naval Mitsubishi A1N (license built Gloster Gambet/Gamecock) fighters off the carrier *Kaga*, shooting down a Chinese Boeing Model 218 (P-12) fighter flown by a US volunteer (wikipedia). The pilot, Robert Short, was killed. He wasn't a military pilot but a civilian flying airmail in China. He had become angry about Japanese attacks against nearly undefended targets, and decided to attack the Japanese in a fighter he was ferrying. His death was publicized and became an international incident when his citizenship became public. He is seen as a hero in China today (<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article184009651.html>).

Nazi Party announces Adolf Hitler will run for position of President of Germany (wikipedia).

Thursday

25 Austrian born Adolf Hitler becomes a German citizen by naturalization, a requirement to run for election (wikipedia).

Sunday

27 Anti-democratic Mantsaala Rebellion occurs in Finland (wikipedia).

## March 1932

-- Final Avro 504 aircraft produced ending 19 years of production (wikipedia).

Tuesday

1 Manchurian Incident Henry Pu Yi, last emperor of China, proclaimed King of Manchuria by Japanese (wikipedia).

Infant son of Transatlantic flyer Charles Lindbergh kidnapped in New Jersey (wikipedia).

Wednesday

2 Mantsaala Rebellion in Finland ended, elected government remains (wikipedia).

Friday

4 Manchurian Incident Chinese government turns down proposed talks with Japan until Japanese soldiers are withdrawn from China; *League of Nations* votes that Japan should withdraw from Manchuria (wikipedia).

Monday

7 In Detroit, Michigan, police open fire on un-employed auto workers marching outside of the Ford plant, killing 4 people (wikipedia).

Sunday

13 German Presidential election, President von Hindenburg wins majority of 49.6% of the votes, but fails to reach required 50%, requiring a run-off election. Adolf Hitler comes second with 30% of the vote (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>).

Monday

14 Great Depression Stock prices in Sweden tumble following suicide of financier Ivan Kreuger (wikipedia).

Tuesday

15 In Germany a train carrying Hitler and other leading Nazi members is shot at (wikipedia).

Thursday

17 Acting on information that the Nazi party is planning to start a civil war to seize power, Nazi offices throughout Prussia are raided by Police. Hitler states that the Nazis will attain power eventually, and says the raids were an act of desperation, but Police did find plans for a mass attack to seize arms and force cities to capitulate by cutting off water supplies (wikipedia).

Friday

18 Manchurian Incident Peace negotiations begin between Japan and China (wikipedia).

Sunday

20 Scheduled passenger flights by *Graf Zeppelin* between Germany and Brazil begin (wikipedia).

First flight of the Boeing P-26 fighter, an all metal wire braced monoplane aircraft with fixed undercarriage, semi-enclosed cockpit and a radial engine capable of 230 mph (G. Beauchamp).

Monday and Tuesday

21 and 22 Weather conditions in the Southern US spawn numbers of tornados that hit several communities, killing over 300 people (wikipedia).

Wednesday

23 In England the '*Ten Year Rule*' governing expenditures on the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force was abandoned by Cabinet, not because they saw a threatening war, but because of the financial crisis the country was in, and they wished to reduce military spending even more (wikipedia).

Thursday to Monday

24-28 English pilot Jim Mollison sets new record time from England to Cape Town, South Africa of 4 days, 17 hours in a DH.80 Puss Moth (wikipedia).

Friday

25 Soviet Airline *Dobrolyot* expanded to country wide service and renamed *Aeroflot* (wikipedia).

Saturday

26 Manchurian Incident Japan states it desires talks with China, but if the *League of Nations* keeps demanding withdrawal of its troops Japan would quit the *League* (wikipedia).

Thursday

31 Manpower of the RCAF is 178 officers and 700 enlisted. Due to the continuing Depression RCAF appropriations were cut 2/3 from the previous year. As a result some 20% of the airforce manpower (military and civilian) was let go (see April 1, below). All training, photo-mapping, forestry patrol and transport flying was severely cut back. Civil operations were re-absorbed by other cash-strapped departments while the RCAF began re-organizing itself from a quasi-civilian organization to a military force. New construction at Trenton was halted, which meant that the planned movement of the Training Wing was postponed and they remained at Borden (CCMA).

## **April 1932**

Friday

1 Due to the continuing economic depression 78 officer and 100 other ranks of the RCAF plus 110 civilian employees were released effective this date, reducing the strength of the force by 20%, leaving 103 officers and 591 airmen. Other cutbacks were made on housing and flying

(CCMA). According to M. Goldberg, one of the released airmen (*Airforce Magazine*, December, 1981), many of them formed a volunteer unit intending to serve in China, but were prevented from leaving the country by the Government.

Tuesday

5 10,000 Newfoundlanders march on the Legislature to show discontent with current government in the Dominion (wikipedia). See Feb. 16, 1934.

Thursday

7 Manchurian Incident Talks between China and Japan in Shanghai to establish withdrawal of Japanese soldiers under *League of Nations* supervision, but Japan refuses to accept the Leagues authority (wikipedia).

Sunday

10 German runoff Presidential elections, von Hindenburg wins clear majority of 53% over Adolf Hitler's increase to 37%, preventing Hitler from becoming President (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>)

Tuesday

12 Great Depression German stock market reopens after being closed for seven months (wikipedia).

Wednesday

13 German President von Hindenburg passes an emergency decree calling on the Nazi Party to dissolve their paramilitary SA and SS auxiliaries (wikipedia).

Thursday

14 Great Depression unemployed workers and police fight each other in Auckland, New Zealand (wikipedia).

Hitler defies Hindenburgs order, and calls on Germans to support the Nazi Party in state elections in 10 days (wikipedia).

Tuesday to Thursday

19-28 C.W.A. Scott sets new record time from UK to Australia of 8 days 20 hours in a DH Gypsy Moth (wikipedia).

Sunday

24 In German state elections the Nazi Party increased it's votes, coming first in 4 of 5 ballots (wikipedia).

Monday

25 British and Iraqi forces and aircraft begin operations against an uprising in Iraq (RAF Timeline).

Hitler declares the election results give the Nazis a mandate to form state governments (wikipedia).



Wednesday

27 *Imperial Airways* begins passenger service from England to Cape Town (wikipedia).

## May 1932

Monday

2 Jack Benny's radio show airs for the first time, hosted by Canada Dry Ginger Ale (wikipedia). It will become the most popular radio program in the USA.

Wednesday

4 A small Gold Rush follows the discovery of gold in the Red Deer River in Alberta (www.schudak.de).

Thursday

5 Manchurian Incident China and Japan sign a cease fire (wikipedia).

Friday

6 French President Paul Doumer shot in Paris, dies the next day (wikipedia).

Tuesday

10 Albert LeBrun becomes new President of France.

Great Depression Riot in Wellington, New Zealand, where workers on relief wanted changes to the Unemployment Act (wikipedia).

Thursday

12 Four elected Nazi members who had assaulted a journalist in the Reichstag building were suspended from the assembly for a month. They refuse to leave, requiring the session to be closed (wikipedia).

The body of kidnapped infant Charles Lindbergh Jr. is discovered a few miles from the Lindbergh home. He had died accidentally (wikipedia). His death resulted in a US law making kidnapping a crime punishable by death.

Friday

13 Winston Churchill makes his first speech in the British Parliament warning of German rearmament (R. Langworth). In this he went against the common view in England that France was the European power England's military should be compared to. See October 24, 1933 and February 22, 1936.

Sunday

15 May 15 Incident in Tokyo, 11 young naval officers, unhappy with Japan's foreign policies, attempt a coup d'etat, attacking the residence of Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi, killing him and most of his family. Unsupported, the 11 are captured and tried, but they are seen as patriots and are

sentenced to prison rather than to death. This failure to punish the officers marks the beginning of the decline of civilian party rule in Japanese politics and the rise of military influence (wikipedia; Oxford).

Thursday

19 Dornier DO-X leaves New York for Harbour Grace, Newfoundland (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

Friday to Saturday

20-21 Amelia Earhart in a Lockheed Vega aircraft flies solo from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, to Ireland, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

Dornier DO-X flies from Harbour Grace to Dildo, Newfoundland, then to the Azores. Making it's heaviest take off from Dildo the flying boat flies in 'ground effect', the cushion of air displaced by it's flight, at an altitude of 10 feet above the ocean (a tactic it had done before) for the first 5 hours of it's 13 hour journey until it had used enough fuel to climb higher (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

Sunday

22 DO-X arrives back in Europe at Vigo, Spain, returning to Germany May 24, 2 years and 7 months after leaving (*Aeroplane Monthly*, June 2008).

Mussolini opens an international meeting of aviators experienced in trans-ocean flights to discuss the future of commercial flights over the ocean (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 Labour, Progressive, and United Farmers of Alberta parties MPs meet to form the Commonwealth Party in Ottawa, later called the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation or CCF party, to help people affected by the depression using co-operative organizations (wikipedia).

Sunday

29 First of 15,000 out of work US War veterans and their families arrive in Washington DC. There they press US Congress for early payment of War Benefits. These benefits of \$1.25 per day for overseas service and \$1.00 a day for home service in the war were passed in 1924, but were not to be paid until 1945. The veterans pointed out they needed help now. Called the "Bonus Army", it was feared that they would run riot in Washington, but they organized peacefully and erected a camp across the river from the Capitol (wikipedia).

Monday

30 Chancellor of Germany Heinrich Brüning resigns, replaced by Franz von Papen (wikipedia).

Canadian registered DH.60 Moth CF-AGL operated by the Grenfell Mission disappears on a sight seeing flight from St. Anthony, Newfoundland (J.R. Ellis). It has never been found.

## June 1932

Saturday

4 German Reichstag dissolved by President von Hindenburg when it becomes apparent that the new Chancellor von Papen (his appointment) does not have the confidence of the assembly (wikipedia).

Thursday

9 Called as a witness in a libel trial, Adolf Hitler is found in contempt of court for refusing to answer questions from a Jewish lawyer (wikipedia).

Tuesday

14 Bans against the SS and SA uniformed wings of the National Socialist party overturned in Germany (wikipedia).

Wednesday

15 Gran Chaco War, fomented by the apparent discovery of oil in the disputed border areas between Bolivia and Paraguay. After years of discord the dispute breaks into open warfare which would continue until 1935, the largest modern war in South America in one of the most inhospitable regions of the planet (wikipedia). Despite Bolivia's numerical and technical superiority Paraguay successfully defends itself using better tactics. Especially noted are its integrated use of aircraft in support of army operations. These are considered the first modern application of tactical aircraft in combat and the war is closely studied by the German Army (D. Hagedorn). See notes September 15, 1933. The reported oil discovery turns out to be bogus. See <http://worldatwar.net/chandelle/v1/v1n3/chaco.html> for a brief description of this war, in terms of tactics and equipment, one of the most interesting conflicts of the 20th century.

Friday

17 US Senate defeats a bill for early payment of veterans benefits. Bonus Army reacts peacefully with a silent march outside Capitol building every day until Congress ends July 17, but most leave for home (wikipedia).

Saturday

18 *Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park* established, straddling the Alberta/Montana border (wikipedia).

Friday

24 After a relatively bloodless military coup Siam (Thailand) becomes a constitutional monarchy (wikipedia).

Hitler publishes a demand for martial law to be imposed in Germany to fight communism (wikipedia).

-- During the year Catalonia won the right to regional self government and recognition of its language

(SCW).

## July 1932

- The bronze figures for the National War Memorial in Ottawa are completed, but due to the depression the work on the base of the monument has not been done. After being displayed in London for 6 months they are put into storage pending the construction of a base (wikipedia). See May 21, 1939.
- Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute co-founder, teacher and radio Bible lecturer **William Aberhart** is introduced to the ideas of Social Credit, and soon begins introducing the economic theories into his broadcasts as a solution to the effects of the Depression. His understanding of the theory is poor, but his melding of it with his religious beliefs and his ability to broadcast his ideas through his radio program in a province and region devastated by the Depression soon finds an interested audience, and Social Credit clubs and organizations begin forming across Alberta (E. Dee), initially to lobby the United Farmers of Alberta party to adopt the Social Credit economic policy. See April, 1934.

### Saturday

- 2 Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Governor of New York, accepts nomination of Democratic Party to run for President (wikipedia). One of his supporters is the Canadian born **Father Charles Coughlin**, who had fought attacks on his church by the Ku Klux Klan by addressing them on radio, and discovered the power of the medium to reach people and influence their decisions. This led to many other religious radio preachers (**William Aberhart** in Alberta for example), but few had a following as strong as Father Coughlin. Then one of the most influential speakers in the USA with his Radio Sermons, his support leads to a meeting with Roosevelt where he describes the power of direct communication to people by Radio (CBC *The Flamethrowers* podcast, 2021). See March 12 and 14, 1933.

### Tuesday

- 5 Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, a Fascist sympathizer, becomes Prime Minister of Portugal, a post he would hold for the next 36 years.

### Friday

- 8 Great Depression Dow Jones Average closes at 41.2 points, the lowest point reached during the Depression. This is a drop of 340 points in the last 22 months, representing a 90% loss of stock values (wikipedia). In 1932 unemployment in the USA reaches 23%, 13 million US workers have lost their jobs since 1929 and international trade has fallen by two thirds of its previous levels. Since the crash 40% of banks in the country have failed, wiping out the savings of millions ([http://www.hyperhistory.com/online\\_n2/connections\\_n2/great\\_depression.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/connections_n2/great_depression.html)).

### Saturday

- 9 At a meeting of wartime countries in Lausanne, France, it is decided that Germany could make a

one-time payment and be free of war reparations (wikipedia).

Saturday

16 Rioting of remaining Bonus Army took place in front of the White House (wikipedia).

Sunday

17 In the campaigning for national elections Communists attack a National Socialist demonstration in Hamburg, Germany, 18 people were killed. The event sparked political violence across the country (wikipedia).

Monday

18 Outdoor demonstrations banned across Germany (wikipedia).

Thursday

21 *Imperial Economic Conference* held in Ottawa July & August. To expedite mail from England for this Conference the RCAF established an air mail service between Ottawa and Red Bay in Labrador (where the flight met CP passenger liners), via Rimouski, Quebec.

Wolfgang von Gronau sets out from Germany in a Dornier Wal flying boat on a private round the world flight. His trip of 111 days will visit parts of Canada (wikipedia).

Tuesday

26 RCAF Station Trenton, Siskin #23 and #61 collide practicing aerobatics, F/L H. Swanson killed in #61, F/O F.M. Gobeil bailed out safely from #23 (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com). See May 23, 1940.

Thursday

28 US President Hoover orders dispersal of the Bonus Army from Federal Land. After initial attempts by police that leave two veterans dead President Hoover instructs US Army Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur to use troops to remove the veterans. MacArthur attacks them with infantry and cavalry (led by General George Patton) backed up with 6 tanks. The unarmed veterans and their families are routed and driven from their camp which is then burned. Liaison between Army and Washington Police is MacArthur aide Major Dwight Eisenhower (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 1932 Summer Olympics open in Los Angeles, California (wikipedia).

Sunday

31 German Reichstag Elections, Nazi Party takes 230 seats of 608, an increase of 123 and become the largest elected party, but still did not have a majority required to elect Hitler as Chancellor (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>). The Communists hold third place with 89, an increase of 12 (wikipedia).

## August 1932

-- Farmers Revolt begins in mid-west USA, unorganized protests against conditions and prices. Denial of produce, blocking roads, mobilizing against foreclosures continue through to 1933 (wikipedia, M. Hallgren).

Monday

1 Mars chocolate bars first produced (wikipedia).

Saturday

6 Rebuilt Welland Canal opened in Canada (wikipedia).

Wednesday

10 In Spain reforms to reduce and modernize the Army lead to a short lived military coup, which is easily suppressed. The leader, General Sanjurjo, is exiled in Portugal (SCW). See July 12, 1936.

Saturday

13 In a meeting with President von Hindenburg and Chancellor von Papen, Hitler is offered the position of vice-chancellor, but he refuses, demanding to be made Chancellor, which Hindenburg rejected (wikipedia).

Tuesday

16 Prince Edward, Prince of Wales, and Prince George, Duke of York, were observing a practice attack by RAF aircraft flying from *HMS Glorious* off Malta in two Fairey IIIIF aircraft. At the completion of the exercise fog was encountered that prevented the aircraft carrying Prince George (later King George VI) from landing until a clearer area was found (*Aeroplane Monthly*, September 2021).

Thursday

18 Auguste Piccard and Max Cosyns ascend to 53,152 ft (16,197 m) by balloon from Dübendorf, Switzerland (wikipedia).

Thursday to Friday

18-19 Jim Mollinson attempts to fly from Ireland to New York in a DH Puss Moth G-ABXY *The Heart's Content*, but lands short of fuel at Pennfield Ridge, NB, completing the first east to west solo crossing of the Atlantic (wikipedia).

Thursday

25 Amelia Earhart makes first non-stop transcontinental flight of the USA by a woman, in a Lockheed Vega (wikipedia).

Tuesday

30 First War fighter ace and Nazi Party Leader Herman Göring elected president of the Reichstag (wikipedia).

Wednesday

31 Total solar eclipse observed from Northern Canada to the New England States (wikipedia).

## September 1932

Thursday

1 In a speech at a Nazi Party rally in Berlin Hitler challenges the legitimacy of Chancellor von Papens government (wikipedia).

Saturday

3 Jimmy Doolittle sets new land plane speed record of 296 mph (476 km/h) in the Gee Bee R-1 aircraft at the National Air Race at Cleveland, Ohio (wikipedia). This is still slower than the record set by the S.6b, a seaplane. See April 10, 1933.

Sunday

4 Almost 200,000 supporters swore allegiance to Chancellor von Papen in Berlin (wikipedia).

Thursday

8 In Spain land is expropriated from the aristocracy to be re-distributed to private farmers (wikipedia).

Friday

9 Catalonia regains political independence inside Second Spanish Republic effective Sept. 25 (wikipedia).

Monday

12 Ignoring a decree dissolving parliament Reichstag president Hermann Göring forces a vote of no confidence in the von Papen government (wikipedia).

Tuesday

13 German President von Hindenburg rebukes Reichstag president Göring for ignoring closure, but Göring replies he could not interrupt the voting in progress (wikipedia).

Friday

16 Vickers Vespa VII G-ABIL flown by Cyril Unwin establishes a new English altitude record of 21,500 ft. (6,553 metres) (M.J.H. Taylor).

Tuesday

20 Mahatma Gandhi begins hunger strike in prison (wikipedia).

Thursday

22 The Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd takes the new name of Saudi Arabia (LoN).

Saturday

24 Junkers W.33 J-BFUB No. 3 *Hochi Nichi-Bei*, attempting to be the first Japanese aircraft to fly from Japan to the USA non-stop, disappears over the North Pacific, Baba Eiichiro, Homma Kiyoshi and Inoshita Tomoyoshi missing (T. Gywnn-Jones).

New Swedish government takes power and begins a program to modernize the Swedish military (LoN).

Sunday

25 In Spain, Catalan is granted a Charter of Autonomy, with separate government (LoN).

Monday

26 London compromises on it's independence plan for India, Gandhi ends his hunger strike (wikipedia).

Friday

30 PM **Bennett** cancels a program allowing unemployed men to ride trains to the Prairies at no charge to work gathering the harvest, causing many western farmers to abandon their crops due to lack of workers (www.schudak.de).

## October 1932

Saturday

1 Babe Ruth makes his famous 'Called Shot' home run in the 1932 World Series (wikipedia).

*British Union of Fascists* party founded (wikipedia).

Monday

3 Iraq becomes an independent kingdom (wikipedia). Under the terms of transfer all the former RAF bases in Iraq were transferred to the Iraqi Air Force, and the RAF was to build a new airbase at a distance from Baghdad and west of the Euphrates River. This new, modern and well equipped base, RAF Habbaniya, was opened in 1936, and all RAF assets (including the RAF Levies and supplies previously used to police the country) were moved there (T. Nicol, *Jewel of the Desert*, *Flypast*, December 2018). See September 1, 1939.

Wednesday

5 Non-Permanent Active Air Force (NPAAF), the RCAF auxiliary force, is authorized, with #10, #11 and #12 Army Co-operation (AC) Squadrons, approved for formation in Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg respectively. No aircraft were available for these squadrons (CCMA).

Saturday

8 Indian Air Force (IAF) founded (wikipedia).



Tuesday

11 The Hawker Audax biplane light bomber enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

Friday

14 Tenth Anniversary of the Fascist Party gaining power in Italy (wikipedia).

Saturday

15 First flights of *Tata Airlines* (later *Air India*) (wikipedia).

Monday

17 Prison Riot at Kingston Penitentiary, Ontario (wikipedia).

Wednesday

19 Henry Ford endorses Herbert Hoover for President in the USA (wikipedia).

Thursday

20 Second prison riot in Kingston Penitentiary, shots fired into cell of Communist Leader **Tim Buck** (wikipedia).

RAF issues a specification for a new bomber capable of carrying a 1,650 lb. bomb load over 700 miles. This represented an improvement in performance over existing designs, but no increase in the bomb load (S. Bond). See February, 1933.

Monday

24 In London unemployed workers demanding changes to unemployment support (called the 'Dole') clash in Trafalgar Square with British Fascists (wikipedia).

Thursday

27 Unemployed workers in London holding a rally in Hyde Park are attacked by mounted police (wikipedia).

Sunday

30 Further clashes between police and workers in London (wikipedia).

Monday

31 Further work on the new RCAF base at Trenton is approved as a Federal Unemployment Relief Project, to provide employment for those who had lost jobs due to the depression, allowing construction to resume (E.A. Johnson et al). Other Relief Project camps were engaged in other works, including creating airfields across the country, creating a trans-Canada network of airfields for future use (D. Morton).

## November 1932

Tuesday

1 To save money the RCAF is merged with the Directorate of Civil Operations and the Aeronautical Engineering Division.

Sunday

6 Federal Elections in Germany. Communists gain seats while the Nazi Party loses 34 seats but remains the majority party. Opposition to the violence used by the Nazi's was beginning to work against them, and having fought 3 elections in the last year they were running short of funds for the heavy propaganda they depended on (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>). Hitler sent Göring to visit Mussolini during November, where he was able to obtain further funding for the Nazi Party activities (R. Meredith).

Soon after these elections Winston Churchill was in Munich researching the campaigns of his ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, and was approached by one of Hitlers entourage and invited to have tea with him. Churchill agreed, but made it clear he disagreed with Hitlers antisemitic views. Although Churchill went to the arranged meeting Hitler declined to attend (<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/09/when-hitler-didnt-meet-churchill.php>). The two men never met. Taking tea in the English manner was one of Hitlers habits (R. Milton).

Monday

7 The first science fiction radio program, *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*, first airs on radio (wikipedia), an indication of the rising popularity of this genre and the growing public interest in science.

Tuesday

8 Democratic candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt defeats Republican Herbert Hoover to become US President (wikipedia).

Wednesday

9 Hurricane and storm surge waves strike Santa Cruz del Sur in Cuba, killing 2,500 people (wikipedia).

Thursday

10 In a speech in support of disarmament as proposed at the *League of Nations* on the eve of the 14th anniversary of the end of fighting on the Western Front of the Great European War, British PM Stanley Baldwin expresses fears of the times in his statement:

*"I think it is well for the man in the street to realize that there is no power on earth which can protect him from being bombed. Whatever people may tell him, the bomber will always get through. ... The only defence is in offence, which means that you have to kill more women and children more quickly than the enemy if you want to save yourselves."*

which pointed out in stark terms that there was no simple method to stop aircraft given their speed and unrestricted movement in space, and stating the consequences of bombing or spreading poison gas on cities (R. Langworth; wikipedia). At this time the theory of strategic bombing held that attacks on industry, communications and transportation services of a country would lead to the break down of it's society as the morale of it's citizens collapsed. The only option for industrialized countries to avoid the horrors of air dropped bombs and gas attacks on civilians seemed to be disarmament, which he was supporting in this speech. See March 14, 1933 and February 26, 1934.

Thursday

17 Chancellor von Papen resigned (wikipedia).

Friday

18 Amy Johnson establishes a new England to Cape Town, South Africa record, in DH.80A Puss Moth G-ACAB *The Desert Cloud*, of 4 days, 6 hours and 55 minutes (wikipedia).

Saturday

19 Third conference in London on Indian independence (wikipedia).

Monday

21 German President Hindenburg begins negotiations with National Socialist leader Adolf Hitler about the formation of a new government, but insists he lead a coalition government while Hitler demands a Nazi government (wikipedia).

Saturday

26 "*Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?*" sung by Bing Crosby becomes top song in the USA. Attempts to ban it as an attack on the US economic system failed (wikipedia).

Wednesday

30 Polish cryptologists break German '*Enigma*' machine cipher (wikipedia).

## **December 1932**

Saturday

3 Unable to come to an agreement with Hitler, Hindenburg names Kurt von Schleicher as Germanys Chancellor (wikipedia).

Monday

5 Application for a march demanding relief for families in Edmonton, referred by the Mayor of Edmonton to the **Premier J.E. Brownlee**, turned down (www.forgottenedmonton.com). See December 20, below.

Tuesday

6 German Reichstag re-opens (wikipedia).

Physicist Albert Einstein granted visa to the USA. Claims that he was a communist, made in an attempt to prevent his entry into the country, are dismissed by the State Department (wikipedia).

Wednesday

7 Communist and Nazi members brawl in the Reichstag lobby (wikipedia).

Friday

9 Reichstag adjourns (wikipedia).

Monday

19 BBC World Service begins broadcasting (wikipedia).

Tuesday

20 Edmonton Hunger March. Despite placing police agents in the organizers, blockades to stop marchers from coming to Edmonton from outside of the city, and police raids on groups organizing the march (using Section 98), 10,000 marchers and supporters gathered in downtown Edmonton, facing Edmonton Police and RCMP (including mounted units), which broke up the march in a pitched street battle (www.forgottenedmonton.com).

Saturday

24 Methane gas explosion in Illinois kills 54 miners (wikipedia).

Sunday

25 Earthquake in China leaves an estimated 70,000 dead (wikipedia).

Tuesday

27 Radio City Music Hall opens in New York City.

After much debate South Africa drops the gold standard (LoN).

## **1933**

-- In Germany engineering student Hans von Ohain writes a thesis describing a jet engine (wikipedia).

-- In Italy Italian Fascist Dictator Benito Mussolini, a private pilot since 1923 and self appointed Minister for Air, is awarded his military pilots rating (H.W. Neulen).

-- In BC the provincial Forestry Department was facing cutbacks due to the Depression. With no field work Surveyor **G. Andrews** went at his own expense to study forestry at the school in Tharandt, Germany (established in 1811). He had been exposed to aerial survey work as a summer student in Quebec, and firmly believed in its uses. Advanced aerial photography was a part of the course at Tharandt. While in England returning to Canada in 1934 he was

contacted by the British War Office who were interested in the aerial photography techniques being taught there. Back in BC he helped establish an aerial survey section for the provincial government (R. Eagle). See September 1, 1939.

-- First refined radium from the Eldorado mine is delivered for use in research and cancer treatments from a refinery built at Port Hope, Ontario. Production soon reaches 2 grams per month of refined radium (worth about \$140,000 at that time). Uranium, a by-product, is sold for use in colouring glass and pottery ([www.schudak.de](http://www.schudak.de)) or dumped into Lake Ontario as waste (J. Young).

## January 1933

Tuesday

3 Japanese soldiers invade into China from Manchuria ([wikipedia](#)).

Wednesday

4 Arrests in New York end a 5 year long counterfeiting and smuggling operation run by the Soviet Union that had distributed unknown millions in fake US currency ([wikipedia](#)).

Adolf Hitler and ex-Chancellor von Papen meet, and von Papen agrees to put the support of the conservative German National People's Party behind Hitler to bring down von Schleicher's government ([wikipedia](#)). Hitler agrees only if he is appointed Chancellor, promising important government posts to von Papen and his supporters (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>).

Thursday

5 In the Soviet Union carrying of internal passports is now required, defining and controlling who could live or travel where in the country ([wikipedia](#)).

Construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco ([wikipedia](#)).

Wednesday

11 First commercial flight between Australia and New Zealand by Sir Charles Kingsford Smith ([wikipedia](#)).

Friday

20 Great Depression After a major bank failure the State of Iowa declares a bank holiday (freeze of operations) to prevent mass withdrawals. This was followed by more failures in other states. By the day President Roosevelt was inaugurated in March half the 48 states in the country had had to declare similar bank holidays ([wikipedia](#)).

Monday

23 Nazi Party leaders meet with advisors of President von Hindenburg (including ex-Chancellor von Papen) to plan strategies to have him appoint Hitler as Chancellor. von Papen assures the

advisors that as vice-Chancellor he would be able to control Hitler (wikipedia).

Friday

27 Great Depression Following a walk-out of workers in an auto-body plant supplying the Ford Motor Co., Henry Ford closed all his plants, putting 100,000 Ford workers and 50,000 parts workers out of work (wikipedia). This was his attempt to exclude Unions from Ford plants, a situation that continued until 1941 (P.A. Sammons).

Saturday

28 First proposal for an independent Moslem country to be formed in the Indian sub-continent, to be called 'Pakstan' (wikipedia). See April 26, 1943.

In Germany Chancellor von Schleicher resigns, having failed to create a coalition government (wikipedia). A false rumour is spread through Berlin that von Schleicher is planning to use the Army to overthrow the government and establish a military dictatorship (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>).

Sunday

29 Hindenburg appoints a new Minister of Defence, Field Marshall Walter von Blomberg. Under the terms of the *Versailles Treaty* this position was to be held by a civilian, to counter the influence of the military, and von Blomberg was expected to resign from the Army upon taking up the post, but he kept putting this off. He was a fervent supporter of Hitler, and thus the military, which might have countered Hitler's influence in German politics, was neutralized (P. Adair).

Monday

30 Shaken by the rumour of a planned coup, Hindenburg (now 86 years old and tired) offers Hitler the position of Chancellor. Although his Nazi/National party coalition still does not control a majority in the Reichstag, he now has the power of the state and it's funds to use in the next elections which he called for March 5, 1933 (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>).

Edourd Daladier forms a government in France.

First broadcast of the radio western *The Lone Ranger* (wikipedia).

Tuesday

31 German Reichstag dissolved for new elections in March (wikipedia).

## February 1933

-- In response to an outbreak of rural violence the Spanish Government uses it's emergency powers to deploy military forces, which leads to indiscriminate killings and executions without trial of the insurgents, one of many such incidents where the Government was forced to react as it

sought reform through consensus in a country divided by factions of anarchists, socialists, communists, monarchists, fascists, those fighting for autonomous regional self rule (Basques, Catalonia) and the active opposition of the Church. Common before under the military government, these violent repressions by the elected government tended to polarize political views (SCW). Soon faced with growing strikes and opposition an election is called for November 19, 1933.

-- The RAF awards two contracts for it's October 1932 bomber specification, to Handley Page for what would become the Hampden, and Vickers Armstrong for their Crécý design, later re-named the Wellington (S. Bond). See January 29, 1936

Wednesday

1 Adolf Hitler makes his first speech as Chancellor of Germany, promising prosperity to farmers and full employment in Germany within 4 years (wikipedia).

Friday

3 Hitler tells German Generals of his determination to conquer land to the east for Germany, part of Nazi Party ideology of *Lebensraum* (Polsson). To this end he plans to re-introduce universal military conscription, which would mean destroying the *Versailles Treaty*. His first act as Chancellor is to pass a law forcing sterilization of German citizens with hereditary mental health problems, also part of the Nazi ideology of racial selection. This is later extended to those deemed to be "inferior people". His desire to euthanize these people, however, is opposed by German public opinion (Oxford). See August, 1939.

Saturday

4 Hitler, with von Hindenburg's consent, issues a decree *Ordinance for the Protection of the German People*, giving the police the power to ban any publications considered a threat to public order (wikipedia).

Sunday

5 In Sumatra, following cuts to their pay, and imprisonment of crew members who protested, the crew of the Dutch naval coastal defence ship *HNLMS De Zeven Provinciën* mutinied, and left port, stating they wanted to make public their wage grievance, then return the ship to the Navy at Surabaya (wikipedia).

Monday

6 Coldest temperature recorded in a community, -68°C (-90.4°F), at Oymyakon, Siberia, USSR (wikipedia).

Monday to Wednesday

6-8 RAF Fairey Long Range monoplane flies non-stop from RAF Cranwell in England to Walvis Bay, Namibia, a new world record distance of 8,544 km (5,309 miles) (M.J.H. Taylor).

Wednesday

8 First flight of the Boeing 247 airliner, an all metal stressed skin cantilever monoplane design with

retractable undercarriage, drag reducing cowlings and, later, variable pitch propellers, marking a major advance in aircraft design (M.J.H. Taylor). Orders by airlines other than *United Airways*, however, were held back as United Aircraft, which controls *United Airways* and Boeing, insists its orders be filled first. This prompts *Trans-Western Airlines* to ask Douglas Aircraft to design a similar airliner to compete. See July 1, 1933.

Hitler states in a Cabinet meeting his intention to re-arm Germany within 5 years, partially by focusing every state sponsored employment program to support the military in some manner (wikipedia). His intention to break Germany from the restrictions of the *Versailles Treaty* meant that Germany had to have a strong and modern army and navy, and the re-establishment of an air force (which was banned). His parallel plan to expand Germany's borders meant that Germany would be involved in a war or wars within the next decade with its neighbours, especially the Soviet Union.

Of significance, he believed England would be his ally in these wars (R. Meredith).

Record cold temperatures recorded in Texas in USA (wikipedia).

Thursday

9 The Oxford Union Society debated the motion "This House will under no circumstances fight for its King and country", which was passed by a majority. This underlined the growing divide between those who had fought in the Great War and the young who saw it as having served no useful purpose. The debate resulted in the *Oxford Pledge* for pacifism, and this spread world-wide, as did condemnation of the result. The *Pledge* was supported by other Universities but was not adopted by major universities in Canada, Australia or South Africa. In Italy and in Germany it was seen as proof that England was no longer the strong nation it had been and was cited by Mussolini as part of the reasons he ignored England's threats against his war in Ethiopia. Some Members made the point that while they would no longer support aggressive wars, they would fight in a defensive war, and this was borne out by many who volunteered for the Spanish Civil War and when England declared war in 1939 (wikipedia).

Record cold temperatures recorded in US states of Montana, Oregon and Wyoming (wikipedia).

Friday

10 Dutch Naval forces intercept the *HNLMS De Zeven Provinciën* at sea and demand the surrender of the mutineers. When they refuse they are attacked by aircraft, resulting in the death of 22 crewmen before surrendering (wikipedia).

Tuesday

14 Great Depression The State of Michigan declares an 8 day bank holiday, the first industrialized state to do so (wikipedia).

Wednesday

15 Assassination attempt on President-elect Roosevelt in Miami, Florida, leaves 5 wounded, one of



whom, Anton Cermak, the Mayor of Chicago, later dies from his wounds (wikipedia).

Friday

17 First publication of *Newsweek* magazine, with the cover story the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany (wikipedia).

The long time Mayor of Cologne, Germany, Konrad Adenauer, refuses to meet Hitler when he flies into the city, and orders the removal of Nazi Party symbols from civic property. A month later Hitler sends members of the SS to Cologne to murder Adenauer who flees, going into 3 years of hiding in Germany before being allowed to return to his home. In 1949 he became the first Chancellor of West Germany (wikipedia).

#4 Flying Boat (FB) Sqn. RCAF re-formed at Vancouver on Canadian Vickers Vancouver II aircraft.

Monday

20 Canada ratifies it's signature to the Geneva Convention.

Prohibition of Alcohol repealed in the USA (wikipedia).

Tuesday

21 As the new leader of the German state of Prussia Hermann Göring publishes a decree that Prussian police should shoot any "enemies of the state", and promising punishment to policemen whom are believed not to try hard enough to hit their targets (wikipedia).

Wednesday

22 As part of his policing policies in Prussia Göring appoints 55,000 Nazi stormtroopers to the Auxiliary Police, giving them the protection of the state for their actions supporting the Nazi Party. On the same day planning for concentration camps to hold political opponents of the Nazi Party is begun (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 Pornography and homosexuality declared illegal in Germany (wikipedia).

Friday

24 Following an overwhelming vote condemning it's actions in Manchuria, the Japanese delegation walks out of the *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

Communist Party headquarters in Berlin raided by Police. Government later claims (after the events of February 27, below) papers were uncovered planning mass arson of government buildings, businesses and other properties in Germany (wikipedia).

Monday

27 German Reichstag building is set on fire (wikipedia). It was a case of arson, with multiple fires breaking out in minutes. The question of who set the fires, or why, is never fully resolved. Five Communists were tried but the German Supreme Court found only one man guilty (who

stated he was not a communist) while stating the arson was not an individual act, which earned it the wrath of the Nazi Party (*Time Magazine*, January 1, 1934). To avoid the legal court system in future Hitler then set up "People's Courts" to try crimes deemed 'political' separately (E. Dee).

Tuesday

28 In the aftermath of the destruction of the Reichstag building the *Reichstag Fire Decree* (subtitled "*The Law to Remedy the Distress of the People*" (A.R. Gregg)) is passed as an emergency power, eliminating many civil rights in the state (including the right to personal liberty, R. Meredith). Mass arrests by Party Stormtroopers (now deputized as police by Göring, Feb. 22, above) and of political opponents on the Left (including Reichstag members) began immediately (wikipedia). An example of what is now called *Shock Doctrine*, this temporary State of Emergency decree imposed restrictions on civil rights in Germany that would never be lifted under the Nazis, and marks the point at which Germany changed from an elected democracy to a totalitarian dictatorship (Oxford). This is just 4 weeks after Hitler was appointed as Chancellor.

43 Sqn. Fury I K1936 collided with Fury I K1933 over England, **P/O R.V. Rolph RAF (Can.)** killed in K1936, P/O C.C. McMullen RAF landed, slightly injured (aircrewremembered.com). P/O Rolph had graduated from RAF College Cranwell, winning the Sword of Honour (H.A. Halliday).

## March 1933

Wednesday

1 Great Depression Bank holidays declared in Kentucky, Alabama and Louisiana, joining Maryland, Tennessee and Michigan in full closure, and Pennsylvania, Indiana and Arkansas with restrictions on withdrawals (wikipedia).

Thursday

2 Movie *King Kong* debuts in New York City (wikipedia).

Great Depression Bank holidays proclaimed in California, Arizona, Nevada, Mississippi and Oregon, while restrictions on withdrawals in Ohio and Illinois begin (wikipedia).

Friday

3 The Sanriku Earthquake, at 8.9 magnitude one of the largest ever recorded, followed by a tsunami wave, hits Honshu in Japan, killing over 3,000 people (wikipedia).

Ernst Thälmann, leader of the German Communist Party, arrested. Although he won his seat in the Reichstag elections 2 days later he would remain in concentration camps until executed in 1944 (wikipedia).

Great Depression Bank holidays declared in Texas, Georgia, Idaho, Washington, Oklahoma, New

Mexico, Oregon, Wisconsin, Utah and Kansas (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

4 Franklin Roosevelt inaugurated as President of the USA, makes the famous statement "*The only thing we have to fear is fear itself*" in his inaugural speech, and appoints among his administration the first woman to the US Cabinet, Frances Perkins as Secretary of Labour (wikipedia). His term begins with what he had called "*A New Deal*" for the USA, where the Federal government created opportunities through changes in law, or creation of programs, to use unemployed workers to build infrastructure for the public good. Much of the legislation was passed in the first 3 months of his administration ("*100 Days of Change*"). Many of his programs were challenged in court, and some were found unconstitutional, but most of the reforms survived and created the USA that prospered for the next four decades.

Austrian Parliament suspended over procedure, Chancellor Engelbert Dollfus initiates authoritarian rule by decree (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

5 German Federal Election, called the *Reichstag* election (held under the State of Emergency), gives only a slight majority of seats in favour of the Nazi party (288 plus 52 Nationalists under von Papen), but does not alter the balance of power in the Reichstag. However 81 elected Communists, the third party in the Elections, were not allowed to take their seats (wikipedia, <http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>).

#### Monday

6 Great Depression *National Bank Holiday* declared by President Roosevelt, all financial transactions in the USA frozen for 10 days to re-organize the system. Restrictions placed on the export of gold, and a state of National Emergency declared, to allow extraordinary measures to be taken to rejuvenate the economy (wikipedia).

#### Tuesday

7 In Austria Chancellor Dollfuss refuses to resolve the deadlock in Parliament, begins governing as a dictator (wikipedia).

#### Thursday

9 US Congress begins first 100 days of enacting New Deal legislation (wikipedia).

In Germany the Free State of Bavaria was overthrown by Nazi Party troops, and its non-Nazi leader replaced by new Nazi official (wikipedia).

#### Friday

10 A 6.4 magnitude earthquake kills 117 people in Long Beach, California (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

12 Great Depression First of President Roosevelt's "*Fireside Chats*", personal national radio broadcasts to explain his programs (wikipedia), using the methods pioneered by **Father**

**Coughlin.** This personal reaching out to people was part of his recognition that little could be achieved to solve the economic situation without hope and support from the public, and by explaining his policies and actions directly he could achieve this while giving his country hope for the future. This and his efforts to regulate the economic system in the USA led to him being termed a "Class Traitor" by his peers in the US industrial and wealthy elite. Without public support, however, he would have been unable to make the reforms of the "New Deal", and unlike Hitler in Germany or as happened in France, he achieved economic recovery without nationalizing any private industry. See November 1934.

Although a great supporter of Roosevelt at this time, Father Coughlin later became a bitter opponent when Roosevelt began to reach out to the Soviet Union (CBC *The Flamethrowers* podcast, 2021). See May 23, 1938.

Monday

13 Last open session of the Reichstag, Otto Wels, leader of the 2nd place Social Democratic Party, speaks out against Hitler's request for dictatorial powers, before leaving Germany for France (wikipedia).

Tornado kills 61 people in Nashville, Tennessee (wikipedia).

Tuesday

14 Great Depression National bank holiday ends at midnight. Those banks who chose to operate full services must now acquire an approved license. Nearly 450 banks in the USA had failed in between the start of the year and the beginning of the National bank holiday (wikipedia).

In Germany the *Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda* is formed under Joseph Goebbels, with the dual purpose of taking control of the instruments of culture and debate in Germany, while projecting the message to the world that the actions of the German government under the Nazi Party had complete support of the German people. One of Goebbels' first acts is to commission the design of affordable radio receivers (*Volksempfänger*, or 'Peoples Receiver') so that party propaganda could be widely disseminated (wikipedia).

In the British Parliament Winston Churchill makes his first speech on air power. In this he agrees with Baldwin's comments of the previous November, stating "*Air power may either end war or end civilization*", but did not believe that an industrialized country would bomb or gas civilians or towns that were not involved in supporting the fighting (see April 25-26 and 26-27, 1942). Nonetheless, he stressed the need for the Government to take proper measures for the defence of England from air attack by taking steps to build a more effective Air Force (S. Bond, R. Langworth).

Wednesday

15 Great Depression Dow Jones Average rises 10.3 points to close at 62.1, the largest single day percentage gain ever recorded (wikipedia).

In Austria attempts by members of Parliament to reconvene are thwarted by Chancellor Dollfuss (wikipedia).

Thursday

16 In Belgium the rise of the militant Nazi Party in Germany prompted a vote of money to improve fortifications on the Meuse River and German border (LoN). Defence spending would continue to increase in Belgium each year until the war as the country tried to maintain its neutrality.

Tuesday

21 In front of the tomb of Frederick the Great, Chancellor Adolf Hitler, President von Hindenburg and former Crown Prince Wilhelm appear together at a ceremony declaring the Third Reich of Germany (wikipedia).

The *Malicious Practices Act* was passed in Germany which made it illegal to criticize the Nazi Party, and by reporting those who acted in inappropriate or socially unacceptable ways, have them arrested 'to protect the state'. It was aimed at people who did not conform to the Nazi Party's ideals (such as homosexuals or alcoholics) who were detained under 'Preventive Custody', and the political opponents of the Party, especially communists and real socialists, who were to be placed under 'Protective Custody' (wikipedia). See March 24, 1937.

Wednesday

22 Under the *Reichstag Fire Decree*, and to isolate prisoners detained in 'Protective Custody' from other prisoners, the Dachau Concentration camp opens in Germany for political opponents of the Nazi Party (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 German Reichstag, without the elected Communist party members (who had for all practical purposes been banned under *Malicious Practices Act*) passes the *Enabling Act*, giving Hitler the right to make laws, even non-constitutional laws, without limit, without consultation, and without any means of control or repeal, for 4 years.

A constitutional amending bill required a quorum of two-thirds of the elected Reichstag, but President of the Reichstag Göring changed procedure by discounting the seats held by the Communists, giving the session a false two-thirds quorum. Communist members not yet in jail were kept away by the clear threat of arrest if they showed up in Parliament. Non-attending members from other parties were deemed as 'Present'. Those members allowed to vote had to cross into the parliament through a cordon of uniformed Nazi Party SA members, who chanted demands and threats if the bill did not pass, clearly audible inside the improvised meeting hall. Only the Social Democrats spoke out against the bill, provoking anger from Hitler. The vote was 444 in favour, 94 against, all Social Democrats. The Catholic Centre Party, whose leader had been promised concessions to the Church in return for their support, voted in favour. The promised concessions were never given (<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-hitlerdemo.htm>, wikipedia).

The *Enabling Act* would be renewed at regular intervals, giving Hitler continued dictatorial powers (wikipedia). See April 26, 1942. The German characteristic of unity and support for the state over the individual, which is one of that countries strengths, hindered a co-ordinated national resistance to such laws (Oxford).

Although many Germans did not agree with the Nazis (who are still a minority government despite the support of the conservative German National People's Party), public dissent or freedom of speech was not protected and those who spoke out were easily identified and eliminated under the *Malicious Practices Act* or other means.

At the same time the State began monitoring it's citizens to identify and prevent any organized resistance. This process was known as *Gleichschaltung* (or "co-ordination"), eliminating dissent by destroying or co-opting organizations that might lead dissent by replacing any elected leaders with leaders appointed by the party, unifying and controlling those that remained (such as education, workers or religious bodies) under the appointed leaders, and creating political organizations to indoctrinate citizens.

The German Social Democratic Party, which voted against the *Enabling Act*, was soon banned by the ruling Nazi Party (wikipedia).

Friday

24 In a press release Hitler denies any maltreatment of Jews in Germany (wikipedia).

Sunday

26 US Secretary of State, quoting Hitler, replies to worried US Jewish organizations that mistreatment of Jews in Germany had come to an end (wikipedia).

Monday

27 Nazi Party orders a nationwide boycott of Jewish stores to begin April 1, with enforcement by the SS (wikipedia).

Japan formally resigns from the *League of Nations* due to criticism of it's role in the Manchurian Incident, to take effect in 2 years. It makes it clear that it intends to maintain control of the Pacific Islands given to it by the League's Mandate after the 1914-1918 World War, in which it had invested considerable economic resources. Development of ports and later airfields in the Mandated Islands from this time, although carried out by and for civilian operations, included elements that could later be used for military applications (<http://tighar.org/Projects/Earhart/Archives/Research/ResearchPapers/mandates.html>), much as the Royal Navy paid a subsidy for designs of large passenger ships to incorporate more powerful engines and strengthened decks for mounting guns so they could be converted to Armed Merchant Cruisers in the event of a war.

Tuesday

28 *Imperial Airways* Argosy G-AACI *City of Liverpool*, enroute from Brussels to London, crashed near Diksmuide (Dixmude) in Belgium after catching fire and breaking up in the air, killing 15 crew

and passengers. The worst aviation accident involving a British airliner at the time, it is suspected it was the first destruction of an airliner by sabotage (wikipedia).

Wednesday

29 *Decree for the Protection of the People and the State* passed in Germany, retroactively making crimes such as arson punishable by death. It was used to execute the man found guilty of the Reichstag fire and political opponents of the Nazi Party convicted of treason by the "People's Courts" for actions taken before the Nazi party took control (wikipedia).

Thursday

30 Tornadoes in the USA kill 68 people (wikipedia).

Sale of land to foreigners in Trans-Jordan (Palestine) approved, allowing (among others) Jewish settlers to purchase land (wikipedia).

Friday

31 In Germany the *Preliminary Law for the Co-Ordination of the States and the Reich* was passed, establishing national control over previously semi-autonomous states and replacing their elected presidents with new appointed Nazi Party governors. At the same time Jewish judges and other court officers in Prussia were instructed to resign, while in Bavaria they were unilaterally "retired" (wikipedia).

Under the New Deal the *US Civilian Conservation Corps* was established (wikipedia).

Manpower of RCAF 103 Officers and 591 Enlisted. Cutbacks continued and no new construction of facilities was allowed. No new aircraft were purchased in this year. Total number of aircraft was 184, including 82 training aircraft and 83 civil and transportation aircraft. Only 19 aircraft were for designed for military use, including 9 Siskin fighters and 5 converted Vancouver flying boats. The first Air Gunners course was given this year for 8 airmen (CCMA).

## April 1933

-- As part of the *Gleichschaltung* process National Socialist Party youth organizations known collectively as "Hitler Youth", are made a state organization for boys and girls (Oxford). Voluntary at this time, these offered lucrative and appealing programs for children from 10 to 18, but these came with indoctrination in Nazi ideology. Both genders undertook athletics and camping, but girls were instructed in becoming good wives, boy's training focused on military skills. First started as party organizations in 1922 for boys and 1929 for girls, with state support the membership increased to 2.3 million children and youth by the end of 1933 (Oxford).

Saturday

1 Government organized 24 hour boycott of Jewish businesses in Germany goes ahead, but does

not get widespread support (wikipedia).

First squadron of the new Indian Air Force created (wikipedia).

Monday

3 First flight over Mount Everest (29,029', 8,848m) by the specially built Westland PV-3 and PV-6 aircraft (wikipedia).

Tuesday

4 US Navy airship *USS Akron* crashes at sea in a storm off New Jersey (wikipedia).

Germany enacts the *Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service*, making only "Aryans" eligible for government jobs or positions in public universities. Those deemed "non-Aryan" were dismissed (wikipedia).

Wednesday

5 By Executive Order private ownership of gold by US citizens was made illegal, and it was required to be sold to the Government (wikipedia).

Friday

7 Beer is legalized again in the USA (wikipedia).

Monday

10 Italian MC.72 racing seaplane takes the world speed record from the S.6b with a run of 424 mph (682 kph). See October 23, 1934.

Having occupied the Chinese province of Jehol, Japanese forces march towards Beijing (wikipedia).

Tuesday

11 Private flying clubs, including factory sponsored groups and clubs associated with education institutes, were declared illegal in Germany, only state sponsored clubs could operate, which could be used for training pilots for a still illegal air force (wikipedia). Again this is part of the *Gleichschaltung* process, unifying activities under a single appointed leader and eliminating possible dissent from freely elected independent groups.

Wednesday

12 German Government announces a Census of all Germans, to establish who is an "Aryan", and identify all Jews. To speed the work, which might have taken years, it contracts the US company IBM through it's German subsidy, to provide punch cards and high speed sorters (wikipedia).

Friday

14 First report of a large creature in Loch Ness, Scotland (wikipedia).



Wednesday

19 US goes off the gold standard (wikipedia).

Friday

21 Germany stops production of kosher meat products (wikipedia).

As a result of the number of medical doctors (many Jewish) leaving Germany, France enacts laws to prevent them practicing medicine in France (wikipedia).

Monday

24 German Public Health system stops paying for treatment by Jewish doctors (wikipedia).

Jehovah Witnesses Bible Students office in Magdeburg, Germany seized, the first step in the Nazi persecution of that religion (wikipedia).

Tuesday

25 The Reichstag enacts the *Law Against the Overcrowding of German Schools and Institutions of Higher Learning*, limiting the number of Jewish students who can attend school (wikipedia).

Canada goes off the gold standard (LoN).

Wednesday

26 *Geheime Staatspolizei* (Secret State Police) or *Gestapo* formed (wikipedia).

Thursday

27 Bell Telephone Laboratories physicist Karl G. Jansky delivers a lecture on his investigations of interference of radio transmissions, which identifies some as radio waves emanating from space, the beginning of radio-astronomy (wikipedia).

Farmers Revolt Farmers in Iowa kidnap a judge in a dispute about his signing mortgage foreclosures, leading to martial law being temporarily declared in the region (wikipedia).

Friday

28 The last article critical of the Nazi Party was published in Germany (wikipedia).

## May 1933

Tuesday

2 Hitler bans all labour unions in Germany. Labour leaders were arrested and all union properties were occupied by Nazi Party organizations. Workers were forced to join a state run workers organization (wikipedia). This was part of the *Gleichschaltung* process, again eliminating groups that might lead dissent and bringing them under a single association with Party appointed leaders. See March 25, 1934.

Wednesday

10 Massive book burnings organized in Germany, to destroy books written by Jews, socialists and pacifists, as well as others identified as "un-German" ("practically every modern German author with whom the outside world is familiar", *Time Magazine*, May 22, 1933). Pacifism was seen as undermining the spirit of National Socialism, which believed in decisive change through violence (wikipedia).

Thursday

11 Japanese drop leaflets on Beijing from a single bomber (wikipedia).

Friday

12 In the USA the *Agricultural Adjustment Act* to provide relief for farmers, and the *Federal Emergency Relief Act* to create jobs for unemployed workers, were signed (wikipedia).

Tuesday

16 US President Roosevelt outlines his "*Program for World Security*", asking the world's leading nations to work together to rebuild the economy and end production of offensive weapons (wikipedia).

Wednesday

17 Hitler endorses Roosevelt's disarmament proposal, and demands revision of the *Versailles Treaty* (wikipedia). On the same day laws are passed to make strikes and lock-outs illegal in Germany (LoN).

In Spain the law nationalizing property of the Roman Catholic church, banning church run schools and placing government in control of the church in Spain goes into effect (wikipedia). See June 3, 1933.

Thursday

18 President Roosevelt signs a bill creating the *Tennessee Valley Authority*, which would build hydro electric and flood control dams to bring electricity and flood protection to the southern USA (wikipedia).

Saturday

20 A single new party, the *Vaterlandische Front*, is formed in Austria by Chancellor Dollfuss, uniting right wing parties using Italian Fascism as a model (wikipedia).

More leaflets dropped on Beijing, this time from a formation of bombers (wikipedia).

Monday

22 A possible repeat occupation of Washington threatened by US veterans (the Bonus Army) was averted when they were offered employment in the newly created *Civilian Conservation Corps*. By years end there would be over 1,400 *Conservation Corps* camps open across the USA employing 300,000 men in environmental work (wikipedia).

Saturday

27 Chicago World's Fair opens (wikipedia).

Monday

29 US Standard Oil Company of California signs a 60 year deal to explore for and develop oil resources in Saudi Arabia (wikipedia).

Wednesday

31 With invading Japanese troops heading for Beijing, and overflights by Japanese Army Air Force bombers, China cedes Manchuria to Japan (wikipedia).

## June 1933

-- Great Depression Czechoslovakia, Britain, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania, short of money, offer a token payment of their war debt to the USA (LoN).

Thursday

1 German *Law for the Reduction of Unemployment* goes into effect, providing loans to "Aryans" when newly married if the woman left her job or agreed to remain unemployed, the loan repayment being reduced for each child born to the family (wikipedia).

Friday

2 Jews in Germany were banned from all youth and sports clubs (wikipedia). For more information on the extent of anti-semitic laws passed in Germany the diaries of Prof. Victor Klemperer are one of the best sources ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor\\_Klemperer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Klemperer)).

Saturday

3 Spain's President and other politicians excommunicated by Pope Pius XI for signing the law nationalizing the church in Spain (wikipedia).

US aviator Jimmie Mattern leaves New York on a non-stop flight to Europe in the Lockheed Vega NC896E *Century of Progress* in an attempt to complete a solo round-the-world flight (wikipedia).

Tuesday

6 First drive-in theatre opens in New Jersey (wikipedia).

Saturday

10 Specially modified Spanish Breguet 19 *Cuatro Vientos* (Four Winds) takes off from Seville, Spain, on a flight to Mexico City via Havana, Cuba (wikipedia).

Sunday

11 After a flight of just under 40 hours the *Cuatro Vientos* lands in Havana, Cuba (wikipedia).

Monday

12 Great Depression *International Economic Conference* meets in London to try to stabilize world currencies, with the aim of ending payments of debts and reparations from the war. However US President Roosevelt, whose country is owed the most money from the war by Allied nations, and had just had its currency heavily devalued after leaving the gold standard, instructs his delegation to only discuss individual tariff treaties between the USA and other countries, thus ensuring the conference will fail. As a result England in particular took a hard line on trade and its economy with the US, promoting economic nationalism and a "Buy British" campaign in the Commonwealth, which would begin a slow recovery in England (LoN).

Tuesday

13 With 40% of home mortgages in the USA under threat of foreclosure the *Federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation* was formed on this date to provide long term low interest loans to forestall foreclosures. These 15 year loans were available for only three years, but refinanced almost a million homes (wikipedia).

Wednesday

14 US aviator Jimmie Mattern disappears after leaving Khabarovsk in Soviet Russia (wikipedia).

Hitlers "Inspector of Austria", a German Nazi organizer sent to Austria in 1931 to reorganize the Austrian Nazi Party, expelled by Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss, leading to violent attacks by fascists supported by Germany across the country, against the Italian based fascist government (LoN).

Monday

19 A grenade attack leaves 16 policeman injured in Austria, culminating bombings and other public disturbances all linked to the Austrian Nazi Party. Following the attack Chancellor Dollfuss outlaws the party. In response Germany bans visits to Austria (wikipedia).

Tuesday

20 The Spanish *Cuatro Vientos* takes off from Havana for Mexico City, but disappears (wikipedia).

Thursday

22 As part of the *Gleichschaltung* process to eliminate dissent non-Nazi political parties are banned in Germany beginning with the 2nd party in the Reichstag, the Social Democratic Party, on this date (wikipedia).

Saturday

24 Nazi newspapers claim unidentified aircraft had flown over Berlin and dropped leaflets before flying back east, and demands establishment of a German air force (wikipedia).

Monday

26 Alfred Hugenberg, house leader of the German National People's Party, and Minister of Agriculture and Economics in Hitlers coalition cabinet, forced to resign, ending any control by other

parties on Hitler's ambitions (wikipedia).

Wednesday

28 Jimmie Mattern is found alive in Siberia by local Yupik hunters. His aircraft had crashed after an engine failure (wikipedia).

Friday

30 German films, plays, radio, art and music, as well as the newspapers, were by decree placed under control of the Minister for Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, limiting expression of anti-Nazi thought. Dr. Goebbels is also the person to whom the phrase "*If you have done nothing wrong, you have nothing to hide*" is attributed (wikipedia).

## July 1933

-- With the support of the German Nazi Party an organization is formed in New York, the *Friends of New Germany*, to gather support by German-Americans for the Nazi Party (wikipedia). See December, 1935.

Saturday

1 First flight of the Douglas DC-1 airliner, designed to compete with the Boeing 247. Developed from the Alpha, Gamma and Delta designs of John Northrup, whose company had been absorbed by Douglas, and put into production as the larger DC-2. Later developed as the DST, DC-3 and C-47 Dakota aircraft (M.J.H. Taylor).

Fourth and last of the record breaking mass flights of the Italian Air Force leaves Italy for the United States, with 24 twin hulled flying boats led by General Balbo (H.W. Neulen).

Friday

7 Missing US flyer Jimmie Mattern finally reached a location where he could telegraph his backers that he had survived (wikipedia).

Wednesday

12 Italian Air Force formation of 24 S.55 flying boats land at Cartwright, Newfoundland, enroute to the Chicago World's Fair.

Thursday

13 Italian Air Force S.55 formation arrives at Shediac, NB (CAHS Journal V.5 #2).

In Germany civil servants were required to use the Nazi salute and greeting *Heil Hitler* when on official business or ending official letters (wikipedia).

Friday

14 Italian Air Force flight of S.55 flying boats arrives in Montreal, Quebec, flying on to Chicago the next day (*Aeroplane Monthly*, Oct. 1995).

Formation of new political parties forbidden in Germany (wikipedia). This leaves the Nationalist Socialist Party as Germany's sole legal political party.

Also on this day the *Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring* was enacted in Germany, requiring the sterilization of Germans with mental disorders, including epilepsy, schizophrenia, and bi-polar disorder. Later this was to include juvenile delinquents, prostitutes and the homeless (wikipedia).

Saturday

15 Wiley Post leaves New York in the Lockheed Vega *Winnie Mae*, now equipped with an early auto pilot, for a solo around the world record flight attempt.

Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker NR688E *Lituanica*, modified for long range flight, takes off from New York flown by Lithuanian pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas in an attempt to fly non-stop to Lithuania. See July 17, below.

In Rome representatives of Germany, France, England and Italy sign the *Four Power Pact*, undertaking to reduce the size of their military forces and avoid war for 10 years (wikipedia).

Monday

17 Caught in bad weather the Bellanca CH-300 NR688E *Lituanica* crashed, just after midnight, in eastern Germany (now Poland), 650 km short of their destination. Both pilots were killed. Prior to the crash they had flown non-stop 6,267 km, the second longest non-stop flight then flown (*Aeroplane Monthly*, March, 2022).

The Stormtrooper force mobilized as police by Göring in February was incorporated into the Luftwaffe as a police and party military force controlled by Göring, and later formed as a special guard unit for Göring and became the basis of the Luftwaffe airborne forces (R. Meredith). See June 3, 1941.

Saturday

22 Wiley Post lands back in New York, achieving a record round the world (Northern Hemisphere) time of 7 days, 18 hours and 45 minutes (wikipedia). From Alaska he again followed the route to Edmonton, Alberta, later used as the North West Staging Route to supply Alaska and Soviet Union with aircraft.

In Regina the CCF held it's first National Convention, electing MP **J.S. Woodsworth** as Party Leader and adopting the *Regina Manifesto*, which sought to replace the capitalist economy in Canada with a socialist planned economy. Public Health Care and Unemployment Insurance in Canada can be said to have had their origins in this document.

Monday

24 Public announcement of the formation of the US chapter of the European based *International Relief Association*, sponsored by Relief Association head Albert Einstein. It's original purpose

was to assist people suffering under the policies of Hitler to leave Germany. Physicist Edward Teller was one of those helped. It continued its work in Italy, Spain and Vichy France, and is still engaged in helping refugees today, as the *International Rescue Committee* ([www.rescue.org](http://www.rescue.org)).

Tuesday

25 In Havana, Cuba, bus drivers go on strike to protest wage cuts. This would lead to other workers calling strikes over the next few days (wikipedia).

## August 1933

Tuesday

1 Returning to Europe General Balbo's formation of flying boats lands at Shoal Harbour, Newfoundland, where they remain 8 days before flying across the Atlantic. During this time they are visited by an Italian Navy yacht and 2 Italian submarines, part of the Italian fleet positioned for weather reporting and rescue duties on the route. In 1936 the Italian fleet would be used for the same purpose in the Mediterranean to guide Italian and German bombers from Italy to Spain (R. Meredith).

After calling for Indians to boycott liquor and imported cloth, Mahatma Gandhi was again arrested (wikipedia).

In Germany the first executions of Communists accused of killing Nazi members during clashes between the two political parties before Hitler gained power and found guilty in 'Peoples Courts' take place (wikipedia).

Wednesday

2 Opening of White Sea-Baltic Sea canal in the Soviet Union (wikipedia). It was built by convicts over 2 years. About 12,000 are officially acknowledged as having died during its construction, about 1 in 10 of the workers. To save costs its planned depth was reduced, limiting it to small vessels only (wikipedia).

New tough prison rules are adopted in Prussia, and later across Germany (wikipedia).

Saturday to Monday

5-7 French Blériot-Zapata 110 F-ALCC *Joseph Le Brix* aircraft flown by Paul Codos and Maurice Rossi establishes a new non-stop distance record from New York to Rayak, Syria, 9,104 km (5,657 miles) (M.J.H. Taylor).

Monday

7 In Havana, Cuba, President Machado ordered police to disperse crowds protesting against wage cuts. Firing into the crowds the police killed 21 people and wounded over 100 (wikipedia).

Wednesday

9 Cuban President Machado declares the country is in a state of war, and calls out the army (wikipedia).

Saturday

12 The Italian mass flight of 22 remaining S.55 flying boats lands back in Italy. A street in Chicago was re-named in honour of General Balbo for this achievement. In Italy he was promoted to Marshal (H.W. Neulen).

In Havana mobs ransacked the Presidential Palace. President Machado flees the country by aircraft (wikipedia).

First public statements by Winston Churchill on the dangers of German rearmament under Hitler (wikipedia).

Wednesday

16 Christie Pits Riots in Toronto. At a quarter final baseball game at the Christie Pits ball diamond between a largely Jewish and Italian community club and a Church supported club a swastika was displayed for the second time in the series. The symbol of the German Nazi party had been adopted by several groups in Canada as an anti-semitic taunt, while news of the widespread dismissal of German Jewish professionals and businessmen in Germany was being widely reported. Angry members of the opposing club rushed the other side to destroy the Swastika and a riot broke out that lasted several hours and left several people injured. It is estimated up to 10,000 people were involved in the fighting. The Mayor of Toronto **W.J. Stewart** later warned against displays of the swastikas and there were no further incidents of this scale in the City (wikipedia).

In jail, Gandhi begins a hunger strike (wikipedia).

Saturday

19 In the USA the *Emergency Education Program* was announced, employing out of work teachers and sending them to smaller rural communities to educate children, and also to teach adult literacy classes (wikipedia).

Sunday

20 Gandhi taken to hospital (wikipedia).

Tuesday

22 Members of the outlawed Austrian Nazi Party, expelled from Austria, gather en masse at points on the German border with Austria, threatening to invade and overthrow the government of Chancellor Dollfuss. In response Dollfuss seeks permission under the provisions of the *Versailles Treaty* to increase the size of the Austrian Army (wikipedia).

Wednesday

23 Gandhi released from jail (wikipedia).



In Germany the first lists of German citizens stripped of their rights were published (wikipedia).

Thursday

24 Provisional Government in Cuba dissolves Cuban Congress, plans new elections in 6 months.

Friday

25 Earthquake in China kills over 9,000 (wikipedia).

Sunday

27 *Haavara Agreement* between Zionist groups and the German Nazi Government allowed German Jews to emigrate to Palestine in return for them first using all their money to purchase German made goods, which would then be shipped to them in Palestine for re-sale. Some 60,000 German Jews left Europe under this scheme until 1939 (wikipedia).

Tuesday

29 First newspaper report on concentration camps in Germany, then used as political prisons (wikipedia).

Wednesday

30 German Jewish philosopher and critic of the Nazi Party Theodor Lessing assassinated in exile in Czechoslovakia by SS members (wikipedia).

*Air France* begins operations (wikipedia).

## September 1933

-- Canadian Union of Fascists party formed in Winnipeg (wikipedia;  
<https://gssibhistory.wikispaces.com/file/view/Fascism+and+Nazism.pdf>). See February, 1934.

Monday

4 Non-commissioned army officers led by Sgt Fulgencio Batista begin an uprising at their base in Cuba (wikipedia).

In air races in Chicago a Wedell-Williams 44 NC278V *Miss Patterson* flown by its designer Jimmy Wedell recorded a speed record of 305 mph in a land plane. This was still 100 miles slower than the record then held by the Macchi MC.72 floatplane (wikipedia).

Tuesday

5 As the military revolt in Cuba continues the Provisional Government stepped aside for a Junta allied with Sgt Batista. This junta would then appoint Dr. Ramon Grau San Martin as President, and Sgt Batista as Chief of Staff of the Army (wikipedia).

## Saturday

9 German physicist Albert Einstein arrived in London, England from Belgium, where he had been under police protection due to threats on his life for leaving Germany (wikipedia).

## Monday

11 In a lecture in England Nobel Laureate Ernest Rutherford, considered the father of nuclear physics, stated that his experiments had shown there was no useable energy to be gained by splitting the atom (wikipedia).

Chancellor Dollfuss proclaims Austria to be a one party Fascist state, modelled on Italian, not German, fascist policies (wikipedia).

## Tuesday

12 Having read Rutherford's comments stating energy from splitting the atom was not feasible, Hungarian born physicist Leó Szilárd conceives the theory of the nuclear chain reaction, which could release the energy of atoms on a large scale, while waiting for a crossing light to change in London (wikipedia).

## Wednesday

13 In Germany Hitler announced a program to feed and clothe Germans to face the coming winter, called the *Winterhilfswerk* (wikipedia).

## Friday

15 Joint Soviet-German fighter training school at Lipetsk in the USSR, in operation since 1925 to secretly train German military pilots and develop military aircraft designs, theories and tactics in spite of the *Versaille Treaty*, is closed, in part due to changing international scene and in part due to rise of the Nazi party in Germany (wikipedia). Other clandestine German-Soviet military schools are also closed, and the German collaboration on chemical warfare development was ended.

Although a German air force had been banned under the *Versailles Treaty*, the German Army had recognized a modern military required an air force, and had been secretly funding research of aircraft and weapons, and training of military pilots. As well in it's studies after the 1914-1918 war it's leaders had concluded that air operations should be co-ordinated with ground attacks, and that the first purpose of an air force in event of a war should be to attack and destroy an opponents air force, not their industries as Air Superiority theorists proposed. In this the German military was more advanced in offensive tactical theory than the air forces of other major powers (R. Meredith). This view had been reinforced by their studies of the *Gran Chaco* war between Paraguay and Bolivia, and of the conflicts between Japan and China, and would be refined in it's operations in the Spanish Civil War. See February 26, 1935.

## Thursday

21 US President Roosevelt approved \$75 million dollars to purchase clothing and surplus food to be distributed to 3.5 million families in need in the coming winter (wikipedia).

Friday

22 The *Reichskulturkammer* (Reich Chamber of Culture) was formed in Germany under Joseph Goebbels to supervise the arts, ostensibly to promote German culture, but acting also as a censor on public opinions and ideas by "purifying" the literature, movies, theatre, music, painting, sculpture, etc., and limiting exposure to foreign influence. All artists, writers, musicians etc. were required to register to continue their work. Membership was restricted to "Aryans" (wikipedia; Oxford).

Saturday

23 Groundbreaking for the first Autobahn in Germany, a program designed to put unemployed to work while building a network of highways to improve road transport that could also be used as military communications routes (wikipedia).

Sunday

24 German physicist Klaus Fuchs arrives in England. Later employed on the building of the atomic bomb, while acting as a spy for the Soviet Union (wikipedia).

Monday

25 Tampico, Mexico nearly destroyed by a tornado, 5,000 killed (wikipedia).

Singer **Ian Tyson** born (wikipedia).

Tuesday

26 In his trial for the burning of the German Reichstag, arsonist Marinus Van Der Lubbe confessed to starting other fires, but denied setting the Reichstag fires (wikipedia).

Thursday

28 Potez 33 aircraft flown by Gustov Lemoine in France sets new altitude record of 13,611 m (44,819 ft) (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 A new unofficial balloon altitude record of 19,000 m (62,336 ft) set in the Soviet Union by the balloon *USSR 1*, flown by G.A. Prokofiev, E. Birnbaum, and C.D. Godunov (wikipedia).

## October 1933

Tuesday

3 Assassination attempt injures Austrian Chancellor Englebert Dollfuss (wikipedia).

Wednesday

4 In Germany all editors of newspapers and magazines were required by law to be members of the Press League of the *Reichskulturkammer*, and thus "Aryan", and controlled by a Party led association (wikipedia).

Tuesday

10 *United Airlines* Trip #23, a Boeing 247 airliner NC13304, is destroyed by a bomb over Chesterton, Indiana, the first proven case of this type of murder, seven killed. The case remains unsolved (wikipedia).

Saturday

14 Germany withdraws from the *Disarmament Conference* at Geneva, Switzerland (Polsson). The conference had been meeting since February 1932 in an attempt to reduce the armies of all world powers. The final proposal was that France, Britain, Italy and the United States would not increase the size of their forces for 4 years, at which time Germany would be allowed to re-arm to the same level. Hitler would not accept this, and instead demanded to be allowed to begin re-arming with defensive weapons immediately. On this point the other powers would not agree, and the German delegation walked out (LoN). This marked the end of stability in Europe as Germany begins to re-arm unilaterally (Oxford).

Immediately the Reichstag in Germany was dissolved and a plebiscite and election on German re-armament is scheduled for November 12, 1933.

In England as a result, a Parliamentary Sub-Committee of the Imperial Defence Committee was formed to re-evaluate the defence of England and its Dominions and colonies. This marked the point at which the Commonwealth began to re-arm its military forces in earnest (wikipedia).

Monday

16 Germany announces intention to officially leave *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

In the USA the *Commodity Credit Corporation* is formed, allowing farmers to get loans using crops delivered to a warehouse as collateral, prior to its sale on the market (wikipedia).

Tuesday

17 Albert Einstein arrives in the USA as a refugee from Germany (wikipedia).

Thursday

19 Germany leaves the *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

Tuesday

24 In reference to the actions of Germany Winston Churchill warns of the threat of the re-arming of Germany in a speech in the British Parliament (RAF Timeline). The diplomatic response of the British government is to try to reason with Germany not to repudiate the *Versailles Treaty*, while at the same time deterring Germany's aggression by a modest show of strength, including building new bombers for the RAF at a rate which it is believed Germany could not match (Oxford). This marked the point where the RAF began to plan its aircraft designs and policies with the view of a possible war with Germany, rather than a theoretical 'enemy' of France (*Aeroplane Monthly*, Briefing Notes, July 2021).

Monday

30 In Spain a fascist party, the Falange Española, is formed by José Antonio Primo (wikipedia).

-- Mussolini begins plans to invade Ethiopia (Hallion)

## November 1933

-- First flight of the Breguet-Dorand *Gyroplane Labratoire* experimental helicopter in France, an advanced co-axial design, ends in a crash. See June 25, 1935.

-- Marshal Balbo, Deputy Minister for Air under Mussolini, is sent to Libya as it's new Governor, possibly to remove him from Rome as a rival. Although remembered now for the mass propaganda flights of flying boats of the period, his leadership of the Italian Air Force (following the air power theories of General Douhet) had created a large and effective force despite it's financial and technological restrictions (H.W. Neulen).

Thursday

2 In Provincial elections in British Columbia the Liberal party wins a majority, but the new CCF party forms the opposition (www.schudak.de).

Saturday

4 On the German Baltic island of Rügen, Otto Fischer becomes the first human to be launched in a manned rocket, reaching nearly 10,000 m or 30,000 ft in minutes before descending on a parachute (wikipedia). See March 28, 1935.

Sunday

5 Spanish Basques vote for autonomy (wikipedia).

Monday

6 In a cabinet speech British PM Ramsay MacDonald compared recent political events in Germany and the USA, stating that both were being run as dictatorships, and that he expected some sort of "backwash" (revolt) in both countries in the coming months (wikipedia). See November 20, 1934.

Tuesday

7 In India Mahatma Gandhi began a 9 month tour to support his campaign to end prejudice against "Untouchables" (wikipedia).

Thursday

9 President Roosevelt created the *Civilian Works Administration*, a scheme to provide temporary employment for nearly 4 million workers over the winter (wikipedia).

Friday

10 In Minnesota workers at the Hormel Foods meat packing plant who had been trying to form a

union and been replaced with temporary workers, seized the plant and occupied it. After three days the owner and workers agreed to arbitration, which raised their wages and allowed a union. Believed to be the first successful "sit-down" strike (wikipedia).

Farmers Revolt Also in Minnesota the Swift and Co. chicken processing plant was occupied by farmers angry at farm foreclosures in their region (wikipedia).

Saturday

11 In South Dakota high winds strip loose topsoil from a large area and turning the sky black over two days, believed to be the first of the iconic Dust Bowl storms that would affect western Canada and the USA in the next decade due to drought and poor land management (wikipedia).

Sunday

12 In the Plebiscite and Reichstag elections the decision by Germany to leave the *League of Nations*, begin re-armament, and the proposed Nazi Party candidates for the Reichstag, are overwhelmingly endorsed (wikipedia). No other parties were allowed to run.

Thursday

16 USA and USSR establish diplomatic relations (wikipedia).

In Venezuela US pilot Jimmie Angel flying a Metal Aircraft Corporation G-2-W Flamingo *El Rio Caroníon* on a prospecting flight was the first outsider to sight and map the waterfall that now bears his name, Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world. Returning with a small party weeks later to land at the site the plane became mired in the soft ground on the plateau where it stayed for nearly 40 years. The crew, which included Angel's wife, took 11 days to climb down the escarpment to the inhabited valley below (wikipedia).

Sunday

19 In the elections in Spain the popular vote is split, but the Conservative coalition gains the clear majority of seats. This is the first Spanish election that allows women to vote (SCW).

Monday

20 A magnitude 7.4 earthquake occurred in Baffin Bay in the Canadian Arctic (wikipedia).

Monday to Tuesday

20-21 A new official balloon record of 18,665 m (61,237 ft.) established from Akron, Ohio by Lt Cdr T.G.W. Settle USN and Maj C.L. Fordney USMC (M.J.H. Taylor).

Friday

24 In Germany the *Law Against Dangerous Habitual Criminals* was passed, making it legal for anyone deemed a chronic criminal to be jailed indefinitely. As criminal traits were believed by the Nazi Party to be hereditary, these prisoners could also be liable to sterilization. On the same day Hitler signed into law extensive animal protection legislation, probably the most humane in the world at the time, which ironically gave animals more rights than people deemed "undesirable" in Germany at the time (wikipedia).

Wednesday

29 *American Airlines* Curtiss Condor crash lands in Lake St. Clair, Ontario, enroute to Chicago, 2 crew and 9 passengers survive ([www3.gendisasters.com](http://www3.gendisasters.com)).

Thursday

30 **General Sir Arthur Currie GCMG KCB**, commander of the Canadian Corps in France in the Great War, died in Montreal. Known for planning battles to keep casualties to a minimum, he is widely considered as Canada's most distinguished soldier.

## December 1933

Tuesday

5 Prohibition of alcohol repealed in the US ([wikipedia](http://wikipedia)).

Tuesday

12 The Warburg Collection of works of antiquity and European culture is moved from Hamburg, Germany, to London, England, as a "loan" for three years, but in fact due to fears for it's safety after the book burnings of the previous May. It remains in London to this day.

Thursday

14 In a scheme to improve it's local supply of gasoline the German government signs an agreement to develop and purchase synthetic fuel produced from coal with the chemical company I.G. Farben ([wikipedia](http://wikipedia)).

Monday

18 Public announcement of plans to increase the size of the German Army ([wikipedia](http://wikipedia)). Originally it was intended to triple the size of the German military in 5 years. This was possible because the German Army had made provisions for such expansion if required in spite of the *Versailles Treaty*, which had forced Germany to have only a small volunteer army with no reserve forces (P. Adair).

Thursday

21 In return for it's overwhelming debts being assumed by Britain, the Dominion of Newfoundland temporarily surrendered it's independence to England. The *Newfoundland Commission of Government* was formed to run the Dominion, which would remain in power until Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949 ([wikipedia](http://wikipedia)). These debts originated from Newfoundlands support for England in the war of 1914-1918, and were increased by poor control of building of the Newfoundland Railway and political corruption. When Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949 the Dominion had settled its debts and had a surplus of \$40 million dollars (Clyde Wells interview, *CBC Sunday Edition*, July 5, 2020).

Saturday

30 First flight of the Polikarpov I-16 fighter, a small cantilever winged mixed wood and metal fighter

aircraft with retractable undercarriage and a semi-enclosed cockpit, based around a license built Wright Cyclone engine, considered the world's first modern fighter aircraft. The prototype was capable of 359 km/h (223 mph) (wikipedia). It was one of the earliest designs to use extra drop tanks for increased range (Oxford). See February 13, 1934.

## **1934**

- Unknown date, Maginot Line completed from the Swiss border to Sedan, where it is anchored on the Ardennes forest, which is thought to be impassable by armoured units (wikipedia). Likewise the Belgian border defences being strengthened after the rise of Hitler in Germany run from the North Sea coast to the northern shoulder of the Ardennes. At this time France and Belgium were allied under the *Franco-Belgian Accord of 1920*, by which both countries would mobilize if Germany threatened to invade either country (wikipedia). See October 14, 1936.
- Norsk Hydro begins the first commercial production of deuterium oxide (D<sub>2</sub>O, or heavy water) as a by-product of fertilizer production at the Vermork Hydroelectric plant at Telemark, Norway (wikipedia).
- In Germany Hans van Ohein continues to develop his ideas for a jet engine, and hires a mechanic to build a prototype (wikipedia).

## **January 1934**

Wednesday

10 Marinus van der Lubbe is executed in Germany for setting fire to the German Reichstag (wikipedia).

Friday

26 In Moscow the 17th Congress of the Communist Party opens to consider the effects of the First Five-Year Plan of 1927-1932, during which the Soviet Union under Stalin, fearing a war with the Western powers, had greatly expanded it's heavy industries in support of the military, and collectivized it's farms to feed it's expanded workforce. Those who opposed these programs, especially displaced farmers, had been sentenced to forced labour to build the system they had opposed. This supply of free [slave] labour soon led to a demand for more prisoners and soon even the smallest 'crime' would be punished by a sentence of forced labour. Instead of increasing the available food, collectivization and quotas had led to widespread famines throughout the country (some deliberate as methods to eliminate unruly ethnic groups, as in the Ukraine) in which it is estimated millions died. These programs had led to widespread disapproval of Stalin, but the industrialization of the First and later Five Year Plans laid the basis of the Soviet Union as a modern power, and gave it the means to fight back when it was invaded by Germany (wikipedia). [Please note this is a great simplification of the subject of the modernization of the USSR and the practice of using famine to destroy ethnic groups as practiced under Stalin]. See February 10, below.



Germany and Poland sign 10 year non-aggression pact (wikipedia).

27 Prime Minister of France Chautemps forced to resign due to corruption, succeeded by Édouard Daladier (wikipedia).

## February 1934

-- The *Parti National Social Chrétien*, a pro-fascist political party, is formed in Quebec by **Adrien Arcand** (wikipedia). Arcand had been abandoned by **R.B. Bennett** following the latter's Federal election win. See October, 1934.

### Saturday

3 *Lufthansa* begins regular airmail service across the South Atlantic from Berlin to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, using Dornier Wal flying boats capable of being launched by special catapult equipped ships which took them to sea and launched them when in range of South America or Africa (wikipedia; H. Amtmann).

### Tuesday

6 Following public demonstrations protesting dismissal of cabinet members and others by French PM Daladier, rioting by right wing supporters took place in Paris that left 17 dead and 2,000 injured (wikipedia).

### Wednesday

7 First airmail flight between Australia and New Zealand (wikipedia).

Daladier resigns as Prime Minister of France (wikipedia).

Churchill refers to the need to disburse arms factories as a measure against aerial bombing in a speech in Parliament (R. Langworth).

### Friday

9 Gaston Boumerque forms a new government in France (wikipedia).

### Saturday

10 17th Congress of the Communist Party ends in Moscow. During the Congress an attempt to remove Stalin from leadership and replace him with Sergei Kirov (who remained loyal to Stalin) was thwarted, but Kirov was elected to the Central Committee with more votes than Stalin received (wikipedia). Given the name "*Congress of the Victors*", it was later referred to ironically as the "*Congress of the Condemned*", as during the next 3 years 1,100 of the 2,000 party members who took part were arrested, and most were executed, as Stalin hardened his control of the Communist Party and the country. Of the 139 members elected to the Central Committee (in theory the group that ran the Soviet Union between Congresses), 98 would be executed and only 24 of the survivors would be re-elected in the next Congress in 1938

(wikipedia). See December 1, 1934, below.

#### Monday to Friday

12-16 Austrian Civil War, fights between socialist and conservative factions (wikipedia). Ends within days with the government still in power, but the labour force felt betrayed by the conservatives (LoN).

#### Tuesday

13 First flight of the Supermarine Type 224 fighter. The first to be called the Spitfire, the 224 was an attempt to meet the "impossible" specifications for a fighter carrying 4 guns capable of a speed of 250 mph. Designer R.J. Mitchell (who had also designed the Supermarine S.5, S.6 and S.6b Schneider racing aircraft) created an open cockpit monoplane aircraft with a cranked (or gull) cantilever wing of thick cross section for low speed handling (required to operate from small airfields of the period, which were actually fields), and fixed undercarriage. The aircraft was not able to meet the specified speed, partially due to the complexity of the steam evaporative cooled engine specified by the Air Ministry. Already obsolescent, it gave Mitchell a better understanding of what was required for a modern fighter, which assisted in the design of the Type 300, the aircraft now known as the Spitfire. See September 12, 1934 and March 5, 1936.

#### Friday

16 *Newfoundland Commission of Government* takes over control of Newfoundland. England had sought a confederation of the Dominion with Canada, but this was rejected. As a result Newfoundland reverts to the status of a Crown Colony of England, seen as a temporary measure. Much of the blame for this loss of sovereignty were the corrupt governments that had run the Dominion.

#### Sunday

18 Coast to Coast flight of the Douglas DC-1, 13 hours and 5 minutes non-stop across the USA.

#### Monday

19 US President Roosevelt cancels all Air Mail contracts in the USA after allegations of improper awarding of the contracts under the Hoover administration (wikipedia). Air Mail is then flown by USAAC pilots and aircraft after the military assured the President that they could handle the work. This turned out to be optimistic as the military pilots had not understood the level of professionalism attained by the commercial air mail pilots. Due to unfamiliarity with routes and poor instrument training several crashes and fatalities occur in bad weather, which are blamed on the President. As a result the USAAC begins training in modern instrument flying techniques, including adopting the Link Trainer instrument flight simulator. New contracts are negotiated by the Post Office which exclude companies involved in the corrupt bids, leading to widespread reorganization of the US airline industry.

## March 1934

-- Around this time the Falange Española party, a Spanish party based on the Italian Fascist model, begins to emerge as part of the Conservative coalition. Other factions plotted to restore the Spanish Monarchy (Monarchists), or appoint a new king (Carlists). Meanwhile the new Conservative Government began reversing the policies of the former Socialist-Anarchist Government, reducing wages and scrapping land reforms, which led to labour unrest and violence in the countryside (SCW).

Thursday

1 Manchuria unilaterally renamed Manchukuo by occupying Japanese as Emperor Henry Pu Yi is crowned by them as it's puppet ruler (wikipedia). Not recognized as an independent country by most other nations.

Sunday

18 In a speech in Rome Mussolini outlined a 60 year plan intended to make Italy the leading world nation, by expanding that countries influence in Africa and Asia (wikipedia).

Tuesday

20 All police forces in Germany come under command of Heinrich Himmler (wikipedia). Again eliminating possible opposition to the party by unifying services under an appointed leader.

A threatened strike by over 100,000 auto workers in the USA is postponed at the direct request of President Roosevelt (wikipedia).

Saturday

24 Philippine Commonwealth established, beginning of self government in the Philippines (wikipedia). The USA and the Philippines agreed to a 12 year transition period before full independence.

Sunday

25 President Roosevelt creates the *National Automotive Labour Board* to negotiate disputes with labour, ending the threat of an auto workers strike (wikipedia).

In Italy "elections" are held to appoint members to the parliament who would then vote to end it in favour of rule by dictatorship (wikipedia).

Saturday

31 Manpower of RCAF is 106 officers and 586 enlisted Regular, 26 officers and 8 enlisted in the NPAAF. A slight increase in the budget allows construction of new facilities to resume, and the purchase of 10 second hand Atlas army co-operation aircraft from the RAF to join 6 machines purchased new in the late 1920s. The station at Dartmouth, NS, is re-opened. More photo survey work is undertaken. The original NPAAF Squadrons would be equipped with de Havilland Moth aircraft and begin flying training. Training of Air Gunners continued and new courses for Wireless Operators and specialist ground trades added. There were 4,000 applications to enlist in the RCAF during the year (CCMA).

## April 1934

-- Concerned by the proliferation of Social Credit societies in Alberta, which included members of the United Farmers of Alberta co-operative party, the UFA led Provincial Government held a public inquiry into the movement. The founder of the movement, Major C.H. Douglas, traveled from England and appeared before the inquiry with other prominent Social Credit supporters including **William Aberhart** and his protege **Ernest Manning**. The UFA rejected the adoption of Social Credit ideals as unconstitutional but paid Major Douglas to act as an advisor on economics. This meeting of Social Credit groups also strengthened the movement and led in early 1935 to a decision to run members for election to the Provincial Legislature (E. Dee). See April 5, 1935.

### Tuesday

3 Construction of the eight engined ANT-20 *Maxim Gorki* propaganda aircraft completed in the USSR, the world's largest aircraft at the time (wikipedia). See May 18, 1935.

### Wednesday

4 Due to the German re-armament, Poland and the Soviet Union extended their non-aggression pact of 1932 for another 10 years, while Russia begins a large scale re-armament program as well (LoN).

### Wednesday

11 Renato Donati of Italy establishes a new altitude record for aircraft of 47,352 feet (14,433 m) in a Caproni Ca-113 (wikipedia).

### Thursday

12 Soviet TB-1 aircraft are used to rescue the 104 members of the crew of the ship *Chelyuskin*, stranded in Arctic ice after their ship sank in February (M.J.H. Taylor). The final group was rescued on this date (wikipedia). One of these pilots, Nikolay Kamanin, commanded a division of ground attack aircraft during the war, and was later head of the Russian manned space program (C. Bergström).

### Friday

13 The response of the USA to those countries which had defaulted re-payment of war debt was the *Johnson Debt Default Act*, passed on this date. This prohibited any financial transactions with the defaulting countries, which had the effect of damaging international trade and deepening the Great Depression (LoN).

### Monday

16 #5 Flying Boat (FB) Sqn. RCAF formed at Dartmouth, NS, on Fairchild 71 floatplanes (RCAF Sqns.).

Tuesday

17 First flight of the Fairey Swordfish torpedo bomber (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 Great Depression In an attempt to stay solvent the NHL Ottawa Senators hockey team moves to St. Louis and becomes the Eagles (wikipedia; K. Cuthbertson). See April 1935.

Monday

30 Last session of the Austrian Parliament, to enact a constitution to allow the Chancellor to rule by decree. With nearly half its members imprisoned or in hiding, the remainder of the Austrian parliament meets and approves a new constitution that legalizes rule by dictatorship. The meeting took 15 minutes to end democratic rule in the country (wikipedia).

## May 1934

-- As Italy's policies in the Mediterranean became more aggressive, Turkey began a re-armament program (LoN).

-- In *Scientific American*, in response to newspaper reports that weather was not as severe as it had been in the previous century, the US Weather Bureau reported that their research indicated the average temperature had risen, but that this was probably part of a natural cycle. This is now considered one of the first published observations of anthropomorphic [man-made] climate change (<http://history.aip.org/history/climate/20ctrend.htm#S1>).

Tuesday and Wednesday

1 & 2 Details of secret US plans, accidentally released, to build hidden airfields camouflaged as farm fields on the border with Canada to be used in a surprise invasion and annexation of that country as part of War Plan RED are published. This angers President Roosevelt, who has to assure England (and Canada) it had nothing to fear of US military plans on the continent (*America's Planned War on Britain* documentary, Youtube). See July 15, 1939.

Saturday

5 Having been unable to find support for his theories on armoured warfare within the French military Lt Col Charles de Gaulle published them as a book, *Vers l'Armée de Métier* (Toward a Professional Army), which appeared on this date. He argued against the static warfare represented by the Maginot Line, and the reliance on a conscript army, and proposed forming a permanent force of motorized infantry and tanks, supported by aircraft (although he saw air attack as secondary to ground forces), that could move and deploy quickly. His theories were very similar to the later tactics that evolved in Germany. Although his book was a poor seller in France it did bring him to the attention of future premier Paul Reynaud, and they became friends (wikipedia; <http://www.musee-armee.fr>). The book was studied by other nations including Germany, England and the USA. See May 17, 1940.

Tuesday

8 In Germany restrictions on the press were eased to allow some free expression after newspaper sales have heavily declined with every newspaper printing the same, identical, government approved reports on public events (wikipedia).

8-23 New Zealand pilot Jean Batten establishes new record England to Australia of 14 days, 22 hours (wikipedia).

Wednesday

9 Longshoremen on the US west coast go out on strike demanding a union (wikipedia).

Friday

11 First flight of the Douglas DC-2 (wikipedia). This was a larger development of the DC-1 airliner.

Friday to Saturday

11-12 One of the worst dust storms of the thirties blows across western US and Canada (wikipedia).

Thursday

17 Pro-Nazi rally at Madison Square Gardens in New York City attended by 20,000 (wikipedia).

Monday

28 Birth of **Dionne Quintuplets** near Corbeil, Ontario. Their uncles inquiry what rate he would be charged for an announcement for five births results in a newspaper article that sparked world wide interest (wikipedia).

Tuesday

29 First regular airmail flights in England begin (wikipedia).

## June 1934

-- Martin B-10 enters service with USAAC, first US all metal bomber with retractable landing gear, an enclosed bomb bay and gun turrets, considered to be the first modern bomber design (wikipedia). This aircraft strongly influences other designs and begins a short period when similar light bombers were faster than fighter aircraft in service, which seemed to confirm the statements of Air Superiority theorists on the superiority of the bomber over the fighter. What was overlooked, however, is that many of the improvements that made these bombers successful (retractable undercarriage, drag reduction cowlings, cantilever monoplane wings, variable pitch propellers, etc.) would now be developed and applied to new fighter designs as well.

Friday

1 US Air Mail contracts revert to re-organized private companies, USAAC ends it's flights (M.J.H. Taylor).

Great Depression US President reminds countries that still owe money to the USA for war loans that he still expects them to repay (wikipedia).

Monday

4 *USS Ranger*, the first purpose built US Navy aircraft carrier, commissioned (wikipedia). This ship incorporates many of the features of aircraft carriers of the next decade, but due to budget restrictions the ship is built too small for major fleet operations. In the Second World War it is largely restricted to anti-submarine patrols in the Atlantic. See October 4, 1943.

Great Depression Britain informs the US it will not make any more payments on it's war debt to the USA, as they consider the debts to have been part of the cause of the Depression, and payments would hinder economic recovery world wide (wikipedia).

Wednesday

6 President Roosevelt creates the *Securities and Exchange Commission*, to regulate the stock market and other financial transactions (wikipedia).

Friday

8 A wave of bombings takes place across Austria affecting power stations, railways and telephones (wikipedia).

Saturday

9 Soviet Union signs a border agreement with Poland and Romania, formally recognizing Bessarabia as part of Romania (wikipedia). See June 16 and 26, 1940. At the same time Russia also formally recognizes Czechoslovakia (wikipedia).

Thursday

14 Hitler flies to Venice to meet Mussolini for the first time (wikipedia). Dressed in a suit he makes a poor comparison to Mussolini in his uniforms, a lesson he takes to heart.

Sunday

17 Acting on the instructions of President von Hindenburg, concerned by the actions of Hitler, vice-Chancellor von Papen makes a speech at the University of Marburg calling for the restoration of freedoms across Germany, reporting of which was mostly suppressed (wikipedia). See June 21, below.

Monday

18 A flight of 5 RAF Fury fighter aircraft from 1 Sqn. RAF visits Toronto for the City's centennial celebrations, later touring Ontario and Quebec until July 27 (CCMA). The pilots were W/C G.C. Pirie MC DFC RAF, F/L E.G.H Russel-Tracey RAF, F/O J.W. Donaldson RAF, F/O C.J.S. Chatterton RAF and F/O F.H. Dixon RAF (K. MacLean at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Thursday

21 Hitler visits von Hindenburg after rumours that the German President, the only legal authority over Hitler, was thinking of declaring martial law. Hindenburg was concerned by the continued

political unrest and attacks by the uniformed Nazi Party paramilitary SA and SS. Hitler was already planning to take action against the SA, which were threatening to replace him, and managed to prevent the President from bringing in the Army (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 Hitler orders a purge of the SA (Nazi Party's paramilitary wing) to rid the Party of his potential political rivals. This marks the ascendancy of Himmler and the SS in German politics. Over 1000 Germans considered threats to Hitler are murdered over the next few days, including the previous Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher and leader of the SA, Ernst Roehm (personally shot with his SA entourage by SS troops under command of Goebbels and Hitler). SS takes over operation of the Oranienburg concentration camp. The German Army had been brought to a state of readiness to act, but was soon stood down while President von Hindenburg congratulated Hitler for acting to save Germany (wikipedia). This was probably the last opportunity the German state had of rejecting Hitler and the Nazi party.

## July 1934

Tuesday

3 More bombings occur in Austria (wikipedia).

Wednesday

4 Polish-French physicist Marie Curie, discoverer of the elements of Radium and Polonium, the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize and one of only two people to be awarded a second (1903 for Physics and 1911 for Chemistry), developer of the mobile X-Ray for use in field hospitals in the 1914-1918 World War, dies in France at 66, from the effects of radiation.

As part of the Centennial celebrations in Toronto the Parliamentary Mace of Upper Canada, seized by US forces in 1813 during the Battle of York, was returned by the USA (wikipedia).

Thursday

5 Longshoremen picketers attack non-union labour brought in to unload ships under police protection in San Francisco, 2 killed (wikipedia).

Sunday

8 Teamsters on the US West Coast vote to strike in sympathy with longshoremen and sailors (wikipedia).

Tuesday

10 Critic of Hitler, Social Democrat Erich Muhsam, beaten to death at Oranienburg Concentration Camp (wikipedia).

United Farmers of Alberta Premier Brownlee resigns after losing the appeal of a lawsuit against him for seduction.



Friday

13 Chancellor Dollfuss decrees explosives in Austria are to be surrendered to the government (wikipedia).

Saturday

14 A power plant in Austria is destroyed by a bomb (wikipedia).

Sunday

15 California National Guard members called out in San Francisco due to dockworkers strike (wikipedia).

Monday

16 General strike begins in San Francisco. Strike leaders ask President Roosevelt for arbitration (wikipedia).

Thursday

19 Proposal to increase the size of the RAF and introduce more modern designs put forward in the English Parliament (F.K. Mason). The RAF plans an increase of 41 new Squadrons (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/04/crash-1929-wall-street-what-the-great-depression-reveals-about-our-future> Timeline of Turmoil).

Part of this expansion included offering positions to citizens of Commonwealth countries to become officers (RAF Timeline). These 'short term commissions' did not require the same high education standards as a permanent commission did in the RAF or RCAF. Prior to this applicants to the RAF from Dominions required a higher (university?) education and were subject to quotas. On the [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com) site under a thread for William Daniel Woods (36006) contributor floyd williston notes that the quota for Canada in 1930 was 2 per year. See March 8, 1942 for [W/C W.D. Woods RAF \(Can.\)](#).

San Francisco general strike ends (wikipedia).

July 19 - August 20

US General Hap Arnold leads a proving flight of 10 B-10 Bombers from Washington DC to Fairbanks, Alaska, landing at Winnipeg Manitoba, Regina Saskatchewan, Edmonton Alberta and Prince George BC on the way ([www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil)).

Friday

20 The *Shutzstaffel*, or SS, is reformed as an independent paramilitary organization of the Nazi Party, reporting directly to Hitler (wikipedia).

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, nearly 70 people are injured in fighting during a general strike there (wikipedia).

Opposition parties in British Parliament opposes proposed increase in RAF.

#### Saturday

21 RAF Pilot John Grierson leaves London in his float equipped DH.83 Fox Moth G-ACRK *Robert Bruce* on his third attempt to fly to Ottawa. He flew to Iceland, then across Greenland (the first aircraft do so), then down the east coast of Baffin Island to the Hudsons Bay Co. post at Lake Harbour, NWT (now Kimmirut, Nunavut), then to Puvirnituk and East Main in Quebec before arriving at Ottawa in late August (D. Metcalfe-Chenail).

#### Sunday

22 US War Department report recommends expansion of the USAAC to 2,320 aircraft (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See January 1936 and June 24, 1936.

#### Monday

23 Three firemen are killed and several injured in the explosion of a burning oil barge in Toronto, Ontario ([www3.gendisasters.com](http://www3.gendisasters.com)).

#### Tuesday

24 Austrian Chancellor Englebert Dollfuss is assassinated in failed coup attempt by the Austrian Nazi Party, supported by Germany (LoN).

#### Wednesday

25 Australia begins a three year program of re-armament (LoN).

#### Thursday

26 Mussolini orders Italian troops to march to the border with Austria to counter any attempt by Germany to annex that country (wikipedia). Yugoslavia also mobilizes to support Austria if needed (LoN).

Martial law declared in Minneapolis, USA (wikipedia).

#### Friday

27 First flight of the Supermarine Stranraer flying boat (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

2884 Sqn., Basra, Iraq, **F/L? G. Supple RAF (Can.)** died of Malaria (H.A. Halliday).

*Swissair* Curtiss Condor II CH-130 crashed in Germany due to structural failure in a thunderstorm. Twelve passengers and crew killed including Nelly Diener, the first stewardess employed by a European airline (wikipedia).

In South Dakota an attempt on the world record altitude for balloons just failed, the balloon crashing from 60,000 feet, the three crew bailing out at low altitude (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

29 West Coast Longshoreman's Strike ended after police and companies make raids on union facilities and communist offices, many of which were totally destroyed. Police talking to

reporters suggested the destruction had been done by the unions themselves for "publicity". Arbitration gave the longshoreman a union, but did not stop unrest on the waterfront (wikipedia).

Monday

30 Debate held in the English Parliament on expansion of the RAF. Conservative leader Stanley Baldwin makes the point that the defence of England's frontier begins not at its shores but on the Rhine (wikipedia). Churchill notes that Germany is believed to be already fielding two thirds of the RAF's strength in England in modern aircraft, and is still expanding (it is possible they had already matched the numbers of the RAF at this time, but the existence of a German air force, now an open secret, was still unofficial, and it was not fully organized or ready to fight). Bill passes, the RAF now has a clear mandate to begin expanding and re-arming (F.K. Mason).

-- At around this time the British government sent envoys to Canada and other Dominions to gauge their feelings about being involved in a future war in Europe. In New Zealand and Australia the report found widespread support for England, but in Canada it was mixed with other influences. In common with most of the belligerents involved in the World War of 1914-1918 Canadians had no wish to see another war on that scale. However, the country was very proud of what it had accomplished in that war, but remembered the high cost (more casualties per capita than any other Allied country). The effects of the economic depression, combined with the drought in the prairies (over 100,000 people in Canada and the USA were forced to move due to the effects of drought in the 1930's (CBC *The Current*, Oct. 28, 2013)), had turned many against the ruling government and the businessmen who were seen to have caused it. The policy of isolationism in the USA also influenced many Canadians, further eroding support for the Commonwealth. The report concluded that Canadians could be counted on to support England if it was involved in a war against an aggressor, but that care should be taken to ensure the reasons for the war were explained (Douglas & Greenhous). Canada's support was not a given.

## August 1934

-- Based on the ideas of the dominance of the bomber, German cities are secretly grouped into three classes for Civil Defence. Those considered most important (especially centres of production) receive full resources to build air raid shelters, etc., the second class receive resources to expand existing emergency facilities, while the last class must use their own resources to provide facilities for their citizens (Oxford). This defence plan accepts the doctrine of Air Superiority pundits on the power of the bomber as an offensive weapon, but also throws a light on the German intentions for the use of air power. See December 1937.

-- In England the RAF received 10 Avro-Cierva Rota I gyroplanes which were used to evaluate their use for observation and artillery spotting, and other duties (*Flypast Magazine*, July 2023). During the war some of these were used for radar calibration where their ability to near hover was useful, but although using rotors for lift and

direction these were unpowered, and they depended on an engine and propellor for thrust, and flying slowly, were vulnerable to ground-fire.

Wednesday

1 Told that German President von Hindenburg is dying, Hitler passes the *Law on the Head of State of the German Reich*, merging the offices of President and Chancellor into one, renamed *Führer [Leader] and Reich Chancellor* (wikipedia). This further weakened the German state as there was no curb on any actions Hitler might make, be they legal or not (P. Adair).

Thursday

2 German President Hindenburg dies, Adolf Hitler announces the new law and assumes the office of Reich President, with a referendum to follow to confirm this act (wikipedia).

Saturday

4 Twentieth anniversary of Britain's (and Canada's) entry into the 1914-1918 World War.

Tuesday

7 Funeral of von Hindenburg. With no political backing his protege von Papen resigned as Vice-Chancellor and his position was left vacant (wikipedia).

Wednesday

8 At the command of Field Marshal von Blomberg the German Army oath is changed from supporting the constitution to a personal loyalty oath to Adolf Hitler (wikipedia, P. Adair).

Wednesday to Thursday

8-9 **James R. Ayling** and **Leonard G. Reid** fly nonstop from Wasaga Beach, Georgian Bay, Ontario to London, England in the DH.84 G-ACJM *Trail of the Cariboo*, in 30 hours and 50 minutes (wikipedia; Closed Canadian Parks-Ontario; M.J.H. Taylor). The flight was intended to fly non-stop to Baghdad and create a new long-distance record, but problems with the throttles forced the crew to fly at full power, using too much fuel, and causing them to land in England. Three days later the aircraft was wrecked in a landing accident (R. Riding), preventing another attempt.

Tuesday

14 Labatt Brewing Company president **John S. Labatt** kidnapped driving between Sarnia and London Ontario. He was released three days later when the kidnappers panicked (wikipedia).

Wednesday

15 von Hindenburg's last message published in the German press, praising Chancellor Hitler. His written request to Hitler to restore the German Monarchy was suppressed (wikipedia).

Saturday

18 Unofficial contacts between the Soviet Union and the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo were ended due to continued incidents along their borders (wikipedia).

Sunday

19 Referendum in Germany approves Hitler's status as *Führer and Reich Chancellor* by a reported 90% of the population (wikipedia). There is now no legal means to remove Hitler as Germany's leader and no other political control of his actions.

Monday

20 Proving flight of 10 B-10 aircraft returns to Washington from Alaska, overflying BC to Seattle on the return flight (www.nationalmuseum.af.mil, wikipedia).

Tuesday

21 Three month long Minneapolis general strike ended, martial law lifted (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 The drought in the prairies was so severe that on this date the Canadian Government announced it would move 40,000 families and 500,000 head of livestock out of affected areas in Saskatchewan and Manitoba (wikipedia).

## September 1934

-- #12 (AC) Sqn. NPAAF, Winnipeg, Man., receives Moth aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #4 (FB) Sqn. RCAF begins to receive Fairchild 71 floatplanes (RCAF Sqns.).

Saturday

1 Formation of NPAAF #15 (Fighter) Sqn. and #18 (Bomber) Sqn. authorized in Montreal (CCMA).

In the USA about 1 million textile workers went on a national strike to protest that actions promised under Roosevelt's *New Deal* were being disregarded by mill owners (wikipedia).

Sunday

2 Three striking textile workers and a security guard were killed in two incidents in the USA (wikipedia).

Wednesday

5 Nazi Party opens the 8th Nuremberg rally, declaring that the new Reich would last 1,000 years (wikipedia).

Thursday

6 In South Carolina a textile picket line was attacked by security guards who shot and killed 6 and wounded more than 20 striking workers (wikipedia).

Sunday

9 Rally of *British Union of Fascists* in Hyde Park in London attracts 1,200 supporters and 8,000 protesters, which were held back by a 7,000 strong police force that surrounded the Park (wikipedia).

Tuesday

11 Martial law declared in parts of Rhode Island where textile strikers and National Guard were fighting each other. In Georgia martial law was also declared and union leaders were rounded up and held in a former PoW camp (wikipedia).

Wednesday

12 First flight of Gloster Gladiator fighter (wikipedia). This is a metal framed/fabric covered biplane fighter with an enclosed cockpit, the last biplane fighter adopted by the RAF. This design achieves the "impossible" requirement of a fighter armed with 4 machine guns capable of flying at 250 mph. Other biplanes would be faster, but the upper limit of the biplane design was being reached.

Tuesday

18 Mussolini orders compulsory military training for all boys beginning at 8 years old (wikipedia).

Wednesday

19 Soviet Union joins the *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

Friday

21 Typhoon hits Honshu, Japan, killing 3,000 (wikipedia).

Musician and poet **Leonard Cohen** born in Westmount, Quebec (wikipedia).

Saturday

22 National Textile Strike ended as Roosevelt promotes arbitration, but the owners in the southern USA never accept it, punished those who went on strike, and by various tactics never allow a union to be formed in that industry (wikipedia).

Wednesday

26 *RMS Queen Mary* launched (wikipedia).

## October 1934

-- NPAAF #10 (AC) Sqn. (Auxiliary), Toronto and #11 (AC) Sqn. (Auxiliary), Vancouver received their first aircraft, DH.60 Moths (RCAF Sqns.).

-- The Canadian pro-fascist *Parti National Social Chrétien* from Quebec merges with the Western Canadian based *Canadian Nationalist Party*, which was a supporter of Social Credit, to form the *Canadian National Socialist Unity Party* under **Adrien Arcand**. The Party used a red swastika in a white circle on a blue flag for its symbol, and in imitation of Germany's Nazi party formed a paramilitary group called the "*Blue Shirts*". Among its policies it wanted to exile Canadian Jews to colonies on Hudson's Bay (wikipedia). See January 2, 1935.

## Monday

- 1 In Spain the leader of the Conservative coalition withdraws support for the government, demanding a greater role in the Cabinet (SCW).

Economic progress in Newfoundland led to the *Commission of Government* to announce lower import duties beginning in 1935 (LoN).

## Tuesday

- 2 Tornado in Osaka, Japan, destroys rice crop and kills 1,660 (wikipedia).

## Thursday

- 4 General strike in Spain and an attempt by Catalonians to secede, due to Conservative demands, put down by authorities, but a coalition of miners and left wing parties took over the province of Asturias. The government sent General Francisco Franco with troops from Spanish Morocco to put down the revolt, which was done with great brutality (SCW).

## Sunday

- 7 First flight of Tupolev ANT-40.1 light bomber with Wright Cyclone radial engines (wikipedia). See December 30, below.

## Monday

- 8 First flight of the Savoia-Marchetti SM.79 aircraft. This was designed as a long-range high-speed racer and passenger aircraft intended to compete in the MacRobertson Air Race, but it was not ready in time. It used the most modern ideas in aircraft design but using the conventional construction techniques of a welded steel framed fabric covered fuselage and tail, with a wooden plywood skinned wing, combined with cowled radial engines and retractable undercarriage, and three engines as Italian engines of higher power were not available. It was very fast and would take many world speed and distance records, but unlike the Martin B-10, Tupolev ANT-40/SB and similar aircraft, it represented the upper limit of fabric covered built on a conventional airframe aircraft (L. Caliaro).

## Tuesday

- 9 King Alexander of Yugoslavia and French Foreign Secretary Louis Barthou assassinated in Marseilles, France. Barthou's successor was Pierre Laval (LoN; wikipedia). See March 16, 1935.

## Thursday

- 11 At least 6 people are killed when a building explodes in Halifax, NS (www3.gendisasters.com).

## Tuesday

- 16 Facing annihilation by the Kuomintang Army, the Chinese Communist Army under Zou Enlai and Mao Zedung begins the Long March to disengage and retreat to a remote area of China, fighting their way over 3,700 miles (6,000 km) in 370 days (wikipedia). Half the 100,000 that began the march died as Nationalist artillery and aircraft attacked them along the route (LoN).

Saturday

20 MacRobertson Air Race from England to Melbourne, Australia (11,323 miles), begins (wikipedia).

Tuesday

23 Italian Macchi MC.72 seaplane sets World Record for aircraft of 440 mph (709 km/hr) (wikipedia). It would hold the World Speed Record until 1939, and this speed is still the record for a propellor driven seaplane.

After a long struggle to find funding the *Century of Progress* high altitude balloon flew from Dearborn, Michigan, piloted by Jean and Jeanette Picard, to 57,579 ft. (17,550 m). Jeanette Piccard became the first woman to reach the stratosphere (wikipedia).

Monday

29 Sir Alan Cobham establishes Flight Refuelling Limited, to explore practical methods of inflight refuelling of aircraft (R.K. Smith).

Wednesday

31 First flight of the Fairchild Super 71, the first aircraft designed as a bushplane. It featured a fabric covered wing, but the fuselage was of stressed skin construction, the first use of this technique in Canada.

## November 1934

-- British Air Ministry forms *Scientific Survey of Air Defence*, later called the *Tizard Committee* after it's chairman, Dr. (later Sir) Henry Tizard, a scientist and a former World War pilot (Oxford).

-- The Royal Canadian Navy now had 2 modern destroyers and two old ones that were planned to be scrapped. They proposed to build up a fleet of 6 destroyers and 4 minesweepers designed to protect merchant shipping off Canada's coast, and to work with US forces (M. Milner). See October 20, 1936.

Monday

5 Official end of MacRobertson Air Race (wikipedia). Purpose built twin engined wooden long-range high speed DH.88 Comet Racer G-ACSS *Grosvenor House* wins (71 hours total time), but second and third prizes were won by US built airliners, DC-2 PH-AJU *Uiver* of *KLM* airways (90 hours 13 min) and Roscoe Turner and Clyde Pangborn's race modified Boeing 247D NR257Y *Warner Bros. Comet* (92 hr 55 min). The DC-2 was not modified in any significant way for the race and followed it's normal route from Europe to the Netherlands East Indies (albeit with no delays), then on to Australia, carrying passengers! It also became lost in a thunderstorm, but the town of Albury in New South Wales lined up cars on the airfield so it could land safely, and the next morning the townspeople pulled the airliner out of mud it was stuck in so it could continue it's flight. The modified Boeing 247D was the fastest aircraft entered in the race but suffered engine problems. It was noted by the RAF that they had no aircraft that could compete in this race, and none that could match the



performance of either of the two US airliners. See April 12, 1935 and November 25, 1940.

Thursday

8 Pierre-Étienne Flandin becomes Prime Minister of France (wikipedia).

Tuesday

13 Italian Government decrees teachers wear military or Fascist party uniforms while teaching (wikipedia).

Wednesday

14 First order by the RAF for Hawker Monoplane Fury (later called the Hurricane) 8-gun fighter signed (*A Short History of the RAF*). The specification for 8 machine guns was made after experiments by the RAF which took into account the projected increase in speed of the new fighter designs which would limit the time a fighter might have another aircraft in its sights. The selection of 8 guns of .303 calibre was intended to inflict lethal damage to another aircraft with just a few seconds of firing.

Tuesday

20 In testimony before the US House of Representatives retired US Marine Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler, twice awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and the US Distinguished Service Medal, states he was approached in 1933 to lead a military coup financed by business interests to overthrow the Roosevelt Administration and replace it with a fascist (corporatist) government based on Mussolini's practices in Italy (the Business Plot) (wikipedia). These allegations are not investigated in depth by the US Congress.

## December 1934

-- Spanish Conservative Government falls due to corruption scandals. Rather than appoint a new Conservative leader as Prime Minister the President appointed a temporary government and called elections for February. The rejected Conservative leader then asked General Franco to lead a coup against the government, but he refused, doubting he could win (SCW).

Saturday

1 Popular Communist leader Sergei Kirov is assassinated in his office in Leningrad by a gunman. Although never proven it is believed this was carried out on Stalin's orders. This action precipitated the Great Purge of the next 3 years that decimated the Soviet Unions leadership, military, science, arts and engineering (wikipedia). See July 29, 1936.

Order signed by the RAF for a prototype Supermarine Type 300 (later called the Spitfire) all metal monoplane 8-gunned fighter (*Short History of the RAF*).

Wednesday

5 Italian and Ethiopian troops fought each other near a fort in disputed land on the border of Ethiopia and Italian Somalia, the incident used by Mussolini to begin the Abyssinia Crisis (wikipedia).

Saturday

8 *Imperial Airways* extends airmail service to Australia (wikipedia).

Saturday

15 Having learned that Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, a company owned by Standard Oil of New Jersey and General Motors, planned to transfer technology to Germany to allow them to produce ethyl-lead additive for the production of high octane gasoline, the US Army Air Corp expressed "grave concerns" about exporting the technology. Prior to this ethyl-lead had only been produced in the USA (<https://modernhistoryproject.org>). See January 12, 1935.

Saturday

29 Japan renounces *Washington Naval Treaty of 1922* and *London Naval Treaty of 1930* (wikipedia). It announces it will repeal its obligations to other Naval Agreements by the end of 1936 (<http://tighar.org/Projects/Earhart/Archives/Research/ResearchPapers/mandates.html>). See February 4, 1941.

Sunday

30 First flight of the Tupolev ANT-40.2 all metal cantilever monoplane retractable gear light bomber with Hispano-Suiza inline engines, later developed into the SB bomber (wikipedia). Similar to and influenced by the Martin B-10 design it becomes one of the most important and numerous bombers of the 1930s, serving in many air forces and conflicts. Like the B-10 it is faster than fighters then in service.

-- During 1934 membership in Soviet non-military flying organizations (centrally organized, but similar to Flying Clubs) reached 14 million. These provided flight training to young Russian men and women, many of whom would then volunteer for military pilot's schools. But the Soviet dual command system (1 party member with every military commander) also required pilots who were Communist Party members, so the Komsomol, or Communist Youth Organization, was often given quotas of new pilots to fill, some of whom were less than ideal flyers (summarized from Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).

-- Great Depression During the year Sweden becomes the first country whose economy recovers to pre-Depression levels, its government having adopted the policy of deficit spending proposed by the economist John Maynard Keynes ([http://www.hyperhistory.com/online\\_n2/connections\\_n2/great\\_depression.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/connections_n2/great_depression.html)). As a neutral country in the Great War Sweden did not have the handicap of debt payments, however.

## **1935**

-- Newfoundland Ranger Force established. This force was intended not only as a police force, but as a means for the *Newfoundland Commission of Government* to find out in a regulated manner what was needed by people in isolated communities affected by the economic depression, and to ensure aid sent was distributed in a fair manner. See May 8, 1943.

-- During the year the US fascist *Silver League*, established in 1933, began receiving funding from Germany to build a fortified headquarters at a ranch in the Los Angeles hills. This organization peaked at a membership of 15,000 in the USA, and its leader William Dudley Pelley ran for President in the 1936 US elections (wikipedia). See April, 1937.

## January 1935

-- Unable to pay the £5 charge (about \$25 in 1935, over \$400 today) for renewal F/O F. Whittle RAF loses his patent on gas turbine engines for airplanes (wikipedia; www.miketodd.net; www.usinflationcalculator.com).

-- First meeting of the *Scientific Survey of Air Defence*, which sponsored among other matters an investigation into the possibility of destruction of aircraft by radio waves (Oxford). See February 26, below.

### Tuesday

1 Italian colonies of Tripoli and Cyrenaica joined to form Libya (wikipedia).

*Newfoundland Commission of Government* lowers tariff rates in an attempt to stimulate the Dominions economy (LoN).

### Wednesday

2 Canadian Prime Minister **R.B. Bennett** unveils his "New Deal" program in a series of radio announcements, promising a basic minimum wage, unemployment insurance and a limit to the weekly hours of work as a federal election approaches (wikipedia).

During the year, and as part of his political moves to be re-elected, Bennett would turn again to **Adrien Arcand** (now leader and self proclaimed *führer* of the *Canadian Nationalist Socialist Unity Party*) for support in Quebec, making him the Conservative publicity director and (secretly) head electoral organizer in the province for the upcoming election (wikipedia). See June, 1938.

### Thursday

3 *Abyssinia Crisis*, Ethiopia asks the *League of Nations* for help in its dispute with Italy (wikipedia).

### Wednesday

4 Trans-Jordan oil pipeline from Baghdad, Iraq to Haifa, Palestine opened (LoN). This was built with the support of aircraft to move personnel to various points, and each pumping station on the route had its own airfield (ref. P. Jarrett, *Pipeline Pioneers*, *Aeroplane Monthly*, August, 2004). See May 18, 1941.

### Monday

7 Italy and France agree not to oppose each other's colonial claims in Africa (wikipedia). France

hoped by giving Italy freedom of action in Ethiopia Italy would help France against a re-armed Germany (LoN). Not unrealistic, as at this time German and Italian relations were strained by events in Austria, which Mussolini believed was an Italian matter, not German (R. Meredith).

Wednesday

9 Joint US-Canadian arbitration on the sinking of the schooner *I'm Alone* rules the USA should apologize and pay compensation (wikipedia).

Friday to Saturday

11-12 Amelia Earhart becomes the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to California (wikipedia).

Saturday

12 The President of Ethyl Gasoline Corporation replied to the concerns of the USAAC about plans to produce ethyl-lead additive for high octane gasoline in Germany, stating that the technical knowledge would not be transferred as part of the agreement. However the details were in fact sent to the I.G. Farben company in Germany and the Montecatini group in Italy (<https://modernhistoryproject.org>). See January 12, 1935.

Friday

18 General Gamelin becomes C-in-C of the French Army. A progressive and innovative thinker he begins to modernize the equipment of French military (Oxford) including re-organizing the French Air Force into a more tactical arm to support the Army, and away from the strategic focus of threatening an enemies factories (R. Meredith).

Wednesday

30 Pilot and 3 passengers killed in a crash of a small airliner in the White Pass, Yukon Territory ([www3.gendisasters.com](http://www3.gendisasters.com)).

## February 1935

-- Hans van Ohain is introduced to Dr. Ernst Heinkel, who is impressed with his work and hires him to pursue his jet engine idea (wikipedia).

-- In an article published in *Popular Mechanics* retired USAAC General Billy Mitchell reprised many of his previous articles on what the next war might look like from the point of view of aviation. In these he had pointed out the strategic importance of Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland and Ellesmere Island as bases to fly to, or attack, Europe (Kenn Harper <http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca>; J.J. Cooke, *Billy Mitchell*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002).

Wednesday

6 The board game *Monopoly* goes on sale (wikipedia).

Monday

11 Mobilization begins in Italy of soldiers and aircraft to be sent to Eritrea (wikipedia).

Tuesday

12 US Navy Airship *Macon* lost at sea off Point Sur, California (wikipedia). This dirigible was capable of launching and retrieving fighter aircraft in flight, and was able to fly at 3 times the speed of a normal aircraft carrier, but its loss after the crash of its sister ship *Akron* in 1933 spelled the end of the US Navy's development of large rigid zeppelins.

Thursday

14 French troops are sent to French Somaliland to prevent border incidents with Italian Somalia (wikipedia).

Monday

18 Unemployment insurance bill passed in Ottawa (wikipedia).

Saturday

23 First drafts of soldiers leave Italy for Eritrea (LoN).

Sunday

24 First flight of the Heinkel He 111 (wikipedia). Originally with fabric covered wings this was developed into an all metal medium bomber initially disguised as a "high speed mail and passenger aircraft" (V. Koos; various). Larger than the B-10 and similar light bombers it would evolve into the Luftwaffe's primary bombing aircraft, although this only occurred as the planned bomber design by Dornier (Do 11, Do 23) failed to meet its design requirements (R. Meredith).

Celebrating the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Nazi Party Hitler declares Germany would never sign an agreement it could not honour, but any agreement that Germany did sign it would fulfill (wikipedia).

Switzerland votes to extend national training of its soldiers to improve its defences (LoN).

Tuesday

26 Adolf Hitler orders Herman Göring to formally create the German Luftwaffe in defiance of the *Versailles Treaty*. Although it already existed in secret the operations were disguised as government transport units and flying clubs. Starting with the knowledge gained in secret manoeuvres in the Soviet Union, with a powerful aircraft design and engine industry, government financing and youthful leaders, the Luftwaffe will soon surpass other countries in advanced types and numbers, technology and tactics.

Ironically on the same day in England Robert Watson-Watt gives the first demonstration of detection of aircraft using reflected radio waves (later called Radio Direction Finding (RDF), now known as Radar) to members of the *Tizard Committee* (wikipedia). This committee had quickly disproved the idea that radio waves could be used to destroy or cripple aircraft, but Watson-Watt had pointed out the potential of radio waves in detecting aircraft. After this demonstration they sponsor further investigations into the field. This would for the first time

give defending forces the ability to "see" approaching bombers and allow fighters to be directed to them, rather than waste time and resources searching for, or flying continuous defensive patrols against attacking aircraft, the first step in an effective defence against the bomber threat. This was also the beginning of electronic warfare.

## March 1935

Friday

1 The Saar is returned to Germany (Oxford). This province was occupied by Allied troops after the 1914-1918 World War for 15 years. It's population was then allowed to decide to remain in Germany, become part of France, or remain a *League of Nations* protectorate. In January 1935 the majority voted to remain part of Germany (wikipedia). As part of the return Germany agreed not to persecute Jews living in the Saar region for 1 year. See March 4, 1935.

Two sisters, French-USA citizens, booked all the seats on an airliner scheduled for Paris from England, but soon after taking off they committed suicide by jumping out of the airplane (F.W. Hotson; *Aeroplane Monthly*, Looking Back, February 2005).

Saturday

2 A Swiss citizen committed suicide by jumping from an airplane (F.W. Hotson).

Hitler orders planning for occupation of the de-militarized Rhineland to be prepared, an operation to be carried out at the best political opportunity for success (R. Meredith).

Sunday

3 In Toronto, an unemployed former pilot rented an aircraft and instructor, and after several minutes of flying, climbed out on the wing, tapped the instructor on the shoulder, handed him his wallet with a short suicide note, and jumped to his death, the third similar suicide in 3 days (F.W. Hotson). If nothing else this indicates the growing speed of reporting in newspapers of the period.

Monday

4 British defence spending to increase in response to German actions (wikipedia). Most of this money is to upgrade the Royal Navy (LoN).

First posters denouncing Jews put up in the newly returned Saar region of Germany (wikipedia).

Sunday

10 Germany officially proclaims existence of German Air Force, or Luftwaffe (Oppenheimer).

Monday

11 Bank of Canada opened to help in recovery of Canadian economy and monetary policy (wikipedia).

Wednesday

13 Germany introduces Guild control of workers in the manual trades, excluding Jewish workers (wikipedia).

Saturday

16 In response to the creation of the German Luftwaffe France increased the term of it's national military conscription from 1 to 2 years. Discussions for a treaty between France and the USSR intended to contain Germany militarily that had been pursued by the assassinated Foreign Secretary Louis Barthou but left dormant by his successor Pierre Laval, were revived (wikipedia). See April 14, 1935 and May 2, 1935.

In turn, in a surprise declaration, Hitler denounces the disarmament clauses of *Versailles Treaty*, announces that Germany will re-arm, and will re-introduce military conscription (Polsson; wikipedia; Oxford). This indicates to England that the deterrent policy of building up the RAF bomber force had not worked (Oxford). This further expansion of the German Army is in addition to the previous planned expansion announced in December, 1933 (P. Adair).

Tuesday

19 Mock air raid drill with blackout in Berlin (wikipedia).

In Harlem, New York City, erroneous reports that a young boy caught shoplifting had been beaten to death caused a race riot (wikipedia).

Thursday

21 Persia renames itself Iran (wikipedia).

French and Italian Diplomatic Notes of Protest sent to Germany over it's decision to re-arm are publicly disregarded as "not relevant" (wikipedia).

Saturday

23 The Soviet Union sold it's rights in the Chinese Eastern Railway to the Japanese controlled state of Manchukuo. China refused to recognize the sale as it still had part ownership in the railway (wikipedia).

Sunday

24 First flight of the military prototype of the Avro Anson maritime patrol aircraft (wikipedia). This was a new designed fabric covered steel tube fuselage built on an older licence built wooden Fokker wing modified with engine nacelles and retractable undercarriage (cranked up by hand), originally intended as an airliner. As a patrol aircraft the interior was redesigned with a navigators station, small bomb bays were built into the wing roots and machine guns were added, one firing forward and a second in a manually operated turret.

Wednesday

27 Japan formally leaves the *League of Nations* (<http://www.ibiblio.org>).

Thursday

28 Robert Goddard launches a gyro controlled rocket in USA, reaching 1,463 m and a speed of 885 km/h (550 mph) (wikipedia; M.J.H. Taylor).

First flight of the Consolidated Model 28 XP3Y-1 Flying Boat, developed into the PBY Catalina and Canso. An all metal aircraft with a mixed metal/fabric covered wing, the Catalina had a very long range but a slow speed of about 100 mph (M.J.H. Taylor). See August 23, 1937.

Saturday

30 Abbyssinia Crisis, Formal talks between Italy and Ethiopia end (wikipedia).

Sunday

31 Manpower of the RCAF is 118 Officers and 676 enlisted Regular, 39 officers and 269 enlisted in the NPAAF. Applications to enlist more than doubled from 4,000 to 9,000 over the year. The annual budget nearly doubled, permitting more flying hours. Orders were placed for 28 new aircraft in 1936, including used Westland Wapiti Army co-operation aircraft and new Blackburn Shark torpedo bombers from England, Fleet and Avro trainers, Northrup Delta photo/transport/bomber aircraft and a pair of Fairchild Super 71 transports, the latter two types to be built in Canada (CCMA).

## April 1935

-- First flight of the Douglas DB-1, developed at the same time as the DC-2, later produced as the B-18 and Digby bombers (wikipedia; Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

-- #4 (FB) Sqn. RCAF begins to receive Canadian Vickers Vedette aircraft (RCAF Sqns.)

-- Great Depression Due to the high cost of rail transport from St. Louis to other hockey centres the St. Louis Eagles NHL team ceases operations after only 1 season, leaving only 8 teams in the NHL (wikipedia; K. Cuthbertson). See August 1938.

Monday

1 First flight of the North American NA-16 (wikipedia). This metal framed and (initially) fabric covered cantilever monoplane aircraft was intended to be a trainer and an attack aircraft, and was developed into single seat or two seat versions, with a metal wing, retractable or fixed undercarriage and a variety of engines, for sale to smaller countries as economical military aircraft. Most well known versions are the Yale and Harvard trainers, but it was also built under license in several countries including Canada, Sweden, Australia (as the Wirraway, also developed into the Boomerang fighter) and Japan (as the Kyushu K10W 'Oak' trainer). See March 22, 1942.

#2 Army Co-operation (AC) Sqn. RCAF formed at Trenton, Ontario with Atlas aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).



#### Thursday

4 Bad conditions and poor pay in Federal Relief Workers Camps spark a walkout in BC, demanding better first-aid on site, the extension of the new *Workmen's Compensation Act* to include the camps, the repeal of *Section 98* of the Criminal Code, and the right for men in the Relief Camps to vote in upcoming Federal Elections. Some 1,600 march on Vancouver where they receive large public support (wikipedia).

#### Friday

5 First Alberta Social Credit Party convention held in Red Deer (E. Dee).

#### Friday

12 First flight of the privately funded Bristol *Britain First* transport, later developed into the Blenheim light bomber (wikipedia). The design was ordered by newspaper magnate and aviation enthusiast Lord Rothermere to produce a British transport aircraft with better performance than the US designs that had competed so well in the MacRobertson Air Race. The prototype had better performance, but the design was small, with less than half the capacity of the DC-2 or Boeing 247. See June 25, 1936.

#### Saturday

13 First flight of the Curtiss Hawk 75 fighter, a radial engined cantilever monoplane with fixed or retractable undercarriage, variable pitch propellor and an enclosed cockpit, also intended for export in different versions as an economical military aircraft. Unlike other similar fighters of the period Curtiss designed the aircraft to be highly manoeuvrable rather than for high speed, although it was intended to exceed 300 mph (which it eventually did). It also had a very useful range, even exceeding that of the later Bf 110 long range fighter design (Oxford). The fighter achieved only modest success in the USAAC as the P-36A, but was sold widely overseas as the H-75 and later RAF Mohawk fighter. Hawk 75 fighters were used as trainers in Canada by the Royal Norwegian Air Force (see November 10, 1940). A development of the Hawk 75 with an inline Allison engine was ordered as the P-40 (G. Beauchamp).

#### Sunday

14 "Black Sunday", high winds create an extreme dust storm across much of Texas and Oklahoma, estimated to have moved 300,000 tons of topsoil on the drought stricken plains. Events such as this caused a large portion of the population of these areas to migrate to California, and led to the establishment of the US *Soil Conservation Service* and the Canadian *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration* (wikipedia).

France, England and Italy conclude a three party conference in Stresa, Italy, convened to discuss options in the face of the announcement of Germany that it was re-arming. The countries reaffirmed their intentions to protect the borders of Austria under the *Locarno Treaty* (wikipedia). However, England did not reveal it was discussing a Naval Treaty with Germany. See May 2, 1935.

#### Tuesday

16 Coal mine explosion kills 6 miners at Stellarton, NS (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com).

Tuesday to Wednesday

16-17 *Pan American Airlines* Sikorsky S.42 makes the first commercial airline flight from the mainland USA to Hawaii (wikipedia).

Wednesday

17 The *League of Nations* votes to condemn Germany for its decision to re-arm (wikipedia).

In the Crow's Nest Pass mining community of Corbin, BC, workers were on strike protesting plans to increase the size of the operation when safety conditions were already bad, and the firing of their Union Secretary from the open pit mine when he presented their grievances and request for better conditions and pay to the company. Power to their housing had already been cut off, and replacement workers brought in. Also brought in were BC Provincial Police and private security. On this date the police moved to bring in the replacement workers, but the miners formed a line to block the road. Their wives made a line ahead of the miners. Police forces took positions on both sides of the miners, and 'kettled' them on the access road. They then moved in with a bulldozer. The miners and their families had nowhere to go. Several of the wives were hit by the bulldozer and had their legs crushed and one was dragged for several hundred feet. The company and police then prevented medical aid to come to the town, or injured people (from 33 to 77 depending on the source) to leave on the Company owned railroad, only the local doctor was available to treat them. The BC Government stepped in and in May the townsite and mine were abandoned by the owners, and the miners and their families were out of work. Corbin is today a ghost town (<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Black-Wednesday-Miners-Wives-And-the-1935-Corbin-BC-Strike>).

Friday

19 Germany announces that in time of war pacifism would be a crime punishable by death (wikipedia). See September 1, 1939 and February 22, 1943.

Saturday

20 Germany rejects the vote of the *League of Nations*, claiming it is discrimination (wikipedia).

Tuesday

23 A new constitution goes into effect in Poland, ending the democratically elected government and replacing it with a semi-democratic but essentially authoritarian form of government (LoN).

## May 1935

-- F/O Whittle receives support for a private company to develop his jet engine ideas (wikipedia).

Thursday

2 The *Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance* between France and the USSR is signed.

Originally conceived by French Foreign Secretary Louis Barthou as a counter to German

rearmament under Hitler, after his assassination it was weakened by his successor, Pierre Laval. As well, the USSR had no common border with Germany at this time and would have to have the support of Poland or Romania to fulfill the Treaty. But this still marked a turn in Soviet foreign policy towards dealing with Western powers in Europe (M.J.H. Taylor; wikipedia). It also caused a rift in French politics between the Socialist and the Conservative factions (R. Meredith). See March 7, 1936 and May 3, 1939.

In the UK House of Parliament, in debate on the Stresa Agreement, Winston Churchill stated "*When the situation [with Germany] was manageable it was neglected, and now that it is thoroughly out of hand we apply too late the remedies which then might have effected a cure.*" (Guardian).

Thursday

9 In England the Government orders aircraft manufacturers to increase production, while limiting shipping of foreign orders without approval by the Air Ministry (wikipedia).

Saturday

11 In Germany all new or altered buildings would have to consider including integral bomb shelters in their design (wikipedia).

Monday

13 Regular commercial service from San Francisco to Hawaii begins with *Pan American Airways* flying boats (wikipedia).

AC1 T.E. Shaw RAF killed in a motorcycle accident in England. AC Shaw was the pseudonym of T.E. Lawrence, known as Lawrence of Arabia.

Tuesday

14 Abyssinia Crisis, Mussolini warns other nations in a speech not to interfere in the dispute between Italy and Ethiopia (wikipedia).

Wednesday

15 #19 (Bomber) Sqn. formed at Hamilton, Ontario as part of the NPAAF (CCMA).

Abyssinia Crisis, Italian press campaign to encourage public support for an invasion of Ethiopia begins (wikipedia). This action begins to unravel the Stresa Agreement as France and England cannot support Italy invading one country after agreeing to protect another. See June 17, 1935.

Thursday

16 The USSR and Czechoslovakia conclude an alliance in response to a re-armed Germany (M.J.H. Taylor).

Saturday

18 The Soviet propaganda aircraft ANT-20 *Maxim Gorky* is in a mid-air collision with a fighter aircraft

and crashes with the death of 56 people, the worst aviation crash up to this time (M.J.H. Taylor).

Monday

20 Abyssinia Crisis, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie sends another message to the *League of Nations* pointing out that Italy is intent on a war with his country and will not listen to diplomacy (wikipedia).

Tuesday

21 Military conscription law declared in Germany (R. Meredith).

Wednesday

22 Vote to triple number of frontline aircraft of the RAF in England to 1,500, to match stated German numbers, passes without opposition due to the announcement of Germany's re-armament plans (RAF Timeline; M.J.H. Taylor). Although expansion had been authorized in July 1934 it had been proceeding slowly (F.K. Mason).

Saturday

25 Hitler agrees not to occupy or annex Austria (Polsson).

Abyssinia Crisis, Mussolini agrees to mediation by the *League of Nations*, but refuses to stop buildup of troops in the region (wikipedia).

Tuesday

28 First flight of the Messerschmidt Bf 109 fighter (wikipedia). This successful fighter used an inline engine on a relatively small airframe with a cantilever wing and retractable undercarriage. Early versions were slow but better engines soon changed it's performance to be one of the best in the world. It's design was very advanced and simple to build but development was made difficult by it's small size, and it was tricky to land due to it's narrow set undercarriage.

Friday

31 Earthquake destroys the town and RAF Station at Quetta, India (now in Pakistan), 26,000 killed (wikipedia) including 51 RAF and 2 dependants (www.militarian.com).

## **June 1935**

Saturday

1 #20 (Bomber) Sqn. formed at Regina, Saskatchewan, as part of the NPAAF (CCMA).

Fernand Bouisson becomes Prime Minister of France for 1 week (wikipedia).

Monday

3 Hundreds of Relief Camp Workers in Vancouver board box cars on trains heading east to take their grievances to Ottawa, the beginning to the On-to-Ottawa Trek (wikipedia).

Tuesday

4 Fred and Algene Keys (*The Flying Keys*) take off from Meridian, Mississippi in a modified Curtiss Robin *Ole Miss* to challenge the endurance flight for aircraft using a new in-flight refuelling nozzle they had developed. As well the aircraft had walkways added on to allow the brothers to perform regular maintenance on the engine in flight (wikipedia). See July 1, below.

Wednesday

5 Switzerland begins to re-arm its military forces (wikipedia).

Thursday

6 Royal Review of the RAF features a flypast of 350 aircraft (RAF Timeline), almost every service aircraft then based in England.

Friday

7 Pierre Laval becomes Prime Minister of France for the second time (wikipedia).

Stanley Baldwin replaces MacDonald as British PM when he resigns due to poor health (wikipedia).

Sunday

9 China's Kuomintang Government concedes Japanese military control of north east China by treaty (wikipedia).

Friday

14 On-To-Ottawa protesters, now numbering over 2,000, reach Regina where they are asked to meet with two Federal Cabinet Ministers (wikipedia).

Monday

17 At the meeting with Cabinet Ministers in Regina eight leaders of the On-to-Ottawa trek are invited to Ottawa to meet with Prime Minister **Bennett** on the condition that the remainder of the protesters remain in Regina, which is also the location of the RCMP training depot (wikipedia).

*Anglo-German Naval Agreement* signed. Among other matters the ban against German submarine development (U-boats) under the *Versailles Treaty* is relaxed, and the Germany Navy agrees to a permanent size limit of 35% of Royal Navy tonnage (G.S. Snyder; wikipedia). This agreement was made without informing France or Italy, and undoes any benefit or effect of the Stresa Agreement (wikipedia). See January 27, 1939.

Tuesday

18 In Vancouver locked out waterfront workers attempt to march to the docks to confront the non-union workers unloading ships there. They are stopped by local police with RCMP and BC Provincial Police support (including mounted units), and when they refuse to leave are attacked, sparking the Battle of Ballantyne Pier. The Union headquarters and Communist

Party offices used to organize the workers are also raided. At one point a first aid station set up by the wives of the union members is tear gassed by police (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

19 First flight of the Vickers Wellesley bomber (wikipedia). This was a single engined cantilever monoplane using a geodetic metal structure covered by fabric with a single radial engine. The geodetic system, developed by aircraft engineer Barnes Wallis, was much lighter than conventional structures, allowing larger airframes to be built for the same weight. This advantage gave the Wellesley a long wingspan and thus a very long range of 1,200 miles, but it had no bomb bay, carrying its bombs in wing mounted panniers which limited its usefulness. It proved the advantage of the geodetic structure, and paved the way for the larger Wellington bomber. See June 15, 1936.

#### Saturday

22 At the meeting of the On-To-Ottawa leaders and Prime Minister **Bennett** in Ottawa, the PM refers to the men as radicals and accuses their head, **Arthur "Slim" Evans** (a survivor of the Ludlow Massacre in the USA) of extortion and embezzlement. Evans calls Bennett a liar, and the meeting ends (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

23 First flight of the Bristol Bombay transport/bomber. This large fixed undercarriage high winged twin engined metal design was the last of this type in the RAF, developed for multiple roles in England's colonies. It was basically a transport armed as a bomber with manual turrets for defence and the ability to carry light bomb loads when required.

#### Wednesday

26 First successful flight of the Breguet-Dorand *Gyroplane Labratoire* experimental helicopter in France, a co-axial design and the first truly successful controlled helicopter. See December 22, 1935.

The eight delegates of the On-To-Ottawa trek return to Regina from Ottawa (wikipedia). The Trekkers then attempt to leave Regina, most for Winnipeg where they know they will receive support, but they are stopped by RCMP road blocks (wikipedia).

#### Friday

28 First new German submarine (Unterseeboot or U-boat), U-1, officially launched (G.S. Snyder).

-- In this period an experimental site for radio detection of aircraft was established in England. In June it was able to detect large aircraft up to 40 miles away using a long 26 meter wavelength on a 75' tall mast. Smaller aircraft and formations were identified in July at shorter ranges. By September the range had increased to nearly 60 miles (F.K. Mason).

## July 1935

-- First flight of the Mitsubishi G3M naval bomber/torpedo bomber (wikipedia), another fast medium bomber.

### Monday

1 *Dominion Day* Holiday in Canada. A meeting was called for Market Square in Regina to update the public on the On-To-Ottawa Trek. Most Trekkers stay away, but about 300 show up plus 1,200-1,500 members of the public. Just after the meeting began it was charged by RCMP police squads and mounted units using clubs, guns and tear gas. **Slim Evans** and others were arrested on the podium by pre-positioned plain clothes policemen acting under *Section 98*. Angered by the attack the Trekkers and bystanders fight back. Although several stores were damaged only one case of looting occurred as the police and civilians fought for 4 hours in the Square and surrounding streets. One policeman and one Trekker died and hundreds were injured; those civilians who went to hospitals for treatment were arrested, part of a total of 120 arrests. The Trekkers retreated to their camp at the Exhibition Grounds where they were surrounded by armed policemen with machine guns (wikipedia). One of those arrested was 19 year old **Lou Greenburgh**, who on his release, traveled to England and joined the RAF. See December 29-30, 1943, March 24-25 and June 7-8, 1944.

Fred and Algene Keys land after establishing a record of 653 hours and 34 minutes (over 27 days) airborne. This record still stands today (wikipedia).

US Bureau of Investigation becomes the independent Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

### Tuesday

2 In Regina the police encircle the On-To-Ottawa Trekkers camp at the Exhibition Grounds with a barbed wire barrier and stop food and water from entering the camp. Late at night Trekkers use a working telephone line to contact Saskatchewan Premier **J.G. Gardiner**, requesting a meeting to end the dispute. The police promptly arrest the delegates but are forced to release them to meet with Premier Gardiner on July 3. With the intervention and good will of the Premier the situation is defused, the Trekkers are fed and allowed to leave Regina for their homes, transportation being offered free of charge. The Federal Relief Camps were dismantled and were replaced by seasonal Provincial camps, supported by federal funds transferred from Ottawa. This marked a turning point in Canadian politics, the widespread public support of the Trek changed how the Government was handling the crisis of the Depression in Canada and led to changes in social conditions and welfare for the poor. Despite assertions in the House of Commons by the Federal Minister of Justice **Hugh Guthrie** that the Trekkers fired guns at the police and provoked the July 1st riot no evidence of this was ever found (wikipedia).

### Thursday

4 Abyssinia Crisis, Ethiopia appeals to the USA to persuade Italy not to declare a war (wikipedia).

Friday

5 *Canadian Wheat Board* established (wikipedia).

Abyssinia Crisis, US rejects Ethiopia's appeal as negotiations by the *League of Nations* are still ongoing (wikipedia).

Saturday

6 US President Roosevelt signs the *National Labour Relations Act* which guarantees workers the right to join a union (wikipedia). See February 17, 1944.

Tuesday

16 First automated parking meters installed in Oklahoma City, intended to prevent misuse of free street parking by oil workers parking work trucks for weeks between jobs (CBC Ideas, *Paying for Parking*, Dec. 3, 2013).

Wednesday

17 First flight of the Boeing Model 299 four engined bomber, later developed as the B-17 Fortress (wikipedia). This was an all metal stressed skin cantilever monoplane with retracting undercarriage, variable pitch propellers and an internal bomb bay, and is considered the first modern heavy bomber. It was developed to operate at high altitudes to make interception difficult. The design was very good and allowed development, but the structural size of the internal bomb bay, seen as very large when first built, could not be changed and restricted the bomb load this aircraft could carry. The design was further modified as the Model 307 Stratoliner, the world's first pressurized airliner, a system that was incorporated into the later B-29 bomber.

Actor **Donald Sutherland** born in Saint John, NB (wikipedia).

Thursday

18 Abyssinia Crisis, Accepting that a war with Italy is coming, Emperor Haile Selassie makes a speech in the Ethiopian parliament stating the country will strive for a peaceful solution, but will not back down (wikipedia).

Friday

19 Workers in Paris protesting wage cuts fight with police (wikipedia).

Monday

20 General strike in Indiana, martial law declared and National Guard activated (wikipedia).

Tuesday

21 In Terre Haute, Indiana, National Guard uses tear gas on workers, 185 arrested (wikipedia).

Wednesday

24 New York City Mayor F.E. La Guardia publicly announced he was denying a business licence to a German citizen due to the discrimination against US Jews in Germany (wikipedia).



Thursday

25 England embargoes sale of war material to Italy and Ethiopia until efforts find a way to resolve the Abyssinia Crisis are exhausted. This only hurts Ethiopia, struggling to re-arm, as Italy is self sufficient and well equipped in arms of all kinds (wikipedia).

Friday

26 In New York the German liner *Bremen* is stormed by demonstrators who took down the large Swastika flag it was flying and threw it into the water (R. Maddow; wikipedia). Of note, this flag was not Germany's official flag at the time, see September 15, below.

Saturday

27 Germany ends it's commercial trade agreement with the USA in due to the actions of Mayor La Guardia, and demands an official apology for the boarding of the *Bremen* (wikipedia).

Tuesday

30 Penguin paperbacks go on sale in England, printing quality literature in affordable paperback form for the first time (wikipedia).

## August 1935

Thursday

1 Göring claimed the Luftwaffe had reached a strength of 1,800 aircraft, nearly 1,100 of which were first line bombers and fighters, but this total included all aircraft in flying schools, the true strength of aircraft in service in military units was less than 600 of all types (R. Meredith).

Saturday

3 Based on talks with the Indian National Congress, England passed a new *Government of India Act* completely re-organizing it's role in India and establishing a legislative body in Delhi, to go into effect in 1937 (LoN). However, the Act only allowed for political parties to hold power in provinces and Princely States, intended to prevent the national Congress of India Party from taking control of the country (S. Raghavan).

Monday

5 Impressed into the Italian Air Force the prototype SM.79 with larger engines flies from Massawa, Eritrea to Rome with a short stop in Cairo, 4,200 km in 11 hours and 45 minutes, at an average speed of 365.2 km/hr, or 227 mph. This leads to a request for a bomber version to be developed (L. Caliaro).

Tuesday

6 Labor riots in French cities to protest Government economic plans (wikipedia).

Thursday

8 First flight of the Morane-Saulnier MS.405 fighter in France, an inline engined cantilever

monoplane fighter of mixed construction with an enclosed cockpit, variable pitch propeller and retractable undercarriage, which reached 402 km/hr (250 mph) when produced as the MS.406 (G. Beauchamp).

In Toulon in France 5 anti-government protesters were killed and hundreds injured (wikipedia).

Friday

9 PM Laval of France calls for support for his policies from regional leaders (wikipedia).

Thursday

15 Wiley Post and US humourist Will Rogers are killed in aircraft accident in Northern Alaska (wikipedia).

Friday

16 Abyssinia Crisis, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie offers Italy economic concessions in his country, but not military occupation (wikipedia).

Tuesday

20 End of the *Third International Meeting* in Soviet Union decides that due to growing tensions Russia would support democratic governments over fascist countries, and orders communists in democratic countries to support re-armament (LoN).

Thursday

22 Social Credit wins a bitterly fought election in Alberta, taking 57 of 63 seats, **William Aberhart** becomes Premier of Alberta after 10 years of UFA governments (wikipedia). It should be noted that in Alberta at this time Provincial elections were a mix of Proportional Representation in Edmonton and Calgary (using the Single Transferable Voting system), by which voting was for a district of ridings, and Alternative Voting in other ridings, where the candidate had to win a majority of votes. Both systems required voters to give ranked preferences rather than 1 single vote. This system was intended to prevent unrepresentative elections under the First Past the Post system, and had been in use since 1924, and would continue until 1955 provincially (T. Monto).

Initially the Social Credit movement, which had not expected to win, had no official leader, but Aberhart was convinced to accept the position, and although he had lost in his riding in Calgary under the Proportional system another member resigned to allow him to sit in the Legislature after a by-election on November 4 (by-elections were run under Alternative Voting rules) (T. Monto; wikipedia). Widely known for his radio broadcasts both before and after his election, Premier Aberhart disliked arguing or debating his policies in public where he could face criticism, and would not make a speech in the Alberta Legislature until 1939 (Elliot & Miller). The party began instituting debt relief and public works programs to assist those in need due to the depression. It also was influenced by Aberhart's baptist beliefs, which included restrictions in the sale of alcohol. For example, commercial airliners were prohibited from selling alcoholic drinks to their passengers while flying over Alberta until the early 1960's. However, the ability of the party to enact all the policies of C.H. Douglas's Social

Credit theories (which were developed to be used by a country) was limited by their inability to control the banks, which were under Federal legislation (wikipedia). See August 1937.

It was soon announced that a government office would be established that had a monopoly on issuing news on the Alberta Government, it's Premier and Cabinet, for reporters to publish, beginning a fight for press freedom in the Province (*Time Magazine*, September 2, 1935). See June 8, 1938.

Friday

23 England orders forces in the Mediterranean to be increased to protect the Suez Canal (wikipedia).

Saturday

24 Abyssinia Crisis, To reduce casualties from possible Italian bomber attacks Haile Selassie orders civilians to leave the capitol Addis Ababa (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 **R.H. Niven** of Calgary, Alberta, accepted for pilot training by the RAF (B.W. Gowans). See August 5, 1937.

## September 1935

-- The Messerschmidt Bf 109 prototype fighter in Germany reached 467 km/hr (290 mph) using a Rolls-Royce Kestrel inline engine on tests by the Luftwaffe.

-- British Government Circular requests local governments to set up Air Raid Precautions in their communities (Oxford).

-- A survey of sites along the Newfoundland Railway is conducted for a location to develop an airport for transatlantic flights. An area of level ground at Mile 213, called Hatties's Camp, was selected and a crew began clearing trees over the winter. Around the same time Botwood, Newfoundland, was selected for development as a flying boat station, also for transatlantic operations (C.F. Warren et al).

Sunday

1 #3 (Bomber) Sqn. formed at Trenton from existing flights (CCMA). Fighter Flight RCAF becomes part of #3 (B) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).

Monday

2 Labour Day Hurricane strikes Florida Keys killing 423 in two days, 200 in a labor work camp for veterans (wikipedia).

*Time* magazine runs a feature article on the election of the Social Credit party in Alberta (E. Dee).

Friday

6 Abyssinia Crisis, Italy accepts appointment of a committee of 5 countries to arbitrate the dispute between Italy and Ethiopia (wikipedia).

Sunday

8 Democratic US Senator Huey Long shot and died September 10 of a gunshot wound, possibly assassinated but possibly hit by a stray bullet. A known highly corrupt but effective politician, he headed a movement called *Share Our Wealth*, which proposed a guaranteed living wage, free higher education and old age pension to all US citizens, to be paid for by progressive income tax on the wealthy, and had announced his intention to run against President Roosevelt in the next election the month before (R. Maddow; wikipedia).

Friday

13 Howard Hughes sets new aircraft speed record for land based aircraft in the Hughes H-1 at 352 mph (566 km/h). A radial engined all metal stressed skin cantilever wing monoplane with retractable undercarriage, it was the last privately funded aircraft to take the record (wikipedia). This was still over 80 mph less than the record set by the MC.72 seaplane the previous year.

Two Dutch inventors had planned to launch a mail carrying rocket from Calais, France to Dover, England, were stopped at the last moment by French police who pointed out that they did not have permission from England to deliver mail in this manner, and launching an unguided rocket at a city was not a good idea (*Looking Back, Aeroplane Monthly*, September 2005).

Sunday

15 Germany enacts the '*Nuremberg Laws*' defining racial purity, during the Nazi Party Congress or Rally at Nuremberg. During this same event the incorporation of the Nazi swastika symbol in the national flag and other state emblems is approved, the visual culmination of the *Gleichschaltung* process, making the will of the Nazi Party the actions of the State (wikipedia).

Tuesday

17 First flight of Ju 87, later called the Stuka, a single engined dive bomber of all stressed metal construction notable for it's cranked (gull) wings and fixed undercarrage (M.J.H. Taylor).

Sunday

22 Abyssinia Crisis, Mussolini demands Ethiopia give up much of it's territory bordering Italian occupied Eritrea, cut it's army in half, and place Italian officers in charge of it's remaining units (wikipedia).

Tuesday

24 Abyssinia Crisis, The 5 power committee negotiating for a peaceful settlement between Italy and Ethiopia finds the Italian demands unacceptable and returns the problem to the *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 While on manoeuvres a Japanese fleet is caught in a typhoon and experiences damage to destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers plus 54 seamen killed. This leads to changes in naval construction and design in Japan, but the event and its lessons are kept secret from other navies. See Dec. 17-18, 1944.

Saturday

28 11 year old **Thorton Alexander Tweed** soloed in his fathers Monocoupe CF-AKO in Lethbridge, Alberta, the youngest pilot to solo in the Commonwealth at the time (B.W. Gowans). See June 2, 1939.

Monday

30 Germany now has 10 small training U-boats in service (G.S. Snyder).

## October 1935

-- German fighter competition is won by the Heinkel He 112 fighter, but second place entrant Bf 109 is given the contract for political and economic reasons. The He 112 was a larger, more robust aircraft with elliptical wings, a Heinkel trademark. It was also more expensive to produce (R. Meredith).

Thursday

3 Abyssinia Crisis Italy invades Ethiopia without declaration (wikipedia). Italian forces use aircraft and tanks against lightly armed infantry and cavalry organized along tribal lines. Aircraft saw widespread use and were effective using machine guns and bombs against massed groups of Ethiopians, but when they learned to disperse and used the rocky ground for cover Italian commanders would begin using poisoned gas against them (see December 15, below). Effective use was made of small aircraft flying in direct support of attacking ground forces, then harassing retreating columns. Transportation flights kept advancing units supplied with fuel and food (Hallion). It was what might be called blitzkrieg in embryo.

Saturday

5 Abyssinia Crisis, In response to the Italian invasion of Ethiopia the US enacts the *Neutrality Act of 1935* to prevent US supplies from being used to fight the war. This was an expression of the Isolationist movement in the USA. What was overlooked was that this effectively prevented Ethiopia from obtaining the means from the USA to fight Italian aggression, it did not affect Italian aims at all, nor did it prevent US exports to Italy of such items as steel, oil or copper (LoN). Although not widely debated in most of the USA, this war was seen differently by black Americans, who saw Emperor Haile Selassie as an inspiration in their fight for equal rights. Black churches and community groups raised funds for the Ethiopian resistance and sponsored a hospital there. Several thousand black Americans were also given military training with the intention of fighting in Ethiopia, but were prevented from leaving the country. Some of those who volunteered for training later travelled to and fought in Spain (A. Hochschild). See July 18, 1937.

The *League of Nations* imposed sanctions on Italy, but these were not very effective. Gas and oil were not embargoed, for example, and the Suez Canal, controlled by England, was not closed to Italian troop or supply ships (D. Sommerville).

Monday

14 Canadian Federal Election, Liberals defeat Conservative Party, **W.L. Mackenzie King** returns as Prime Minister with a majority government (wikipedia). In BC the Liberal party fed on local racism against Japanese Canadians to try to attack CCF candidates (Douglas and Greenhouse). The public reaction to the handling of the On-to-Ottawa Trek played a large part in this result.

Saturday

19 Hawker Audax light bomber struck off service with the RCAF after only 2 years of service (Griffin CMA). See May 3, 1940.

Wednesday

30 Prototype Boeing Model 299 (B-17) crashed at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, when it takes off with the controls locked (M.J.H. Taylor). Due to this the competition for which it was designed is won by the Douglas B-18 Bolo (RCAF Digby). Although now perceived as a less capable bomber, the B-18 met all the specifications laid out by the USAAC, was less expensive than the B-17 and represented a great advance in bomber design in the US (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). It was designed as the army support aircraft the Air Corps had specified while the B-17 design was more ambitious, intended as a high altitude strategic bomber. Despite the loss of the prototype, the B-17 aircraft showed such promise and performance that ways are found to finance further development of the aircraft, while modern bomber groups were formed on the B-18 aircraft (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

## **November 1935**

Friday

1 The Timiskaming Earthquake, a 6.1 magnitude quake, occurred on the Quebec-Ontario border, with effects felt from Fort William (Thunder Bay), James Bay, Fredricton NB and as far south as Kentucky. There were no deaths or reported injuries (wikipedia).

Sunday

3 French Socialist parties merge to form a new party, the Socialist Republican Union, which would become part of the Popular Front party (LoN).

Wednesday

6 First flight of the Hawker Hurricane fighter. Another low wing cantilever monoplane fighter design with an inline engine, retractable undercarriage and enclosed cockpit, the Hurricane is of mixed bolted tube construction with metal sparred and ribbed fabric covered wings and a fixed pitch wooden propellor driven by the new Rolls-Royce PV-12 inline 12 cylinder engine,

later called the Merlin. Improvements later replaced the fabric wings with all-metal stress skinned ones, and the propellor with a variable pitch unit, greatly improving the fighters performance. It was designed around an RAF specification for carrying an unprecedented 8 machine guns.

#### Saturday

9 40 Sqn. RAF Gordon I K2720 and Hart K4371 collided in mid-air over England, **Sgt W. Park RAF (Can.)** was killed in the Gordon, P/O A. Ross RAF and LAC J. Waugh RAF were killed in the Hart (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1937.htm>)

#### Monday

11 US balloon *Explorer II* launched in South Dakota and flown by USAAC Capts. A.W. Stevens and O.A. Anderson reaches a record 72,395 ft (22,066 m) (wikipedia).

#### Thursday

14 Stanley Baldwin wins the UK General Election (wikipedia).

First flight of the Noorduyt Norseman in Montreal, Quebec. This was the second aircraft designed from the start to be a bush plane (the first was the Fairchild Super 71), and the first to go into production. It is a strut supported monoplane with a welded steel tube fuselage and a wooden wing, all fabric covered. Designed with the input of many bush operators the Norseman was an excellent and rugged light transport able to operate in remote areas on floats, skis or wheels. It incorporated such useful suggestions as designed for easy changing from floats to skis or wheels, main cargo doors large enough for a 45 gallon drum of fuel to be loaded, and duplicate cargo doors on both sides, separate cockpit doors so the pilot could board even if the cabin was full, plus advances such as aerodynamic cowlings and variable pitch propellers combined with simple proven construction techniques. It was later recommended to the USAAF by Col. Bernt Balchen, and over 760 were built during the war for US service as the UC-64 ([www.norsemanhistory.ca](http://www.norsemanhistory.ca); [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil)).

#### Friday

15 In Washington **PM Mackenzie King** and President Roosevelt sign the *US-Canadian Reciprocal Trade Agreement* designed to stimulate cross-border trade by introducing favourable tariffs for exports from both countries (LoN).

#### Wednesday

20 Following the shooting of a Palestinian policeman by members of the Black Hand (a group opposed to Jewish immigration and British rule in Palestine) the police begin a manhunt for the groups leaders. On this date the Black Hand founder, Sheikh Izz ad-Din al-Qassam, is killed in a gunfight. His death, following the discovery of arms being smuggled to Jewish settlers, sparked widespread anger in the region (wikipedia). See April 15, 1936.

#### Thursday

21 Abyssinia Crisis, Sanctions against Italy by the *League of Nations* had led to shortages and limits of sales of food. On this date Mussolini gave 100,000 soldiers 3 months leave to work on

farms and factories to overcome these shortages (wikipedia).

In Germany Jews were restricted from trading on the stock exchanges there (wikipedia).

Friday

22 *Pan American Airlines* Martin M.130 NC14716 *China Clipper* departs Alameda, California on the first scheduled airmail flight across the Pacific Ocean to Manila via Hawaii, Midway, Wake and Guam islands using stations specially built at these sites and equipped with newly developed radio direction systems to aid the aircraft navigation to the remote islands (wikipedia).

Saturday

23 US explorer Lincoln Ellsworth with Canadian bush pilot **Hubert Hollick-Kenyon** leave Dundee Island in the Northrup Gamma NRX12269 *Polar Star* to fly across Antarctica.

Thursday

28 Abyssinia Crisis, Performance of music composed by nationals of countries participating in the sanctions against Italy is banned by Mussolini (wikipedia).

Friday

29 First trans-Pacific flight of *Pan American Airways* lands in Manila, 7 days after leaving California (wikipedia).

## December 1935

-- *North Atlantic Civil Aviation Agreement* with Canada, England, Ireland and Newfoundland establishes a flying boat base for transatlantic passenger flights at Botwood, Newfoundland.

-- Rudolf Hess orders the dissolution of the Nazi sponsored US *Friends of New Germany*, recalling it's German leaders (wikipedia). See March, 1936.

Tuesday

3 In the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the British Parliament, the need for improved air defence was emphasized (wikipedia).

Wednesday

4 Ellsworth and **Hollick-Kenyon**, after landing several times and weathering one storm, run out of fuel 16 miles short of their destination, the abandoned Little America base of the Byrd expedition. Their radio had failed on the first day, and the aircraft had been damaged in a hard landing as well (R. Maksel, *Lincoln Ellsworths Polar Star*, Smithsonian Air & Space, November 2016).

Abyssinia Crisis, In Italy to save on coal the school day was reduced to 3 hours (wikipedia).



Friday

6 Abyssinia Crisis, In Ethiopia Emperor Haile Selassie's headquarters in Dessie was attacked by Italian bombers. Scattered bombs also hit a US church run hospital and a Red Cross station (wikipedia).

Saturday

7 Abyssinia Crisis, Further Italian bombing of Dessie, which prompts a formal complaint by the Red Cross (wikipedia).

Sunday

8 British and French governments produce an agreement to solve the Abyssinia Crisis by partitioning Ethiopia and giving a large part of it's territory to Italy, intended to protect their colonies in the region, the *Hoare-Laval Pact* (wikipedia).

Monday

9 Fifteen coal miners killed in an explosion at Coalhurst, Alberta (www3.gendisasters.com).

Abyssinia Crisis, French newspapers published leaked details of the *Hoare-Laval Pact*, followed the next day by reports published in England (wikipedia).

Wednesday

11 Abyssinia Crisis, Ethiopia strongly objects to the details of the *Hoare-Laval Pact* as leaked to the press (wikipedia).

Friday

13 Abyssinia Crisis, Full text of the *Hoare-Laval Pact* to partition Ethiopia published, message from Haile Selassie that this violated the spirit of the *League of Nations Covenant* (wikipedia).

Abyssinia Crisis, In regards to the bombing of hospitals in Ethiopia, Italy claims Ethiopian forces have been placing these hospitals in military camps (wikipedia).

Sunday

15 Ellsworth and **Hollick-Kenyon** reach the Little America base on foot after several searches.

Abyssinia Crisis, Italian commander requests use of poison gas against Ethiopian forces (wikipedia).

Monday

16 Abyssinia Crisis, Mussolini approves use of poison gas in Ethiopia (wikipedia).

Tuesday

17 First flight of the Douglas DST (Douglas Sleeper Transport), later developed into the C-47/DC-3 Dakota (M.J.H. Taylor). This aircraft was a larger more powerful development of the DC-2 designed to fly transcontinental flights, the passengers in seats during the day, and in made-up beds at night, the flight crew changing but the passengers flying in the same aircraft to

their destination.

Wednesday

18 Samuel Hoare resigns as British Foreign Secretary over the issue of the *Hoare-Laval Pact*, replaced by Anthony Eden (wikipedia).

Thursday

19 Abyssinia Crisis, In debate in the British House of Commons PM Baldwin declares that the *Hoare-Laval Pact* is dead, and partitioning of Ethiopia will not be pursued by his government (wikipedia).

Sunday

22 Breguet-Dorand *Gyroplane Labratoire* helicopter establishes new speed record for helicopters of 67 miles per hour, many times greater than any previous machine. See September 26, 1936.

Monday

23 Abyssinia Crisis, First use of mustard gas against Ethiopian soldiers and civilians, spread by aircraft and bombs, a violation of the Geneva Convention (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 Abyssinia Crisis, An Italian aircraft is forced down in Ethiopia by an engine failure, both crewmen were killed on the ground, but the circumstances of the deaths are not clear. Italy later claimed that the pilot had been tortured and murdered, and this was used as a justification for the use of poison gas (wikipedia).

Friday

27 In China Mao Zedong issues a manifesto calling for National United Front against the Japanese (wikipedia).

USAAC in Hawaii uses aerial bombing to divert the flow of lava in a volcanic eruption away from the Hilo Water Works (wikipedia).

Monday

30 Abyssinia Crisis, A Swedish run Red Cross hospital in Ethiopia bombed by Italian aircraft, killing 42 people and leading to diplomatic protests by Sweden (wikipedia).

Abyssinia Crisis, Ethiopia reports the use of mustard gas against it's people to the *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

## **1936**

-- In the USSR the Special Purpose Air Arm is formed to develop long range strategic bombing, based on the TB-3 heavy bomber (M.J.H. Taylor; Oxford).

- In Canada a decision is made to reorganize the RCAF as a purely military organization (RCAF Sqns.).
- *Section 98* of the Criminal Code is repealed by the new Mackenzie King Government, but it forms the framework of the *Defence of Canada Regulations* of the *War Measures Act* used in Second World War (and in the Quebec Crisis of 1970) (wikipedia).

## January 1936

- Total size of the USAAC was 360 aircraft, about 165 of which are modern designs (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See June 24, 1936.
- Gold had been discovered on western Vancouver Island in 1934. In 1936 this started a Gold Rush centred around the town of Zeballos. By 1938 this had become a town of 1,500 people. Connection to Vancouver by steamship took 6 days, but only a few hours by air. Even though the rates for flying were relatively high, wages at Zeballos were so good that at least 2 enterprising ladies of low morals would charter an aircraft from Vancouver on the Thursday, and return on the Monday, with a profit (E. White).

### Wednesday

- 1 International Naval Limitations on warship construction expire (LoN).

### Saturday

- 4 First flight of the Vought SB2U Vindicator dive bomber (wikipedia).

### Monday

- 6 Spanish government falls (LoN).

### Sunday

- 12 [Abyssinia Crisis](#), Ethiopian forces in southern Ethiopia advance in force on Italian positions at Ganale Doria. This operation was not a secret, and the Italian air force began attacking the columns with bombs and mustard gas. Over three days the Ethiopians were driven back, regrouped and attacked many times, each time being attacked again by aircraft (wikipedia).

### Monday to Tuesday

- 13-14 In a Northrup Gamma NR13761 Howard Hughes set a new record time of 9 hours, 27 minutes across the USA, from Burbank, California to Newark, New Jersey, averaging 259 mph (wikipedia; <http://www.thisdayinaviation.com>).

### Tuesday

- 14 *American Airlines* DC-2 NC14274 Flight 1 crashed into a swamp in Arkansas, killing 17 passengers and crew. The aircraft was flying at low level at the time and only the co-pilot was at the controls. Looting by local people and a fire started accidentally by reporters prevented the investigators from finding the cause of what at that time was the worst aviation

accident in the USA (wikipedia; <http://www.flyinghigher.net/douglas/NC14274.html>). This aircraft had been used in the 1934 movie *Bright Eyes* starring Shirley Temple (<http://www.airliners.net>).

Wednesday

15 Abyssinia Crisis Italian forces counter attack remaining Ethiopian forces guarding access to south Ethiopia at the Battle of Ganale Doria, forcing them to flee (wikipedia).

Missing explorers Ellsworth and **Hollick-Kenyon** are found at the Little America base by one of the ships looking for them. The *Polar Star* aircraft is later salvaged and is now on display at the Smithsonian. See August 23, 1937.

Monday

20 King George V of England dies, Edward VIII accedes to the throne.

Wednesday

22 Laval resigns as PM of France (wikipedia).

Tuesday

23 North America experiences record cold temperatures. On this day 54 people died in the USA from the cold (wikipedia). See June 1936, below.

Friday

24 Albert Sarraut becomes Prime Minister of France in a caretaker government while elections are planned for the Spring (wikipedia; R. Meredith).

Monday

27 Power Jets Ltd. formed in England to develop F/O Whittle's gas turbine engine (wikipedia).

Wednesday

29 The October 1932 specification for a bomber for the RAF is revised to carry a bomb load of 4,500 lbs (S. Bond). See June 15, 1936.

#7 General Purpose (GP) Sqn. RCAF formed at Ottawa from existing flights, tasked with civil aerial photography, transportation and communications duties, using Fairchild 71 and Bellanca Pacemaker aircraft (CCMA).

## February 1936

Thursday

6 Winter Olympics open in Germany (wikipedia).

Sunday

9 Musician "**Stompin' "** Tom Connors born in Saint John, NB (wikipedia).

#### Monday to Saturday

10-15 Abyssinia Crisis Ethiopian forces counter attack advancing Italians at the Battle of Amba Aradam but are repulsed (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

12 Further extreme cold weather across North America, especially in Canadian and US prairies (wikipedia).

#### Thursday

13 *Imperial Airways* begins airmail service to West Africa (wikipedia). Lufthansa Dornier Wal flying boat *Samum* flew from the Canary Islands to Azores on a proving flight for a proposed North Atlantic airmail service (*Looking Back, Aeroplane Monthly*, February 2006).

#### Friday

14 #8 (General Purpose) Sqn. formed in Winnipeg from existing GP and Forestry flights with Fairchild 71, Bellanca Pacemaker and Vickers Vedette aircraft (CCMA; RCAF Sqns.).

#### Saturday

15 England won the Gold Medal in hockey. This was the first time Canada had lost the Olympic Gold Medal (wikipedia). See footnote Nov. 25, 1944.

A convoy of trucks travelling to a Jewish settlement in Palestine is attacked by gunmen, killing two drivers (wikipedia). The next day Jewish gunmen killed two Palestinians sleeping in a shed. This was the beginning of violent attacks that extended to acts against the British military and administration and continued to 1939 (wikipedia). See June 21, 1936 and August 19 & 26, 1938.

#### Sunday

16 In elections in Spain the Popular Front, a coalition of the left, wins the popular vote and the majority of seats in the Parliament. General Franco asks the President to overthrow the results and declare a military dictatorship, but rather than support this the President resigns, and a new President accepts the results. From this point military officers begin to plot a rebellion under the leadership of General Emilio Mola Vidal. The new Popular Front government begins re-establishing previous reforms, but refrains from taking drastic actions such as land redistribution. This was still seen as too much by the right, and now not enough by the poor and workers. Political violence and strikes increase in Spain. This leads to the outlawing of the Falange party and the arrest of its leader, José Antonio Primo (SCW).

#### Wednesday

19 Manuel Azana becomes President of Second Spanish Republic, proclaiming an amnesty for political prisoners and restoring the 1931 Constitution (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

22 In a public speech the ex-Secretary of State for Air for England, the Marquess of Londonderry,

stated that with centralized control of recruiting, training, aircraft development and production, the new German Luftwaffe would likely develop into the worlds most powerful military force very soon, and that given this England should support Germany who showed no aggressiveness in it's policies towards the United Kingdom (*Looking Back, Aeroplane Monthly*, February 2006).

Wednesday

26 Unhappy with the result of a general election in Japan, Japanese Army officers led troops which occupy Government offices in Tokyo, assassinate several cabinet ministers and demand the replacement of the commander of Kwantung Army in Manchuria with a more hardline general (wikipedia, Oxford).

Saturday

29 Emperor Hirohito orders the Army to arrest 123 conspirators occupying Government offices, 19 are later executed (wikipedia). Although the February 26 coup failed, it's effects increased the military influence in Japan's governments (wikipedia).

Abyssinia Crisis *US Neutrality Act of 1936* passed, extending the *Neutrality Act of 1935* to continue to prevent investment or funding of war activities in Ethiopia or elsewhere in the world (wikipedia). An unforeseen effect of the *Neutrality Act* is that it prevented the Canadian military from obtaining new equipment from US sources (S.J. Harris).

## March 1936

-- The new *German American Bund* is formed to promote Nazi ideals in the USA, replacing the former German led *Friends of New Germany*. To avoid the criticism that led to the dissolving of the former group membership is only open to US citizens of German descent (wikipedia).

-- Construction crews arrive at Mile 213, the Hattie's Camp site, and begin the work of creating an airport for trans-Atlantic operations (C.F. Warren et al). The airport would later be called Gander.

Monday

2 Feeling the time is right, especially with France in an election with only a caretaker government and England under a new King, Hitler orders the operation to re-occupy Rhineland to begin (R. Meredith).

Wednesday

4 First flight of the Zeppelin LZ-129 *Hindenburg* (wikipedia).

#6 Torpedo Bomber (TB) Sqn. RCAF formed at Trenton, Ontario, with no aircraft, in anticipation of receiving the first British built Blackburn Shark aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

## Thursday

5 First flight of the Supermarine Spitfire (wikipedia). The Spitfire was a low winged metal stress skinned aircraft like the Bf 109 with retracting undercarriage, enclosed cockpit, eight machine guns and a Rolls-Royce Merlin inline engine, but a fixed pitch wooden propellor. It was initially capable of 330 mph, but with a different (still fixed pitch) propellor the prototype increased this to 348 mph. It used a thin section elliptical wing proposed and developed by Canadian born aerodynamicist **Beverley Shenstone**, based on new US research on wing shapes (W. Saunders). Slightly larger than the Bf 109, both would go through many improvements and engine changes in the coming war to keep them on the leading edges of the performance curve.

Westland Wapiti light bomber/army co-operation aircraft enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). These aircraft and the Atlas aircraft received the year before were obsolete, but were available as surplus from the RAF, and were used to give the RCAF useful experience needed with military aircraft. At the same time the RCAF enquired about obtaining surplus fighters from the RAF, but were told that every fighter, including obsolete types, was required for the expansion of the RAF given the situation developing in Europe (C. Vincent).

## Friday

6 Avro Anson enters service with the RAF as a coastal patrol bomber, it's first aircraft with retracting undercarriage (RAF Timeline).

Hitler causes speculation when he calls a meeting of the Reichstag for the following day at noon (wikipedia).

## Saturday

7 The political situation in Europe enters a new phase when Hitler denounces the Rhineland provisions of *Versailles Treaty* and *Locarno Treaty* in the Reichstag, and citing the 1935 *Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance* as a threat to Germany, sends German troops to re-occupy the Rhineland (Oxford; Polsson). This was the first overt military action taken by the Nazi government of Germany. Under the treaty terms no German troops were to be stationed within 50 miles of the Rhine River. At the same time Hitler also claims that the new German Luftwaffe had reached parity in numbers with the RAF (*A Short History of the RAF*).

German representatives inform foreign governments of the action and outline a plan including a promise of 25 years of peace for all countries bordering Germany (Polsson).

Fooled by propaganda claims the French military grossly overestimated the number of German soldiers which had entered the Rhineland, and advised it's government that using the Army to force German soldiers out of the region would result in a war with Germany, and France's economy was too fragile to sustain the cost of this. As well it was reported that the quality and numbers of German Luftwaffe aircraft, based on German propaganda, had surpassed the French Armée de l'Air (see below), and it was feared French ground forces and cities would be devastated by air attacks, while French aircraft losses would be difficult to replace as their factories were not as productive due to the economic situation. There was no

popular support in the country for a war, and without support from other countries, and facing an election, France decided it could not oppose Germany's action (wikipedia). In part this stemmed from the policy of using almost all of its standing army in the Maginot defence systems, thus having no large field force to deploy without National Mobilization. Thus, although warned of Germany's action, it did not have an effective or large mobile force available to forestall it without National Mobilization, and in the time taken to mobilize (8 days) the Rhineland would be occupied, so if France re-entered the zone under the *Treaty of Locarno*, it would have been seen as an aggressor (R. Meredith). [See September 9, 1938 and May 20, 1940.]

In England Hitler's action was not seen as a cause for a war. In part this was due to the national sentiment that despite the Treaties the Rhineland was part of Germany and the re-occupation only recognized this fact. The Canadian High Commissioner to London informed the British government that Canada would not support them if they declared a war on Germany over the Rhineland, and other Commonwealth countries made similar statements (wikipedia).

Britain and France began talks about military co-operation to re-occupy the Rhineland, but these soon ended given the political recognition of the action (wikipedia). See February 6, 1939.

The number of German soldiers sent to the Rhineland is initially small (wikipedia) but more are sent as it becomes clear the action will not provoke an invasion from France, which German military leaders knew they could not stop at this time. They were prepared to retreat if threatened, and post war many German generals stated their belief that any military action by even a token force against the occupation would have led to the downfall of Hitler and averted the coming war. But German propaganda, the political and economic situation in France and the unwillingness of other European countries to go to war against the will of their people results in the acceptance of this action which was extremely popular in Germany, and Hitler's position as leader of Germany was strengthened.

In the air over the Rhineland heavy and constant patrols by fighters were flown during the day, the first overt show of organized force by the Luftwaffe, surprising many military observers. What was not realized was that to accomplish this every modern He 51 fighter available in Germany had been concentrated into the Rhineland area including training aircraft that lacked guns, and that the rest of the country was left practically defenceless. Many of the pilots were inexperienced students or in units that had just formed in a hurry for this operation, and some units had no ammunition early in the day until emergency supplies were airlifted to their bases. To mislead observers as to numbers unit crests on aircraft were often re-painted with different ones between patrols. What Luftwaffe bomber groups that existed were fully armed and briefed to attack communication targets if France reacted, but fully trained crews were few, and their effectiveness would be far less than feared (R. Meredith).

Shown the power of propaganda this becomes a feature of all future German campaigns. In the short term it can be effective in making a smaller force appear more powerful, but its effect wears off with time and experience, as in the boy who cried wolf.



Tuesday

10 First flight of the Fairey Battle light bomber (wikipedia). One of a series of similar light attack aircraft developed around the world for tactical support of armies it is a stressed skinned single engined cantilever monoplane with retractable undercarriage but relatively small bomb bays in the wing and a crew of three. More robust than the Wellesley it carried a much smaller bomb load. It was intended for use over a battlefield under conditions of air superiority, and was originally meant to be a lighter, smaller aircraft, but the initial proposal was altered to give an aircraft "capable of carrying 1,000 lb. [of bombs] 1,000 miles", but without allowing for the consideration of a second engine, which was proposed by the designers (S. Shail). As a result although nearly 3 times the size of a Spitfire or a Hurricane it relies on the same Merlin engine for power. Similar single engined designs are developed in the USA, Italy, France, Japan and the USSR, and almost all are found to be lacking when put into combat.

Tuesday

17 First flight of the Armstrong-Whitworth Whitley heavy (later medium) bomber. Although it might be dismissed as another twin engined cantilever metal bomber with retractable wheels and enclosed bomb bays the Whitley makes no pretence to be fast. It is a large heavy bomber with turrets, long range, a maximum bomb load of 7,000 lb., intended to fly at night, and represents an interim design to give the RAF a modern bomber force as quickly as possible. It had a stressed skin fuselage with a very deep and wide metal wing of mixed stressed skin and fabric covering over metal structure. First flown with radial engines it soon switches to Rolls-Royce Merlins which give it a very useful performance (wikipedia; R. Williams).

Thursday

19 Flooding in the USA killed 150 people (wikipedia).

Saturday

21 Politician **Ed Broadbent** born in Oshawa, Ontario (wikipedia).

Sunday

22 Abyssinia Crisis Italian bombers attack the town of Jijiga, southern headquarters of the Ethiopian resistance, for over an hour, the most intense attack of the war so far (wikipedia).

Monday

23 *Imperial Airways* begins airmail service between Hong Kong and Malaysia (wikipedia).

Tuesday

24 Scientist and environmentalist **David Suzuki** born in Vancouver, BC (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 A Ford Tri-motor on a scenic flight flew into high ground on a volcano near Zumpango, Mexico, killing 14, the worst loss in a crash in Mexico at the time (wikipedia).

Sunday

29 Abyssinia Crisis The city of Harar was attacked by a force of 33 Italian bombers for over 2 hours in an attack that dropped 12 tons of bombs and set the city on fire. This was Ethiopia's second largest city and had been declared an 'Open City' (undefended, and without military presence) by Ethiopia. Hospitals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, properly marked and located outside the city, were also bombed (wikipedia).

Tuesday

31 Abyssinia Crisis Battle of Maychew, Ethiopian forces led in person by Emperor Haile Selassie, attack Italian forces and are defeated. Last major battle of the war (wikipedia).

First flight of the Ilyushin DB-3 medium bomber, an all metal, low winged twin engined design later developed into the Il-4 (wikipedia).

Manpower of RCAF 142 officers and 884 enlisted Regular and 52 officers and 289 enlisted NPAAF. There were 12,000 applications to enlist in the Air Force in this year. Of the aircraft ordered the year before only the Shark torpedo bombers ordered from England had been delivered. Orders were placed for further Sharks, Deltas and training aircraft as well as Stranraer flying boats all to be built in Canada. In this year the RCAF flew it's final Civil Government operations, becoming a purely military force, albeit poorly equipped. The new Department of Transportation was formed in November to take over administration of civil aviation in Canada from the Air Force, while civilian charter airlines (bushplanes) took over flights in support of Federal Government activities (CCMA).

## April 1936

-- Arab High Commission formed in Palestine to oppose Jewish claims in the region, where resistance against Jewish settlers had reached open warfare. They call for a General Strike in the region (LoN).

Wednesday

1 Austria introduces military conscription in spite of treaties (LoN).

Tornados kill 44 people in the USA (wikipedia).

Friday

3 Abyssinia Crisis Under air attack Ethiopian forces retreating from the Battle of Maychew reach Lake Ashangi, only to be attacked at this water source by Italian bombers that killed thousands on the shores and poisoned the lake's waters (wikipedia).

In response to a request from Britain to refrain from fortifying, Germany replies with a complete refusal. Soon after Germany begins construction on the *West Wall* (called the *Siegfried Line* by Allied soldiers), a series of defensive fortifications along the German border parallel to the French Maginot Line. In 1939 this fortified line gave Hitler the security to attack Poland

without worrying about an invasion from France (Oxford), and in 1944-45 it posed a major obstacle to the invasion of Germany. In the USSR the *Stalin Line*, a similar fortified barrier, is built on the Russian border from the Black Sea to the Baltic (quality and date of work not known).

Sunday

5 Multiple tornados in the southern USA killed 454 people over two days (wikipedia).

Tuesday

7 TWA DC-2 NC13721 Flight 1 flew into high ground in Pennsylvania in fog descending to get a ground fix after losing navigation signals, killing 11 of 14 on board. The injured stewardess pulled survivors from the wreck and administered first aid before following telephone wires 4 miles to a home and calling for help, then walking back to the crash site to assist in the rescue of 2 survivors, one of whom later died of their injuries. This accident led to recommendations to have the US Government take over and expand the navigation and radio control system for aircraft, leading to the present day Air Traffic Control system (wikipedia).

Sunday

12 Moose River Mine Disaster, Three men are trapped by the collapse of the main shaft while inspecting a gold mine in Nova Scotia. Hourly radio broadcasts on the efforts to save them by the Canadian Radio Broadcast Commission (pre-cursor of CBC) are re-broadcast across the continent and overseas, and it is considered the first mass media event in real time. Rescuers and the CRBC news crew were flown into the site by RCAF aircraft (D. Morton) of #5 (FB) Sqn., which also provided the radio communications to the site (E. Cable). The *Ontario Provincial Air Service* committed two aircraft from its fleet, a DH Moth on floats and a Vickers Vedette flying boat, flown by G. Phillips, J. Heaven, E. Wright and J. Tyrell, to fly urgently needed equipment from Toronto to the mine site and later operate supply flights to and from Halifax (J.C. Dillon).

Tuesday

14 Bombs explode under the Presidential reviewing stand during a parade in Madrid, Spain, celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Spanish Republic, causing no injuries but panicking nearby spectators (wikipedia).

Friday

17 Considering that the planned Luftwaffe heavy bomber types, the Do 19 and Ju 89, would soon be outclassed, a much more advanced 4 engined bomber design was planned, *Bomber A*. It was expected to begin testing in 1941, and be in service by 1943, which was seen to be on schedule for the war Hitler was planning (R. Meredith).

Monday

20 A drill reaches the three trapped men in the Moose River Gold Mine, establishing communications and allowing water and liquid food to be sent to them, as well as a specially built miniature telephone.

Tuesday

21 Eleven people are killed in riots in Tel Aviv, Palestine (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 Just after midnight rescue workers bring the two survivors of the Moose River Gold Mine disaster to the surface, where an RCAF aircraft flew them to hospital in Halifax (D. Morton). The news is sent around the world. Today the site is a Provincial Park and memorial to miners who have died in the province (Oriented.ca;  
<http://www.shirleycollingridge.com/words/mooseriver.php>).

Monday

27 Abyssinia Crisis Italian aircraft drop leaflets over the Ethiopian capitol of Addis Ababa, threatening to destroy the city if Italian forces marching towards it were attacked (wikipedia).

Tuesday

28 King Fuad of Egypt dies, succeeded by King Farouk (LoN).

Thursday

30 Construction of 38 new warships for the Royal Navy announced (LoN).

## May 1936

-- #15 (F) and #18 (B) Sqns. NPAAF, Montreal, Quebec, receive Moth aircraft and begin flight training (RCAF Sqns.).

Saturday

2 Abyssinia Crisis Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie leaves Addis Ababa for Europe where he will address the *League of Nations* (wikipedia).

Sunday

3 Popular Front wins French National Elections (LoN).

Tuesday

5 Abyssinia Crisis Italian Forces occupy Addis Ababa (wikipedia).

Saturday

9 Abyssinia Crisis Italy annexes Ethiopia (wikipedia). The Italian Air Force used 386 aircraft of all types in this war, losing 72 (to weather and accidents), against a handful of Ethiopian aircraft (all light transports). Many prominent Fascists served in the Air Force during the campaign including both of Mussolini's sons and Count Ciano, later Minister of Foreign Affairs. Military air operations continued without public fanfare for another year as Italy sought to suppress guerilla groups in the "conquered" country (H.W. Neulen).

The inability of the *League of Nations* to organize an effective response to protect Ethiopia against Italian aggression when both were members of the League, and its similar failure with Japan in Manchuria, marked the end of the *League* as an effective international political organization (LoN). The United States, not a member of the League, also failed to produce any useful policy that might have prevented the war, in large part due to the Isolationist policies then popular there.

Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek declares that Japan is waging an undeclared war against China (wikipedia).

The first game show, *Professor Quiz*, starts on CBS radio (T. O'Reilly; wikipedia).

Monday

11 [Abyssinia Crisis](#) When the *League of Nations* decided to allow the Ethiopian delegation to continue to represent the country the Italian delegation walked out, leaving Geneva the next day (wikipedia).

Tuesday

12 First flight of the Messerschmidt Bf 110 twin engine fighter (wikipedia). This aircraft combined twin engines and long range with a very heavy forward armament in the nose. Its intention was to be a long range fighter escort for bombers. See August 19, 1940.

Sunday

17 Curfew imposed in Jerusalem after 3 Jews were killed and 2 injured the previous evening when a gunman opened fire on a movie theatre crowd (wikipedia).

Tuesday

26 #11 (AC) Sqn., Vancouver, DH.60GM Moth #156 was looking for suitable practice airfields when it struck a wire and crashed, **S/L A.D. Bell-Irving MC** safe but the aircraft was written off (440 SH; R.W.R. Walker).

Wednesday

27 Cunard Liner *RMS Queen Mary* departs Southampton on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic (wikipedia).

## June 1936

Monday

1 National Employment Commission formed in Ottawa led by Scottish born industrialist **A.B. Purvis** (wikipedia). See November 6, 1939.

Wednesday

3 Exiled Emperor Haile Selassie arrives in England (wikipedia).

In Berlin Luftwaffe Chief of Staff Walther Wever is killed in the crash of a He 70 aircraft when he took off with the control gust locks still in place. The main strategist of the German Air Force, he believed in and promoted the development of heavy, long range bombers for strategic use which would give the Luftwaffe the ability to attack virtually all of Europe from bases inside Germany. He was known for making things work, and co-ordinating all the aspects and personalities needed to create a modern air force, and his loss was a great blow to Germany and the Luftwaffe (R. Meredith). He was replaced by Gen. Albert Kesselring, an ex-Army officer who believed the primary use of the Luftwaffe was to support the army, and abandoned all development of strategic bombers in favour of smaller bombers and dive bombers for tactical air support. Wever's fundamental doctrine that all arms of the military should co-operate to achieve victory remained, but Germany's strategic bomber capability in particular never recovered from his loss (Oppenheimer; F.K. Mason). See Oct. 28, 1936, April 11, 1937 and notes, May 10-11, 1941.

RAF places initial order for 310 Spitfires.

Thursday

4 Leon Blum becomes Prime Minister of France (wikipedia).

Friday

5 22 Sqn. RAF, Vildebeest III K4608 was taking off from Hal Far in Malta when the engine failed, the torpedo bomber stalled and crashed killing F/O J.A. Sutherland RAF (Can.) and his gunner AC1 F.G. Chalk RAF (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Accf1939.htm>).

Monday

15 First flight of the Vickers Wellington heavy (later medium) bomber (wikipedia; S. Bond). Originally called the Crécy the name was later changed to avoid ill-feelings from France. The Wellington used a more developed geodetic framework structure than the Wellesley, but was much larger with twin engines and an internal bomb bay that would make it the equivalent of the B-17 in performance (except altitude), and superior to any other European bomber of the time in terms of load and range. See January 7-8, 1945.

First flight of the Westland Lysander army co-operation aircraft (M.J.H. Taylor). One of a family of such aircraft developed in various countries, the Lysander was intended to perform the duties of tactical reconnaissance, artillery spotting, liaison, communications and light bombing in support of the army, all with one design. As in most of these multi-use army support designs the result was a large, heavy and complicated aircraft. Although much work had gone into giving the Lysander high lift ability to operate from short unprepared fields near the fighting, like the Battle it was soon found to be too vulnerable for battlefield use.

Tuesday

16 Oil is discovered in the Turner Valley of Alberta, south of Calgary, previously a natural gas field. This was developed and production peaked in 1942. Over 10 million barrels of oil was produced here for the war effort before the oil began to run out at the end of the war ([www.turnervalley.ca](http://www.turnervalley.ca)). See Feb. 13, 1947.

Norway suffered its first fatal airliner crash when *DNL* (Norwegian Air Lines) float equipped Ju 52/3m LN-DAE *Havørn* flew into a mountain off course, killing 7 on board (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

17 The Supreme Court of Canada ruled much of the "New Deal" legislation passed by the previous Conservative government to be invalid as it interfered with Provincial rights (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

20 Abyssinia Crisis US restrictions on Italy and Ethiopia lifted, while in England the lifting of restrictions on Italy was debated while the government tried to create a conference to discuss a structure to ensure peace in Europe (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

21 First flight of the Handley-Page Hampden medium bomber (wikipedia). This design, like the Do 17, attempted to achieve the most in range and payload with the minimum possible fuselage. The Hampden was very narrow, reducing its frontal drag but making it hard to move about inside. This also precluded installing powered turrets for defence.

6 Sqn. RAF based at Ramleh, Palestine, and operating in support of road convoys, was engaged in protecting an ambushed convoy between Tulkarm and Nablus. Nine Hart aircraft were operating all day attacking the ambushing force with guns, 3 were forced down and 1 pilot injured. The next day restrictions against using small bombs on attacking forces were lifted (P. Cornwell). An example of how the situation in Palestine was escalating and of one of the many tasks undertaken without fanfare by the RAF during the unrest in the region.

#### Monday

22 French liner *Normandie* moored off Southampton to offload passengers, near a target for torpedo training. RAF Baffin S1562 buzzed the liner after a torpedo run, but clipped a wire which spun it onto the bow deck, fortunately without any casualties. To allow the liner to continue on schedule the wreckage was secured and later offloaded in Le Havre (*Aeroplane Monthly*, September 2021).

#### Wednesday

24 President Roosevelt signs the '2320 Act', approving the expansion of the USAAC to 2,320 aircraft (Hagedorn & Hagedorn), a 6 fold increase over the number in service at the beginning of the year. See April 3, 1939.

Passing down the coast of New Brunswick enroute from New York to Germany the airship *Hindenburg* diverted to St. John, passed slowly over the port and at one point stopped, before returning to its flight to Europe (A. MacLean). See July 8, below. The airship was a common sight in the summer flying down the coast of New Brunswick at this time (pers. comm.).

#### Thursday

25 First flight of the military version of the Bristol Blenheim light bomber, another high speed twin

engined all metal monoplane light bomber faster than service fighters of the day (wikipedia). This was the military version of the *Britain First* light transport of April 1935. As a bomber it is another twin engined all metal cantilever monoplane aircraft with an enclosed bomb bay and retractable gear, similar to the B-10 or SB designs.

That the Spitfire, Hurricane, Whitley, Wellington, Battle, Lysander, Hampden and Blenheim first flights all took place within a few months indicates how much England was spending to modernize it's Air Force at this time. See notes, July 22, 1936, below.

First commercial flight of a Douglas DC-3, with *American Airlines* (wikipedia).

Friday

26 First flight of the Focke-Anglis Fa 61 helicopter, using tandem rotors on wide spread side outriggers.

Tuesday

30 The Unemployment Relief Project for the construction of the RCAF base at Trenton, Ontario, ends as the base nears completion (E.A. Johnson et al).

## July 1936

Tuesday

2 Western Canada and the USA, which had suffered extreme cold temperatures in the winter, entered an extreme heat wave (wikipedia).

Wednesday

3 First flight of the Short Empire C-Class flying boat (wikipedia). This was an all metal 4 engined passenger flying boat designed for use between England and Commonwealth countries, including trans-Atlantic service to Newfoundland (with in-flight refuelling) and Canada.

Sunday

5 Extreme right wing supporters riot in Paris (wikipedia).

Tuesday

7 First flight of the bomber version of the Savoia-Marchetti SM.79. At the time it was promoted as the fastest bomber in service in the world (L. Caliaro).

Wednesday

8 After the airship *Hindenburg* diverted to fly over England on a trans-Atlantic flight to the USA, further flights by German airships over England are prohibited as a military precaution (wikipedia).

Thursday

9 The Royal Navy announced that the number of extra ships that had been based in the



Mediterranean due to the Abyssinia Crisis would be re-deployed (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

11 Germany and Austria sign an agreement under which Austria agrees to conduct its foreign policy in co-ordination with Germany's (Oxford).

#### Sunday

12 After several delays General Mola's plans for a military coup in Spain come together when General Franco, the most popular and able military leader in Spain, agrees to join him to put exiled General Sanjurjo in power as military dictator. Orders to begin preparations go out on this date. By coincidence a Socialist Spanish Army officer is murdered in Spain by Falange gunmen that night (SCW).

#### Monday

13 In Spain noted Conservative politician Jose Calvo Soteco is abducted and murdered in revenge for previous killing (SCW).

Claims that Germany is re-fortifying the North Sea island of Heligoland are denied (wikipedia). See July 29, below.

In Palestine a low flying Hart aircraft of 6 Sqn. RAF was fired on by a group of Arabs, and returned to attack with machine guns and 20 lb. bombs, the first use of bombs in the revolt. Some 8-10 gunmen on the ground were killed (P. Cornwell).

#### Monday and Tuesday

13-14 Major heatwave across Midwest US peaks. The extreme heat destroyed crops and killed over 5,000 people in North America during the summer (wikipedia).

#### Tuesday

14 RAF creates separate commands to facilitate expansion, Bomber Command, Fighter Command, Coastal Command and Training Command formed on this date (RAF Timeline). Air Marshal Hugh Dowding KCB appointed Air Officer Commanding of Fighter Command. Although this allows for focus on their respective tasks (defence of the United Kingdom, projection of force to its enemies and protection of shipping of food and material vital to its economy), it placed a barrier in co-ordination where needed between the commands (for example, escorting of bombers, tactical flexibility). This would lead to RAF innovation in tactical development of airpower to be found in the more remote areas of the Commonwealth, where all types of aircraft had to be utilized (B. Kite). See remarks February 7, 1941.

Planners in England foresee the use of gas and the heavy bombing of London in the opening phases of a war. British government announces plans to manufacture gas masks for the entire civil population (Polsson; wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

15 Abyssinia Crisis, *League of Nations* lifts sanctions imposed on Italy for its invasion of Ethiopia

(C.E. Hipperson).

Thursday

16 Attempted assassination of Edward VIII (wikipedia).

Friday

17 Spanish Army in Africa seizes control of towns and begins executing or imprisoning labour leaders and left wing politicians. That evening they begin broadcasting their success to mainland Spain, beginning of the Spanish Civil War (SCW).

Saturday

18 Spanish Civil War, In the Canary Islands General Franco seizes power and proclaims his aims to save Spain from the left, communists and separatists. After this he leaves in DH Rapide G-ACYR chartered from England, for Spanish Morocco. In European Spain Seville is taken by the Army and reprisals against loyal officers and leftists begin. All across Spain citizens who supported the elected parliament demanded arms to defend and support the Government. Cadiz, Cordoba and Grenada were taken by Army rebels, other towns remained under government control. Some Spaniards began fighting each other, others hesitated, trying to decide what to do. In Madrid left wing groups are also demanding that the Government give them weapons to resist the military, but the Prime Minister is unwilling to do this. As protests grow he resigns. His successor works all night to find a solution, while junior Army officers who oppose the uprising begin to distribute weapons. Street fighting breaks out in Barcelona (SCW).

The use of an aircraft chartered from England to carry General Franco from the Canaries was to prevent it being attacked enroute, which was likely in a Spanish aircraft. To what extent this was done with the knowledge of the British Government has never been discovered, but both the pilot of the Rapide and the Englishman who leased it for the 'vacation' trip to the Canary Islands so that it just 'happened' to be available had worked for the British Secret Intelligence Service (various).

Sunday

19 Spanish Civil War, Franco's airplane arrives in Morocco. He is fearful that he will be arrested when he lands, but finds the Army in control on the ground. In Madrid General Mola refuses a last offer of compromise, leading to the resignation of a second Prime Minister. A new Prime Minister, José Giral, sanctions the distribution of arms. In a speech Basque communist politician Dolores Ibarruri makes the statement "It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees!" and her call for loyalists to defend Madrid, "*No Paserán!*" (They shall not pass!), rings around the world. The local rebel Army general hesitates to take control of the City and is surrounded with his troops in the city barracks. In Barcelona armed loyalists defeat the rebel soldiers, securing the city. Other cities and regions come under control of Government or rebel forces, many choices being determined by chance or circumstance (SCW). The Air Force sided with the government but the Navy was divided. Most Naval officers supported the rebels, but not all, while most of the lower deck sailors supported the government. It should be pointed out that the Spanish Navy was small but was a well equipped and effective

force (G. Wilson).

Monday

20 Spanish Civil War, In Madrid the barracks are taken after many confusing surrenders followed by renewed gunfire, ending the rebel threat inside the City. The soldiers in the area retreat to nearby Toledo, taking 250 prominent leftists held hostage with them, where they are besieged in the Military Academy (the Alcázar fortress). The rebels had counted on naval ships to bring the African and Spanish Foreign Legion soldiers (the countries most effective fighting force) from Morocco to Spain, but this was thwarted when the sailors and junior officers of most of the ships supported the government (SCW), however several cruisers anchored or under construction were captured in hard fighting when their sailors were defeated by Army soldiers (G. Wilson). Rebel controlled aircraft begin flying troops from Africa to Spain (wikipedia).

On this date the Republican government of Spain was assured of arms and support from France (SCW).

Tuesday

21 Spanish Civil War, Spain is split into two factions. On both sides each sought to root out their enemies. In loyalist regions (except the religious Basque provinces) churches were looted and burned. Tens of thousands were killed by opposing factions of both sides. The stated aim of the Army, to prevent anarchy taking control in Spain, became moot as their actions brought anarchy across the country and destroyed any bridges between the right and left that still existed. The rebels seize many towns and provinces, but their main military strength remains isolated in Africa. In the Republican zones Militias made up of volunteers prepare to fight, serving whatever political or local faction they support. Most are untrained and undisciplined (indeed some factions oppose discipline on ideological grounds). Factories are collectivized and thousands of rural collectives are formed, all with different ideas and with wide ranging results, sometimes improving the lives of the members, sometimes not. The Republican controlled naval ships begin a blockade of Morocco. Although most Naval ships had stayed loyal to the government the actions of many of its officers to support the rebels cast suspicion on those on loyal ships, and within months most were dismissed and many imprisoned, a move which severely damaged the Navy's operational capability (G. Wilson). After looking at options Franco and Mola send appeals to Hitler and Mussolini for assistance, asking for aircraft to transport their troops from Africa (SCW).

General Sanjurjo intends to fly to Spain from Portugal to take over as dictator as planned, but his Puss Moth aircraft hits a tree on take-off and crashes, and he is killed. Overloading is blamed for the crash (SCW).

Wednesday

22 On the invitation of Luftwaffe Commander, Herman Göring, US long distance flyer Charles Lindbergh, then living in England, visits Germany and tours Luftwaffe bases, research facilities and German aircraft factories. He had made similar visits to British, French and Soviet air forces during his years in Europe (Ahlgren and Monier). He later reported to his friend Robert Goddard, the pioneering rocket engineer, that despite their known great interest

in rocket propulsion his German hosts did not discuss or show him any work relating to rocketry, leading Goddard to conclude, correctly, that they were researching military applications of rockets (wikipedia). German rocket research had surpassed that in any other country years before, but this was not widely known.

At this time the German aircraft industry was the largest in the world. To rapidly build the Luftwaffe the Nazi government had forced central government control on the industry, nationalizing most aircraft design companies and co-opting the remainder. No expense was spared to design new and more advanced aircraft and engines, and new production facilities were built at Government expense in areas away from borders and cities, designed to survive bombing attacks (R. Meredith). To give an idea of the industries expansion R. Meredith quotes from E.R. Hooten, *Phoenix Triumphant* (1994), that in the fiscal period 1936/37 the German aviation industry received nearly 4 times the amount of funding spent in England. France, hobbled by political divisions, spent less than 10% of what England had in the same period, and in the USA spending was only about 20% of the British total. See notes April 1937, May 28, 1938 and June 23, 1938, below.

Saturday

25 Spanish Civil War, After pressure from Britain, France is forced to rescind its offer of aid to the Spanish Republican Government. This marks a turning point in the war, where to support Britain's policy to avoid a greater European war, the European democracies declined to assist the democratically elected government in Spain. (That this government was made up of many factions, most 'left wing' and including Socialist, Anarchist and Communist parties, was seen by Britain's Conservative government as a threat). The only other country to pledge arms to the Republic at this time is Mexico, which sent what it could, which was critical in the early months. Portugal under Salazar supported the rebels, turning loyalists seeking asylum there over to the rebels (and the firing squads) as well as providing thousands of "volunteer" soldiers to fight in the war. Britain declares an embargo on arms to Spain, to which Germany agrees, publicly stating they would not intervene in Spanish internal matters (SCW).

Sunday

26 King Edward VIII unveils the completed Vimy Memorial to Canada's War Dead, over 100,000 attend the ceremony including 6,000 veterans of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. See June 2, 1940.

Spanish Civil War, Portugal's Antonio Salazar agrees to support the rebel forces in Spain (wikipedia).

Tuesday

28 Spanish Civil War, Hitler and Mussolini both separately agree to secretly help the rebel Spanish Generals, both recognizing Franco as the leader (as he controls the best military force) although it is actually Mola who is controlling the rebel Junta following the death of General Sanjurjo. Hitler is urged by his military advisors to support the war as a place where his new air force and army can gain practical experience, as well as the need for access to Spain's mineral products (SCW). On this date the first of 20 German Ju 52/3m transport/bombers

arrive in Spanish Morocco to begin a secret airlift of troops to Cadiz in Spain. These were elite soldiers, and although small in number they were able to allow the rebels to hold onto several key towns and ports. This was an innovative tactic, using transport aircraft to quickly move soldiers into a battle zone on a large scale overflying a naval blockade, and it saved the rebellion, for without this the rebel forces in mainland Spain might have collapsed or been defeated by the Government. (It was not the first strategic airlift of troops, as some believe. The first was RAF transports lifting soldiers into Kirkuk, Iraq, in 1923 (wikipedia)).

Wednesday

29 Spanish Civil War First Italian ship with aviation fuel, bombs and ammunition leaves Italy for Spanish Morocco (H.W. Neulen).

Newspapers in Germany reveal that Heligoland is being fortified despite statements of the government (wikipedia).

In the Soviet Union a secret document approving the use of torture and other means (such as threatening to kill family members) to gather confessions is approved. This was used in the Great Purge of the next few years (G. Persson). See August 25, 1936.

Thursday

30 Spanish Civil War Twelve Italian SM.81 bomber/transports leave Italy for Spanish Morocco to support General Franco. The aircraft had had their air force markings hurriedly painted over and the crews wore no uniforms. Running into headwinds 9 managed to land in Spanish Morocco, 1 ditched in the sea with the loss of the crew and 2 ran out of fuel and landed in French Morocco, which exposed the secret operation to the world press (SCW; H.W. Neulen).

Friday

31 On the eve of the 1936 Olympics in Germany the IOC announced that the 1940 Olympic Games would be held in Tokyo, Japan (wikipedia). In Germany the Games were used to disguise the transport of arms, aircraft and personnel to ports for shipping to Spain (R. Meredith).

In France the new Popular Front government introduced *Sections d'Aviation Populaire*, attached to flying clubs, that offered free instruction to boys 9 to 21, from model building and flight theory, to glider instruction, and finishing with a pilots license, using aircraft and instructors provided by the government, intended to help provide pilots to the French Air Force. These lasted until March 1939 when they were converted to military training flights (*Aeroplane Monthly*, February 1999).

## August 1936

-- First proposal by the RAF for establishment of a training program in Canada, similar to the 'RFC/RAF in Canada' force of 1917-1918, ie, an organization based in Canada and to be financially supported by Canada, but run by England, to train Canadians for service in the RAF. This was sent to Ottawa but PM **Mackenzie King** was not in favour of having Canadians

serve in the RAF without Dominion input or control, or of having British bases established in Canada at that countries expense. He was not against the idea of training in Canada but he preferred such bases to be Canadian controlled (English; Dalke).

- Spanish Civil War, After several weeks the Republican government begins to take measures to stop killing by groups supporting it, and even assisting families of right wing rebels to refuges controlled by neutral embassies. Peoples Courts are set up to try criminal and political cases in an impartial manner, and prison reforms are put in place. In the rebel Army controlled zones, however, ideological purges of anyone with "liberal" ideas continues without any formal system of justice. To the Spaniards this became known as the "White Terror" (SCW).
- Hitler appoints his chief Foreign Affairs advisor, Joachim von Ribbentrop, as Ambassador to England. Prior to 1914 von Ribbentrop had emigrated to Canada, but left when the war started, first to the USA, then back to Germany.
- In Manitoba there was a sudden rise in the number of cases of Infantile Paralysis (poliomyelitis or Polio), especially in the community of Boissevain. In the province there were 525 reported cases (from a country wide total of 978) and 37 deaths, most affecting children under 10. In Winnipeg concern by parents was compared to the effects of the air raids on England in the 1914-1918 war as they sought to protect their children from the crippling disease. The disease was occurring in mostly rural areas, however, badly affected by the Depression, where sometimes reporting was delayed by the lack of money to pay for a doctor (there was no health care program in Canada at that time). As Polio was known to travel from west to east health authorities in Ontario began to prepare to meet it (C.J. Ruddy). See August 1937.

#### Saturday

- 1 Summer Olympics open in Berlin (wikipedia). The Nazi party used the games to promote their ideology, and staged a massive event to this end. Opening ceremonies included the first torch relay of the Olympic Flame from Greece, and the games were the first to be broadcast live on television. Hitler had opposed participation by Jewish and non-white athletes, but backed down in the face of an international boycott (wikipedia), however German Jewish athletes were kept from participating.

Pioneer aviator Louis Blériot, the first man to fly the English Channel, died (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

- 2 Spanish Civil War, Italian SM.81 aircraft flying for the rebel Spanish forces begin making patrols over the Straits of Gibraltar, later attacking Government warships and escorting transport ships of African troops (R. Meredith).

#### Monday

- 3 Spanish Civil War, Rebel Army forces begin to advance from Seville to Madrid (SCW).

#### Tuesday

- 4 Prime Minister Metaxas of Greece bans political parties (wikipedia).

Wednesday

5 Spanish Civil War, Republican naval ships attempting to stop the airlift of rebel units into Spain by using anti-aircraft fire were attacked by the Italian aircraft in their role as bombers and dispersed, breaking the sea blockade (R. Meredith). On this date the first convoy of ships carrying 3,000 soldiers from Spanish Morocco reaches Cadiz, reinforcing the 7,000 already airlifted there (SCW; wikipedia; G. Wilson).

Metaxas seizes power in Greece by coup d'etat (wikipedia).

Thursday

6 Spanish Civil War, General Franco crosses to Spain and establishes a headquarters in Seville. The German and Italian aircraft are then used to airlift ammunition to rebel held regions in northern Spain, where the rebels have almost none. This lack prevented them from attacking Madrid until it is too late to seize it quickly, as Republican forces have created defences around the city. The rebel government begins referring to itself as the "National Government" of Spain, or "Nationalists" (SCW).

The Republican Government again seeks assistance from France, which is sympathetic. Britain, however, is not, British PM Baldwin proclaims a policy of strict neutrality. Without Britain's support, and with opposition from right wing parties in France, the Popular Front government cannot openly support the Republic, but before the embargo takes effect does make available a variety of first line and recently retired fighter aircraft and advisors (SCW; R. Meredith). These did not fair well against the more modern and manoeuvrable CR.32 fighters supplied to the Nationalists from Italy (R. Meredith).

Fuel for the Nationalists became a problem. The Spanish state oil company purchased most of it's oil from the US producer Texaco, but the countries gold reserves were in the capitol, under Republican control. Around this time the chairman of Texaco, a fascist supporter, guaranteed Franco supplies of refined fuel and lubricants, shipped to Spain, on credit. Other oil companies soon followed. At the same time Texaco breaks it's contract with the Spanish Republican government and cuts off oil supplies to them. Secretly Texaco used it's own ships to transport the oil at no charge, and provided information from it's sales offices on tankers sailing with oil purchased by the Republican government which was sent to Nationalist Spain and led to many of them being sunk or seized (A. Hochschild).

Friday

7 Spanish Civil War, First Luftwaffe He 51 fighter aircraft with pilots and ground crew arrive in Spain (M.J.H. Taylor).

Saturday

8 Spanish Civil War, France closes it's border with Spain (SCW).

Sunday

9 Spanish Civil War, British registered but US owned yacht *Blue Shadow* shelled and sunk by a

Nationalist cruiser, 1 killed (wikipedia).

Friday

14 Spanish Civil War, Nationalists attack and seize Badajoz. After the city's fall some 2,000 survivors deemed liberals are massacred, machine gunned in the city's bull fighting arena (A. Hochschild; SCW). This event receives international condemnation.

The capture of Badajoz secured Spain's border with Portugal in Nationalist control, and cleared a path for Franco's forces in the south to advance to General Mola's northern forces (R. Meredith). Nationalists then make use of commandeered motor vehicles for rapid movement towards Madrid, and of aircraft to make attacks on local civilian raised militias trying to block them. These attacks, usually by single aircraft dropping small bombs, are enough to cause the amateur defenders to abandon their positions as they have no effective defence against air attack. Machine guns then usually overwhelm the lightly armed militia roadblocks (SCW).

Spanish Civil War, Portugal declared itself neutral in the Spanish Civil War (wikipedia), but having agreed to assist the Nationalists its neutrality was to be biased.

Saturday

15 First order for 180 Wellington bombers placed (S. Bond).

A train hits a truck carrying over 40 people near Louisville, Quebec, killing 22 (www3.gendisasters.com).

Sunday

16 Spanish Civil War, A force of 12,000 Spanish Republican troops begins to land on the rebel held island of Majorca. A small force of Italian fighters and bombers already sent there by Mussolini attacks and pins them down on the beaches (Hallion).

The first RCAF Northrup Delta photo mapping/transport/bomber, #667, flew at Longueuil, Quebec, on floats. Built under licence by Canadian Vickers, this was the first all metal stressed skin aircraft built in Canada (E.P. Gardiner).

Monday

17 An aircraft of #8 (GP) Sqn. flown by **F/L S.W. Coleman** with **LAC J. Fortey** goes missing in the NWT on a flight from a base in the Barrens to Fort Reliance, carrying an engine back for an overhaul (CCMA).

Spanish Civil War, The Basque port and resort city of San Sebastián on the northern Biscay coast is shelled by Nationalist ships and bombed by Italian bombers (SCW).

**Maurice Duplessis** becomes Premier of Quebec (wikipedia).

Wednesday

19 Spanish Civil War, After being held by a smaller force of Nationalists with constant Italian air



attacks the Republican invasion force on Majorca withdraws as Nationalist reinforcements from Africa begin to arrive. The small Italian air group on the island was a decisive factor in this action (Hallion). Possession of the islands gives a base for a blockade of ships bringing supplies to the Republican forces. The islands remained occupied by the Italian military, and were at one point even declared Italian possessions, until April 1939.

Friday

21 It is realized that the #8 (GP) Sqn. Fairchild is overdue, and a wide spread search for the aircraft and crew begins (CCMA).

Monday

24 Germany increased the term of conscription in the military from one year to two (wikipedia).

Tuesday

25 Bolshevik leaders Lev Kamenev and Grigory Zinoviev, and 14 others, executed the day after being found guilty in the first of the 'Moscow Trials'. They were accused of planning to kill Stalin and other Soviet leaders, including Kirov (wikipedia). See January 23, 1937.

President Roosevelt requests the FBI to investigate "subversive activities" in the USA (Oxford).

Wednesday

26 Spanish Civil War, The Basque town of Irún on the French border, is attacked by Nationalists forces, driving most of it's residents out into France (SCW).

First broadcast of a television show by the BBC (wikipedia).

Thursday

27 First of two Fairchild Super 71P aircraft, a Canadian design developed specifically for bush flying, enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). The civilian prototype, flown in 1934, had a useful career as a bushplane (see October 3, 1940), but redesigned as a utility and photographic aircraft for the RCAF it was not a success.

Friday

28 Spanish Civil War, Madrid bombed by Nationalist aircraft.

Sunday

30 Spanish Civil War, Publication in the USA of eyewitness reports of the Badajoz Massacre (wikipedia).

US Navy destroyer attacked by unidentified aircraft while engaged in evacuating civilians from Spain (wikipedia).

## September 1936

-- *Navy, Army and Air Supply Committee* formed in Ottawa, at the request of England, to investigate the industrial capacity in Canada in case of a war (CCMA, Douglas & Greenhouse).

-- France votes 14 billion francs for re-armament (Oxford).

Tuesday

1 Northrup Delta light bomber/transport/photographic aircraft, built under license by Canadian Vickers, enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

Thursday

3 In Palestine aircraft had been called upon almost daily in the previous month to break up hostile groups of Arab gunmen threatening road convoys. On this day 3 Hart bombers of 6 Sqn. RAF were investigating a blockage of the Nablus-Tulkarm road when Hart K4473 was apparently struck by ground-fire, force landed then exploded, killing P/O T.B. Hunter RAF and his gunner AC1 E.G.W. Lincoln RAF. Further attacks during the day on the roadblock left 2 Harts damaged and the Squadron commanding officer wounded (P. Cornwell; <http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Accf1939.htm>).

Friday

4 Spanish Civil War, A Republican Coalition Government of Popular Front parties is formed, including Socialists and Communist members, the first time Communists have ever joined a coalition. The Anarchists refuse to join but support the Coalition (SCW).

Spanish Civil War, Irún falls to the Nationalists, isolating the Basque region from France by land. On the road to Madrid Talavera falls to the advancing Nationalists (SCW).

Friday to Saturday

4-5 Beryl Markham takes off from England for New York in a Percival Vega Gull VP-KCC *The Messenger*, but is forced to land short of fuel at Baleine Cove, Cape Breton Island, NS, due to weather and after icing blocked fuel vents, the first solo east to west crossing of the Atlantic by a woman (M.J.H. Taylor).

Sunday

6 In Chicago **Father Coughlin's** Union Party, running candidate W. Lemke for President following the death of Huey Long, held a rally that gathered over 80,000 people opposed to Roosevelt's New Deal, on the basis that it pandered to communism. Coughlin had declared that democracy in the USA was dead and that this would be the last election in the country. In future, he declared, the only choice would be between communism and fascism, and he stated "I take the road to Fascism!" (R. Maddow).

Tuesday

8 Spanish Civil War, northern Nationalists forces under General Mola link up north of Madrid with General Franco's troops from Africa (SCW).

Fourth Annual Nazi Rally opens in Nuremberg (R. Maddow).

Wednesday

9 Spanish Civil War, British diplomats negotiate a *European Non-Intervention Pact* on the Spanish war, with France, the USSR, Germany and Italy, creating a *Non-Intervention Committee* on this date. Germany signs, but Hitler views the document as "worthless", and Stalin approved the signing hoping to gain French and British support in a coalition against Germany (SCW). Mussolini had no intention of abiding by the Pact. R. Meredith points out that of the countries that signed the Pact only England did not supply arms to the forces fighting in Spain.

Thursday

10 *Lufthansa* begins trials of air service to New York via catapult ships based in the Azores (H. Amtmann).

In Germany a propaganda campaign against Czechoslovakia begins, claiming that country was providing bases for Soviet aircraft to attack Germany. As it grew the Czechoslovakian government increased spending on armaments and began constructing fortifications along its border with Germany (LoN).

Spanish Civil War, First Soviet freighter arrives at Cartagena with arms and instructors to support Republican Spain (R. Meredith).

Friday

11 An unannounced flypast of 400 Luftwaffe bombers and fighters took place over the annual Nuremberg Rally in Germany on this day. The new para-military SS is also presented to the public (R. Maddow).

Department of Defence announced that a military hangar and facilities were to be built at Calgary, Alberta inside the Sarcee Military Camp, later known as the Currie Barracks (B.W. Gowans).

Saturday

14 A message left by the missing #8 (GP) Sqn. crew in an empty fuel drum at a fuel cache was found (CCMA).

Sunday

13 Spanish Civil War, Basque port of San Sebastián surrenders to the Nationalists (SCW).

Tuesday

15 *British Airways* DH.86A G-AYDF had taken off from Gatwick in the evening on a mail flight to Germany when its controls became jammed when a crewman's shoe got tangled between the rudder control and a fire extinguisher. The airplane crashed just outside of the airport boundary and burned, Pilot **W.F. Anderson DSO** and 2 crew killed, 1 crewman survived. Mr. Anderson had rescued the crew of a downed DH.9 aircraft in the Crimea in 1919, for which he and his observer were recommended for the Victoria Cross, but documentation was lost

and they were awarded the DSO instead (H.A. Halliday; crashmail.dk).

#### Wednesday

16 Search for missing RCAF aircraft in NWT ends successfully when the aircraft is discovered at Point Lake, far to the west of where they had taken off and considerably off course, where they had landed out of fuel. The metal of the engine carried as cargo had affected the planes compass. To carry the weight of the engine most of their survival gear had been left behind, including their rifle, so they were unable to shoot caribou from several herds nearby. F/L Coleman and LAC Fortey had rationed their food then survived on berries and snared ground squirrels (CCMA).

#### Tuesday

22 Breguet-Dorand *Gyroplane Labratoire* helicopter establishes new altitude record of 517 ft. (previous record was 59 ft.). See November 14, 1936.

#### Wednesday

23 Spanish Civil War, Franco's advance to Madrid halted while forces are sent to Toledo to relieve the besieged Alcázar (SCW). The Nationalist forces there had been supplied with ammunition by night air drops from German Ju 52/3m transports (R. Meredith).

#### Thursday

24 6 Sqn. RAF Hart investigating a report of a meeting of leaders of the Arab revolt in Palestine at Jaba engaged a group of horseman, who returned fire, wounded the pilot, and shot down the aircraft. The village was then attacked and captured by air and ground forces and the next day destroyed (P. Cornwell).

#### Thursday to Saturday

24-26 RAF Air Defence Exercises in England. It had been hoped to have several RDF stations operating for this, but slow development of equipment meant only the experimental station at Bawdsey Manor was active. With directional aerials mounted on 250' tall towers and a 6 meter wavelength 'hostile' bomber formations were identified and their positions tracked at ranges over 50 miles (F.K. Mason). (Although Top Secret the aerials at Bawdsey were very visible and were even mentioned by chance in Arthur Ransome's 1937 children's book *We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea*).

#### Friday

25 Spanish Civil War, Republican forces in Toledo begin to be attacked by aircraft (SCW).

#### Saturday

26 Spanish Civil War, Toledo surrounded by advancing Nationalist forces, trapping the Republicans who are besieging the Alcázar (SCW).

Spanish Civil War, The Republican government orders a large part of its fleet hindering Nationalist ships in the Straits of Gibraltar to the northern coast of Spain in the Bay of Biscay (G. Wilson).

27-28 Spanish Civil War, Two Nationalist cruisers sailed from Ferrol, attacking and defeating Republican ships blocking the Straits of Gibraltar, allowing further troop transports from Morocco (R. Meredith). The Republican navy kept control of the Straits for the rest of the war despite having fewer ships than the Nationalist navy, due to better leadership but also due to aircraft patrols in the area by Italian and German aircraft as well as clandestine reports from shipborne aircraft launched from German naval vessels as they transited or patrolled the region 'enforcing' neutrality (R. Meredith; M. Munson; G. Wilson).

Monday

28 Spanish Civil War, Republican forces driven out of Toledo, the Alcázar is relieved. The hostages held through the siege by the Nationalists are shot, as are all captured or wounded Republican soldiers (SCW).

Tuesday

29 Martial law declared in Palestine (wikipedia).

## October 1936

-- Spanish Civil War, Mussolini secretly orders Italian submarines to patrol the Spanish coast and attack Republican shipping to aid the Nationalists. As the Nationalist navy has no submarines, and the Italian Navy operates the largest number of submarines in the world, suspicions for these attacks fall on Italy immediately (www.clashofarms.com; de la Vega).

-- Spanish Civil War, In this month units of the German Navy, engaged with other navies in legitimate humanitarian evacuation from Spain of foreign nationals and Neutrality patrols, receives orders that from this point they were to use the Neutrality patrols as a masque to escort ships carrying arms to the Nationalists, while reporting any ships carrying arms to the Republican forces (especially Soviet vessels) to the Nationalist headquarters. As part of this catapult launched He 60 aircraft were making patrols of the Straits of Gibraltar (R. Meredith).

-- Spanish Civil War, Observing the continued and growing German and Italian aid to the Nationalists, Stalin proclaims Russia will not be bound by the *Non-Intervention Pact* anymore than other members are, and begins sending more aid to the Republican Government, paid for in gold (SCW).

Thursday

1 Spanish Civil War, General Franco appoints himself Head of State of Nationalist Spain (wikipedia; A. Hochschild).

Sunday

4 Battle of Cable Street Sir Oswald Mosley MP, leader of the *British Union of Fascists*, had announced that his Blackshirts would stage a march through London's East End, the area where most of the Jewish population in the city lived. This was opposed by community leaders who appealed to the government to stop it, but they refused. On the morning of the

march 3,000 Blackshirts assembled guarded by 6,000 police who also used a Cierva C30A autogyro to monitor the events. They were opposed by 20,000 East Enders from many political and religious groups who barricaded Cable Street and fought with police to prevent the march from happening. Unable to cross the East End the Blackshirts were forced to Hyde Park where they dispersed, while police arrested 150 of the protestors. Following this the *Public Order Act of 1936* was passed that made wearing political uniforms in public illegal and required police approval for political marches, both seen as measures that curtailed the Fascist activities in England ([https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2006/sep/30/thefarright.past; wikipedia](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2006/sep/30/thefarright.past;wikipedia)).

#### Monday

5 Ship workers put out of work in Jarrow in northern England begin a march to London, carrying a petition supporting a plan to convert their former shipyard into a steel works (wikipedia). See October 31, below.

#### Tuesday

6 Spanish Civil War, General Mola resumes his advance on Madrid with bomber support from German Ju 52/3m aircraft, German reconnaissance aircraft supported by Italian CR.32 fighters, and protection from air attack by German manned light flak batteries that were also used to support infantry attacks. German armoured vehicles with instructors were forming the first Nationalist armoured unit at this time as well (R. Meredith).

#### Wednesday

7 In the Timor Sea a Monospar ST.18 aircraft on an proving trip to Australia became lost flying from Darwin to Indonesia due to poor radio signals, and landed safely on it's wheels on a coral reef exposed by a neap tide. The crew were taken off by a fishing boat nearby before the tide covered the reef and carried the aircraft off, but not before they had run their engines and recharged their radio's batteries in an attempt to establish their position with radio fixes from stations they could hear but not contact (A. Ord-Hume, *Marooned Monospar*, in *Aeroplane Monthly*, October 1981). See July 2, 1937.

Spanish Civil War, In Guernica, the traditional centre of the Basque culture, a Basque Republic is declared (wikipedia). At this time the Republican government in Madrid takes steps to organize it's Army into a more effective force, which is resisted by many militias but not the Communists (it's most effective militia), who realize that a professional army cannot be defeated by untrained amateurs no matter how enthusiastic they are. To begin the change the Communist brigade later voluntarily disbanded itself and dispersed it's men, equipment and experience within the Republics new Popular Army. As they provided most of the officers, and relied on Soviet equipment and advisers provided by Stalin, the Popular Army became modelled on the Soviet Red Army, with commissars for political control. As in Russia, education also became an important part of the Popular Army, teaching many of the volunteers and conscripts in it's ranks to read and write (SCW).

#### Monday

12 Spanish Civil War, First Soviet military aid arrives in Spain to give assistance to Republican forces

(*Main Events of the Spanish Civil War*). First shipment of Tupolev SB bombers arrive. These are the most modern bombers then in Spain and are faster than the fighters opposing them (wikipedia). The Nationalists, unwilling to recognize that the USSR could build a superior bomber, refer to them as "*Martins*" for propaganda purposes, insinuating that they came from the USA. Eventually the USSR would supply over 1,400 aircraft to the Republicans. Republican Spain was unable to get direct support of other countries due to the Communist, Socialist and Anarchist components of their Coalition (M.J.H. Taylor). Although the aircraft and tanks are modern, the Soviet Union took advantage of the Republican situation to empty its armouries of old and obsolete infantry weapons and artillery, some dating to the previous century, and all paid for in gold. This would seriously complicate the Republican armies supply chain and its ability to fight (A. Hochschild).

In Palestine additional British troops are sent to end the fighting between Arabs and Jewish settlers. The Arab High Commission calls off its General Strike (LoN).

Wednesday

14 Belgium withdraws from the *Franco-Belgian Accord of 1920* defensive treaty with France to give it freedom of action to remain neutral in the event of a war with Germany (LoN). See February 27, 1937.

Thursday

15 Spanish Civil War, The growing number of foreign citizens volunteering to fight for the Republic in Spain leads the Government to establish volunteer units of different nationalities, called *International Brigades*. Over 35,000 served in these *Brigades*, the highest numbers from France and exiled anti-Fascist Germans, Italians and Austrians, as well as England, the USA, Canada and many other countries. Many are sponsored by communists or labour unions. Many from North America are communists but the majority are not, seeing in the war a fight against totalitarian forces (SCW; A. Hochschild). They are far outnumbered, however, by professional soldiers attached to the Nationalists from Morocco, Italy, Germany and Portugal (SCW). Foreign nationals with Fascist sympathies also enlisted in the Nationalist forces.

Blackburn Shark biplane torpedo bomber enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). Built in competition to the Fairey Swordfish, in RAF/RN service the Shark was judged a failure, but this was largely due to a poor selection of engine. Sharks built for the RCAF, either in England or Canada, used the same Bristol engine as the Swordfish which gave them a much improved performance. Other changes included cockpit heat and canopies.

Friday

16 Military exercise of a bombing attack on Paris, including an hour long black-out (wikipedia).

Monday

19 In a publicity stunt reporters from 3 New York newspapers raced each other around the world using commercial airline flights. H.R. Ekind of the *New York World-Telegram* won in an elapsed time of 18½ days (wikipedia).

Tuesday

20 Canada purchases from England two destroyers, *HMS Crescent* and *HMS Cygnet*, similar to the two River Class ships obtained in 1931, and they were overhauled and became *HMCS Fraser* and *HMCS St. Laurent* in 1937 (M. Milner; wikipedia). See July 1937.

Wednesday

21 *Pan American Airways* mail flights across the Pacific from San Francisco to Manila begin carrying passengers (wikipedia). The above newspaper stunt was timed to take advantage of this and publicize that round the world trips by commercial airlines were now possible.

Germany and Italy sign a secret agreement to co-ordinate their foreign policies (R. Meredith).

Thursday

22 In Belgium martial law is declared while measures are taken against the fascist Rexist party which was planning a march on Brussels to oust the government (LoN; wikipedia). Low turnout and rowdiness of participants turned the march into a farce, and the Rexist leader was temporally detained (wikipedia).

Friday

23 Spanish Civil War, More German Ju 52/3m bombers join Nationalist forces in Spain (wikipedia), making their first air attack on Madrid (SCW).

At about this time General Mola, leading the Nationalist army advancing on Madrid, boasted that he had four columns under his command outside the city, and a fifth of supporters inside the city that would rise and attack when his soldier's assault began. Since then the term "fifth column" has endured to mean a force of supporters hidden inside a country or other entity (SCW).

#7 FTS RAF, England, Audax I K3072 collided with Audax K3128 making a formation take-off and crashed, **Acting P/O W.D. Coppinger RAF (Can.)** killed (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1937.htm>).

Sunday

25 Rome-Berlin Axis formed between Italy and Germany (wikipedia).

Tuesday

27 Sweden begins re-armament with modern weapons (with emphasis on local design and production). Other Scandinavian countries soon follow (LoN).

27-28 Spanish Civil War, Italian and German bombers made a night attack on the Republican port of Cartagena in an attempt to disrupt unloading of Soviet supplied arms (R. Meredith).

Wednesday

28 First flight of the Do 19 four engined heavy bomber, capable of reaching targets in England or the USSR from Germany. However the death of it's sponsor, Gen. Wever, means that there is



little interest in the design, and after brief trials the prototype is converted to a transport and incomplete aircraft are scrapped (F.K. Mason).

Thursday

29 Spanish Civil War, In an attempt to break the morale of Madrid German and Italian bombers begin a series of attacks on residential areas of the city (Oppenheimer; *Main Events of the Spanish Civil War*).

The first Russian supplied tanks go into combat in defence of Madrid, halting one of the advancing Nationalist columns. Poor coordination with their supporting infantry led to heavy losses, however (SCW).

Friday

30 French Cabinet approves plans to expand the increase of the Air Force to 4,000 aircraft by adding orders for an extra 1,500 fighter aircraft to the total (wikipedia). This was a reflection of the numbers of fighters needed in a large country before the advent of radar detection.

Saturday

31 The Jarrow Marchers reach London. On November 4 the petition was formally presented to Parliament and acknowledged, but that was all. The shipbuilding yard remained dormant until war broke out again (wikipedia).

## **November 1936**

-- #6 (TB) Sqn. begins to receive Vickers Vedette aircraft to work up on (RCAF Sqns.).

Sunday

1 RCAF completes it's final Civil Government support duties, with regulation of civilian air operations being designated to the new Department of Transport from this date.

Monday

2 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) replaces the earlier Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (wikipedia).

BBC launches the first regular TV service in England (wikipedia).

Tuesday

3 Franklin D. Roosevelt re-elected President of the USA by a landslide (wikipedia).

Wednesday

4 Spanish Civil War, First Soviet supplied I-15 biplane fighters go into action over Madrid attacking German and Italian bombers (*Main Events of the Spanish Civil War*). The Nationalist, German and Italian pilots referred to the effective I-15 as "*Curtiss*" fighters (R. Meredith). The improvement in quality of the Republican air force soon leads Germany to begin sending

more modern aircraft, replacing the Ju 52/3m bombers with early model He 111 bombers, nicknamed "*Pedros*" in Spain. Italian CR.32 fighter pilots, out performed by the I-15s, were forced to operate in large formations to protect their bombers, and were ordered not to pursue them over Republican territory (R. Meredith).

The Spanish Republican cabinet is reorganized to include Anarchist members (SCW). This is the only time Anarchists have been formally part of a national government.

Friday

6 Spanish Civil War, Republican Government moves from Madrid to Valencia (*Main Events of the Spanish Civil War*). It was expected that Madrid would fall, but the Republican General Miaja placed in charge of the city ignored his orders to surrender and began an inspired, energetic and effective defence of it instead (SCW).

With increasing Soviet aid to the Republic, Gen. Franco appealed in October to Italy and Germany for further arms support, especially aircraft. Mussolini agreed quickly, but demanded that these forces be under Italian control. Hitler was worried about this growing Italian influence in Spain, which was a major supplier of iron and other minerals to Germany, and also demanded that a larger German force be German controlled. Franco had little choice and agreed. On this date German aviation units in Spain were amalgamated as the *Condor Legion*, and major reinforcement was begun (R. Meredith).

Saturday

7 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist attack on Madrid held off by Republican militia and civilians, men and women, who volunteered in large numbers to fight with whatever weapons they had or could find. That evening the Nationalist plan of attack is taken from a dead officer, allowing General Miaja to place his weak forces to defend the most threatened positions (SCW).

Sunday

8 Spanish Civil War, The first *International Brigade* units go into action to support the defence of Madrid, which included many French, Italian, German and Austrian combat veterans of the 1914-1918 World War, able to meet the professional African troops on a more equal footing (SCW).

Monday

9 Spanish Civil War, In heavy fighting in Madrid the experience of the *International Brigade* allows the Republicans to hold the Nationalists, but with very heavy casualties (SCW).

Tuesday

10 Spanish Civil War, British led *Non-Intervention Committee* announced it had no evidence of foreign intervention in the war in Spain (wikipedia). See March 10, 1937.

Friday

13 Spanish Civil War, Polikarpov I-16 monoplane fighters go into combat with the Republican Air Force, intercepting a National bombing attack on Madrid (wikipedia). Flown by mostly Soviet

pilots, and paid for in advance with gold (as are all Russian supplies), these aircraft proved to be very effective and robust in service. They were called the "*Mosca*", or Fly, by the Republicans, and "*Rata*", or Rat, by the Nationalists, and later "*Boeings*", as the Fascists did not want to recognize that the USSR could build such an effective fighter.

#### Saturday

14 Breguet-Dorand *Gyroplane Labratoire* helicopter sets record of time and distance for helicopters, 1 hour 2 minutes with a closed-circuit distance of 27.4 miles (previous record was 8 minutes, 45 seconds and 0.67 miles). Development of this aircraft would continue until 1939 when it was stored following the outbreak of the war. It was destroyed by an air raid in 1943.

#### Sunday

15 Spanish Civil War, Heavy bombing and artillery shelling of Madrid continues (SCW).

Spanish Civil War, The combined bombers of the *Condor Legion*, 34 Ju 52/3m aircraft, stage through a Moroccan airfield to make a heavy attack on Cartagena (R. Meredith).

#### Monday

16 Edward VIII announces to the government his intention to marry Wallace Simpson, a divorced US national (wikipedia). Newspapers in England decline to report the story, fearing it would lead to demonstrations in the country, while foreign newspapers and magazines entering England were withheld from public distribution or had articles on the matter removed (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

18 Spanish Civil War, Italy and Germany formally recognize the Nationalists as the government of Spain (SCW).

Spanish Civil War, Heavy day and night attacks by Ju 52/3m bombers begin on Madrid, using high explosives and incendiary bombs, and targeting public buildings such as telephone exchanges and hospitals. This attack was made to demoralize the population of the city and continued for 3 days (R. Meredith).

#### Friday

20 Brushy Ridge Fire, In the early morning winds near Cochrane, Alberta, began rising, fanning an existing small fire that overwhelmed local volunteer fire fighters. With winds gusting to near 100 mph the fire moved quickly across dried prairie covered with only a light dusting of snow. Two farmers drove through the smoke to evacuate a school before it was destroyed by the flames. No lives were lost, but livestock and several farms were destroyed until the winds subsided and rain began falling in the early afternoon. The fire had burned out 100,000 acres (400 sq. km) in 9 hours. Despite deep and heavy snow during the winter the fire continued to smoulder and was not declared finally out until June, 1937. Fundraising events were held, led by the *Calgary Herald*, to build new buildings for the destroyed farms before winter took hold, and to transport surviving livestock to areas where they could find feed. Reports were made of 'funnel clouds' during the fire, possibly the first recorded observations of tornados in the Province (F.R. Holt).

Spanish Civil War, The imprisoned leader of the Falange party, José Antonio Primo, is executed for treason. Franco declares a day of mourning, and Primo becomes a celebrated martyr to the right, but his death eliminates the top Spanish fascist leader, and another rival to Franco (SCW). See April 19, 1937 below.

Spanish Civil War, At the same time over 2,000 imprisoned rebel officers and supporters, held in the same prison in Madrid (now on the front lines of the battle and in the belief that it might soon be captured), were also executed, the largest mass killing by the Republican government (A. Hochschild).

Spanish Civil War, On this date heavy rains began to fall in the area of Madrid, which soon curtailed operations by Nationalist aircraft (R. Meredith).

Spanish Civil War, Operation URSULA, under an agreement with the Spanish Nationalist and Italy the German Navy began to deploy U-boats to supplement Italian submarines. On this date U-33 and U-34 departed Kiel for the Mediterranean (G. Wilson).

Sunday

22 Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican naval fleet at Cartagena attacked by a submarine that torpedoed a cruiser. Republican government claims these must belong to a foreign government as the Nationalist navy has no submarines, and their use requires special training (wikipedia). In fact the submarine was the Italian *Torricelle* (<http://uboot.net>).

Monday

23 Toronto newspapers *The Mail and Empire* and *The Globe* merge to become the *Globe and Mail* (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Nationalist troops attempting to capture Madrid forced to suspend operations, having been fought to a stand-still and with the onset of winter. The city is surrounded on three sides and a siege begins. The bombing continues in an attempt to force the city to surrender, but as had been seen in Ethiopia, after the first attacks the population was no longer panicked by the bombing. They were still afraid, but they learned how to cope and they learned how to endure. This was not expected by the Air Power theorists, who had predicted that civilians would always be panicked by bombing, but the same effect was to be repeated later in China, in England, in Russia and in Germany (*Main Events of the Spanish Civil War*; SCW).

Tuesday

24 Decision to award the 1935 *Noble Peace Prize* to German journalist and pacifist Carl von Ossietzky (imprisoned in a German concentration camp since early 1933) is attacked by Nazi Germany. von Ossietzky died of tuberculosis, still a prisoner, in May 1938 (wikipedia). As a result of this award Hitler orders that Germany will not allow its citizens to accept any Nobel prize (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 Germany and Japan sign the *Berlin-Tokyo "Anti-Comintern" Pact*, in alliance against the Soviet Union (wikipedia). Japan sought this relationship as a counter to the strength of the USSR in the far east (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Spanish Civil War, First US Volunteers sail to Spain where they will form the *Abraham Lincoln International Brigade* to fight for the Republic (wikipedia). Canadian volunteers also arriving, many forming the separate *Mackenzie-Papineau International Brigade* after they resisted attempts to place them in the US or British Brigades (P. Sullivan). Over 1,500 Canadians volunteered to fight for Republican Spain, over 700 were killed there. An estimated 750 US volunteers also died in Spain, from a force of around 2,800 volunteers (A. Hochschild).

Friday

27 Spanish Civil War, Operation URSULA, U-33 and U-34 sail through the Straits of Gibraltar on this night (G. Wilson).

Saturday

28 RCAF orders 5 Stranraer flying boats (later increased to 10) from Canadian Vickers (H. Tate). The Stranraer was a twin engined biplane flying boat with a stressed metal fuselage and fabric covered metal wings. The size of the aircraft represented another jump in the capability of aircraft manufacture in Canada.

Sunday

29 Public announcement by the Soviet Union that it's air forces numbered 7,000 aircraft, making it the largest in the world (wikipedia).

Monday

30 The Crystal Palace in London destroyed by fire. Built in 1854 using the original Crystal Palace structure from the Great Exhibition in London of 1851, but expanded, the site was a landmark in London. It was also the site for early development of television. Watching the fire with thousands of others Winston Churchill commented that it marked the end of an era (wikipedia).

## **December 1936**

-- Approval for construction of first RDF (radar) sites to cover approaches to London given (*A Short History of the RAF*).

-- Spanish Civil War, In response to the I-16 fighters and SB bombers early examples of the new Bf 109 fighter are rushed to Spain. Initially disappointing in combat against their more manoeuvrable foe this leads to the development of new tactics by the German pilots. They abandon the doctrine of manoeuvring and dogfighting in favour of height, speed and accurate shooting, and drop the almost universal flights of three fighters developed in the 1914-1918 World War in favour of a combat flight of four, divided into two elements of two fighters, each

led by a leader and protected by his wingman. Each element could support the other in attack. This exploited the improved speed of modern fighters and radio communications while enabling the leaders to seek combat opportunities more effectively. This tactic would eventually dominate and overwhelm the Republican fighters in the last part of the civil war (acepilots.com).

#### Tuesday

1 Membership in the Hitler Youth declared mandatory in Germany for all males between 10 and 18 (wikipedia). The independent German Boy Scout movement in Germany had been repressed over the previous year (wikipedia).

Public criticism of Edward VIII begins in England over his wish to marry the divorced Wallis Simpson when news of his intentions begins to be reported (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

2 Pleased by the actions in Spain and reports on the *Condor Legion* in the world press, and perhaps influenced by the Soviet announcement of numbers of military aircraft, Luftwaffe Commander in Chief Göring declares that all German aircraft factories would begin accelerated production on January 1, 1937, as if Germany was at war. Germany's armaments expansion was based on achieving parity with France and England by 1941 or 1943, in the interval German propaganda would inflate the number and quality of aircraft being operated by the Luftwaffe. This demand for wartime production levels meant several long-term projects would have to be scrapped, while production was concentrated on the types that could be flown and tested in Spain. This included ending the long-range Do 19 and Ju 89 strategic bomber programs (K. Macksey).

#### Sunday

6 Spanish Civil War, Barcelona bombed by Nationalist aircraft (*Main Events of the Spanish Civil War*).

#### Tuesday

8 Spanish Civil War, Norwegian cargo ship *Gulnes* sunk at Seville when hit by bombs from Republican aircraft, 5 killed (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

9 *KLM DC-2 PH-AKL Lijster*, taking off from Croyden, England, in fog, struck a chimney and crashed into empty houses killing 15 passengers and crew, including the inventor of the autogyro, Spanish designer Juan de la Cierva. Two crew survived. This was the highest number of fatalities in a crash in England at the time (wikipedia).

#### Thursday to Friday

10-11 Edward VIII abdicates English throne (wikipedia). This decision was reached after consultation with the Dominion governments. One of the reasons for the opposition of many politicians (including Churchill) to his continued reign was Edward's fascist sympathies. Succeeded by his brother as King George VI.

12-26 Chaing Kai-Shek, hoping to crush Chinese Communists, is instead kidnapped by soldiers of his own generals and forced to negotiate a deal with the Communists to form a united resistance to the Japanese (wikipedia). In this the communists recognized that Chaing was the one man who could unify China against the Japanese aggression (Oxford). See July 7, 1937.

Monday

14 Spanish Civil War, Soviet cargo ship *Komsomol* intercepted at sea and sunk by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Monday

21 First flight of the Junkers Ju 88 high speed medium bomber (wikipedia). Probably the most advanced medium bomber in the world at this time.

Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican submarine C-3 torpedoed and sunk off Málaga, Spain. At the time despite testimony of survivors the cause of the loss was a mystery. It has only recently become known that it was torpedoed by a German U-boat, U-34 (de la Vega). Both U-boats operating under Operation URSULA had made several attacks on Republican naval ships without success until now. When they withdrew back to Germany it was decided in future German U-boats would patrol off the Atlantic coast of Spain. Their successes there are not known (G. Wilson).

Sunday

27 First flight of the Soviet ANT-42, later the TB-7/PE-8 long range 4 engined bomber (M.J.H. Taylor). This was intended to replace the obsolete TB-3 as Russia's strategic bomber, but development was delayed by engine problems. It's maximum bomb load of 5,000 kg (11,000 lbs.) was the largest in the world at the time. See April 1939.

Thursday

31 As announced, Japan considers restrictions of previous naval agreements to have ended at midnight on this date  
(<http://tighar.org/Projects/Earhart/Archives/Research/ResearchPapers/mandates.html>).

## **1937**

-- German rocket research station established on the Baltic island of Peenemünde (Polsson).

-- After testing several designs the RAF adopts the US designed Browning M1919 .30 cal. machine gun as it's standard weapon, re-chambered to use British .303 rounds. One of the weapons rejected was the larger Browning .50 machine gun, which was adopted by the USAAC and USN. It is thought one of the main factors in this decision is economic, with the .303 being the standard infantry round and thus costing less than setting up a new production source for .50 ammunition. In the event the .50 cal. was the better weapon, having superior range and hitting power.

- The Handley-Page Harrow goes into service with the RAF as a long distance bomber. A high winged twin engine design with non-retracting gear it is already obsolescent, but gives bomber crews their first monoplane heavy bomber design to work up on. It also introduced powered turrets to the RAF on a large scale.
- The first charges under the *Opium and Narcotic Drug Act* for possession of marijuana were made in Canada, 14 years after the law was passed (Giffen, Endicott and Lambert, *Panic and Indifference: The Politics of Canada's Drug Laws*, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 1991).

## January 1937

- #6 (TB) Sqn. begins to receive Shark torpedo bombers (RCAF Sqns.).
- The Gloster Gladiator, the RAF's last bi-plane fighter, enters service (RAF Timeline).
- Spanish Civil War, Franco appoints General Martínez as Minister of Public Order, who organizes the suppression of the left (the "White Terror") from random actions to a state policy. Even books deemed to be "liberal" were destroyed "as a matter of public health" (SCW).
- A series of snow storms in southern Alberta in January and February cut off many farms and towns, resulting in many medical evacuation flights to Lethbridge from the area, including one from northern Montana, using a ski equipped DH Gypsy Moth (B.W. Gowans).

### Friday

- 1 #13 (AC) and #21 (B) Squadrons authorized in the NPAAF at Calgary and Quebec City (CCMA; RCAF Sqns.).

In Japan construction of the super battleships *Yamato* and *Musashi* begin (<http://tighar.org/Projects/Earhart/Archives/Research/ResearchPapers/mandates.html>).

### Tuesday

- 5 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist soldiers begin an attack to surround Madrid (SCW).

### Thursday

- 7 Hawker Hart light bomber enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

### Friday

- 8 Spanish Civil War, President Roosevelt enacts an amendment to the *Neutrality Act* specifically stopping shipment of US arms to Spain (wikipedia).

### Saturday

- 9 Spanish Civil War, In the renewed offensive to try to take Madrid the existing *International*



*Brigades*, composed of mostly French, Polish and German veterans, are nearly wiped out stopping the Nationalists (SCW).

Sunday

10 Spanish Civil War, Soviet cargo ship *Smidovich* captured at sea off Bilbao (wikipedia).

Friday

15 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist forces withdraw to their lines, ending their attempt to take Madrid. An estimated 30,000 had died in the last 10 days, split between the defenders and attackers. Increasing Republican air power, using Soviet supplied aircraft, combined with bad weather, bring the bombing of Madrid to a halt, but shelling of the city continued (SCW).

First flight of the Beech 18 twin engined transport, later used by the RCAF (in the war referred to as "Beechcraft", and post war as the Expeditor). This prototype aircraft NC15810, was later sold in 1941 second hand to the RCAF, becoming #8650, for use in training (C. Sloat).

Sunday

17 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist and Italian troops mounted on trucks and with armour and air support begin an offensive to take Málaga in the south of Spain (SCW).

Tuesday

19 Howard Hughes sets an air speed record from Los Angeles, California to New York City of 7 hours 28 minutes in his H-1 Racer NR258Y, averaging 322 mph (wikipedia).

RAF delegation under AVM Sir Christopher Courtney is given a tour of the Luftwaffe on Hitler's orders, including an in-depth briefing by Gen. Edward Milch on this date, all intended to impress on England the power of the new Luftwaffe. In return the RAF gave similar access to RAF plans to the German Air Attache, with the same intent (R. Meredith).

Wednesday

20 US President Roosevelt sworn in for a second term (wikipedia). But a coalition of Republicans with Democrats from the southern USA, opposed to his policies, began to organize. They published a Manifesto of their aims in December, and prevented Roosevelt from making any further reforms after 1938. This group dominated US politics for the next 25 years and remained influential into the 1980s (wikipedia).

Saturday

23 Second Moscow Trial, 17 leading Communists go on trial accused of plotting to overthrow Stalin, 13 were executed and the other 4 sent to labour camps (wikipedia). See January 31, 1937.

Thursday

28 Spanish Civil War, The Spanish city of Málaga is under sustained attack by Nationalist bombers. There are no fighter aircraft able to defend it (SCW).

An agreement is signed between the Nationalist Chinese and Communist Chinese recognizing

Japan is the major threat to the country, and that Chaing Kai-Shek should lead China to oppose Japanese incursions (LoN).

Sunday

31 Ohio River floods.

Thirty one people executed in USSR for "Trotskyism", the first mass executions of hundreds of thousands in Stalin's purge of the Communist Party (wikipedia). The head of the popular Soviet flying club organization was executed during the year on this charge, affecting the training of new volunteers for the air force (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1). It is estimated that between 4.5 to 5.5 million Soviet citizens, and foreign nationals who had emigrated to the USSR, were arrested during the Great Purge, 800,000 to 900,000 were given death sentences and most of the remainder were sent to labour camps where 9 of 10 perished (cited in G. Persson). By now the entire country lived in fear of Stalin and the NKVD (Party police force). See March 15, 1938.

#8 (GP) Sqn. RCAF moved to Rockcliffe, Ontario (RCAF Sqns.).

## February 1937

-- Public reports of development of an "Echo Altimeter", co-invented in England by **Donald Sproule MSc** from Grand Prairie, Alberta. This could determine the exact altitude of an aircraft at low level over the sea or land using acoustics (*Edmonton Journal*). This was the same principle later developed into the Radar Altimeter used widely by Coastal Command aircraft. See December 14, 1940.

Monday

1 #7 (GP) Sqn. RCAF organized into a Test Flight for flight testing service aircraft and developing new aerial photography techniques, and a General Purpose (GP) Flight for communications, operating Fairchild 71 and Bellanca Pacemaker aircraft. The operational photography task was moved to #8 (GP) Sqn. which was redesignated as a photography unit and began to receive Delta aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

Wednesday

3 Spanish Civil War, Final Italian offensive to take Málaga begins. Thousands flee the city (SCW).

Friday

5 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist and German offensive to outflank Republican defences of Madrid begins in the Jarama Valley (SCW). This was intended to cut the main road from Valencia, the lifeline of the besieged city (A. Hochschild).

Monday

8 Spanish Civil War, Málaga falls to Italian troops, extermination of "leftists" soon begins by Nationalist soldiers. Refugees are stopped and most men are executed. Other groups

fleeing the city are bombed by aircraft or shelled by naval ships as they flee along the coastal highway. The scale of the killings even led the Italians to protest to General Franco, but this was disregarded (SCW). Within hours Nationalist naval ships enter the harbour and begin to use it as a base to further increase blockading patrols in the Straits of Gibraltar (G. Wilson).

Tuesday

9 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist offensive in the Jarama Valley halted by Republican reinforcements (SCW).

First flight of Blackburn Skua naval dive-bomber/fighter (wikipedia).

A *United Airlines* DC-3 NC16073 crashed on take-off in San Francisco bay when the co-pilot dropped his microphone which jammed the controls, 11 killed. This was the first DC-3 aircraft to be lost (wikipedia).

Wednesday

10 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist cavalry seize a bridge over the Jarama river and renew their advance (SCW).

Thursday

11 Hockey player **Eddie Shack** born in Sudbury, Ontario (wikipedia).

Wednesday

12 Spanish Civil War, First Italian SM.79 high speed long range bombers arrive in Spain (L. Caliaro).

Sunday

14 Spanish Civil War, After bitter and costly fighting the Nationalist Jarama offensive is held, using Soviet supplied tanks and fighter aircraft. The *International Brigades* and militia units involved are all but destroyed, but the Nationalist Moroccan cavalry are also spent as an effective fighting force (SCW).

Wednesday

17 Spanish Civil War, On the Jarama front the Republican forces go on the offensive, but are halted by bombing from the German *Condor Legion* (SCW), and the effective use of the new 88 mm Flak/anti-armour artillery against bombers and tanks (R. Meredith).

Thursday

18 Spanish Civil War, First attacks by Italian SM.79 bombers. In operations they were able to use their speed to avoid interception, leading to few losses (L. Caliaro).

Friday

19 Ethiopia, attempted assassination of the Italian viceroy in Addis Ababa leads to guards firing into crowds and slaughters of local populace in reprisal. By some estimates 30,000 Ethiopians were killed in reprisals over the following 3 days (wikipedia). See May 21, 1937.

Sunday

21 Spanish Civil War, *League of Nations Non-Intervention Committee on the Spanish Civil War* (which includes the USSR, Italy and Germany) bans foreign national volunteers from fighting in the war. This is supported by Canadian and US authorities as they see the communist support for the Republic as a threat. From this point Canadian and other volunteers for the Republican government must enter France as tourists, and then be smuggled across the border to Spain. Britain would use this Committee throughout the Spanish war as a tool against the Republican forces, which they judged as communist controlled (wikipedia).

Thursday

25 John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men* first published (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, In the Mediterranean a British passenger ship sailing from Gibraltar to Marseilles, France, struck a mine in Spanish waters just south of the French border, but managed to limp to safety in France (wikipedia). There had been no declaration of mining of these waters, required by international treaty. See March 1, below.

Saturday

27 Spanish Civil War, US volunteers in Spain make their first major attack, with heavy casualties, as the Republican Jarama offensive ends, heavy rains soon halt all fighting (SCW; A. Hochschild).

In view of Belgium's announcement of independence in defence with the goal of remaining neutral, France announces it will be extending fortifications along the Belgian border (LoN).

-- Around this time a young aviation and radio enthusiast **A.A. "Andy" Southall** in Victoria, BC, assisting his father to repair a furnace, gets into a conversation with the home owner, Captain Henry Seymour-Biggs RN (retired) about his hopes to become an aviator. A high school graduate, Southall did not have the means to attend university so could not join the RCAF pilot program. Captain Biggs knew about the new short service program being adopted by the RAF and through contacts in England found out what was required in the way of testing (Stofer). See April 4, 1937.

## March 1937

-- Transatlantic radio communications for air navigation and weather reporting begins operation at the flying boat base at Botwood, Newfoundland, call sign VOAB, set up by the Canadian Government and British Air Ministry but soon employing local Newfoundland operators. Besides communication this station included modern radio direction finding equipment. This was the beginning of what in 1950 would become the *Gander Atlantic Oceanic Control Centre* (C.F. Warren et al). Aviation weather forecasting for the region was the responsibility of the Canadian Government and was accomplished using reports from Ireland, England, France, Canada, the Azores and the USA, and in return Newfoundland weather data was now transmitted to these stations to improve their forecasting. **Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan**

arrives to operate the weather service (his skilled forecasting during the war from Gander, and later from Ferry Command headquarters in Montreal, earned him the respect of ferry pilots, who nicknamed him "McFog"). See Nov. 30, 1938.

-- First flight of the Miles Magister trainer (wikipedia).

-- Spanish Civil War, *Condor Legion* begins using aircraft for close support of Nationalist ground attacks in Spain (Oppenheimer).

-- Heinkel prototype jet engine runs using hydrogen fuel but with combustion problems (wikipedia). It produces 178 lb. of thrust (B. Johnson).

Monday

1 New Zealand Permanent Air Force becomes the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) (M.J.H. Taylor).

Spanish Civil War, In the same area off Spain where a passenger ship had hit a mine on February 25 above a French freighter also struck a mine, but managed to make a port in Spain (wikipedia).

First Bristol Blenheim I entered service with Bomber Command (W.R. Chorley).

Tuesday

2 Mexico announces it will take over US and British owned oil resources in the country as a national resource (LoN).

Thursday

4 Spanish Civil War, Greek cargo ship *Loukia* sank after hitting a mine off Cape San Sebastian (wikipedia).

Monday

8 Spanish Civil War, Guadaljara offensive by Italian armour with truck borne Italian Nationalist infantry begins, using the forces and tactics that had taken Málaga (SCW). They planned to break the defensive lines around Madrid from the north while Nationalist forces on the Jarama renewed their offensive, but on the Jarama the Nationalists were in no condition to fight (SCW). Republican defenders have several good airfields available close to the battle zones, while German and Italian bases are farther back (Hallion).

Spanish Civil War, The steamship *Mar Cantábrico*, which had left the USA with arms and aircraft for the Republican Government just before the US embargo, was intercepted and captured at sea by Nationalist ships which executed 26 of the crew and passengers (wikipedia; A. Hochschild).

Saturday

9 In Germany criminals who had served time for two or more crimes, but had been released after

finishing their sentences, were re-arrested as "habitual criminals" and sent to concentration camps (wikipedia).

First Whitley I aircraft enter RAF service (R. Williams).

Wednesday

10 Spanish Civil War, British reporters were allowed to interview Italian and German PoWs captured by the Republican forces who freely confirmed they were regular soldiers in their countries armies, sent to Spain to fight for the Nationalists (wikipedia). Of note, Germany did not send ground troops to fight in Spain, focusing its support almost entirely on air support, but did send instructors to the Nationalist army to teach use of arms and armoured vehicles and Luftwaffe anti-aircraft and aircraft tracking units (R. Meredith).

Friday

12 Spanish Civil War, Clearing weather over the Guadaljara battle zone allows Republican I-15, I-16 and R-Z attack aircraft to make heavy attacks on Italian forces without interference from Nationalist aircraft. They discover the Italians have no anti-aircraft defences beyond machine guns. The air attack is immediately followed by an armoured attack that halts the Italian advance and forces them to retreat (Hallion).

RCAF orders 25 Tiger Moth trainers to be built in Canada by De Havilland Canada, in addition to the ones already purchased from England. Modified for Canadian use with canopies, heaters, and modifications for winter flying, these were built as DH.82A(Can.) aircraft (C.D. Long).

Sunday

14 Spanish Civil War, Panamanian flagged ship *Janu* captured at sea by a Nationalist patrol boat (wikipedia).

Monday

15 Anti-Nazi rally in Madison Square Garden in New York drew 20,000 (wikipedia).

Tuesday

16 Spanish Civil War, Attacks by Republican aircraft including SB bombers continue on the Guadaljara front in Spain (Hallion).

Wednesday

17 Amelia Earhart leaves California for Hawaii with 2 navigators in Lockheed 10E Electra NC16020 on first stage of an attempted round the world flight (wikipedia).

Thursday

18 Natural gas explosion in a school in New London, Texas, kills 295 teachers and students (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Heavy attacks by Republican aircraft and tanks at Guadaljara almost encircle

Italian forces, who begin a quick withdrawal from the pocket formed around them (Hallion).

#### Friday

19 First flight of the Airspeed Oxford trainer (wikipedia). This was a twin engined all wood aircraft with retractable gear, similar to the Avro Anson but with a higher performance.

#### Saturday

20 Taking off from Hawaii for Howland Island the Earhart Lockheed ground-loops and is extensively damaged (wikipedia). It is disassembled and returned to Lockheed in California for repairs. See June 1, 1937.

Spanish Civil War, Some 125 Republican aircraft continue to bomb and harass retreating Italian divisions (Hallion).

#### Sunday

21 Spanish Civil War, Closing weather ends the Battle of Guadalajara. Italian divisions engaged have heavy casualties and have lost most of their vehicles, tanks and artillery. Almost half of the Italians killed in Spain, about 3,000, were lost in this battle (SCW). Lack of anti-aircraft artillery and defending fighters allowed the maximum use of initial ground attacks by Republican aircraft, which were co-ordinated effectively with armoured attacks following Soviet doctrine. Follow-up attacks were less well co-ordinated, but the Nationalists would never again attack without first establishing local air superiority. It should be remembered that these were tactics that had been worked out at the joint secret German-Russian training centres at Lipetsk and Kazan in the 1920s, which in turn developed from the use by Germany of 'battle planes' to support infantry in the 1914-1918 World War (Hallion).

#### Wednesday

24 Quebec *Padlock Law* passed by *Union Nationale* government of **Maurice Duplessis**, allows the seizure and locking up of any building or property used to "propagate communism or bolshevism" including printing newspapers or other material, by order of the Attorney General, without any determination in court. As the law does not define "communism" it allows the government to suspend civil liberties of any group it considers as undesirable in the Province. Seen as an anti-union law, it remains in effect for 20 years.

In Alberta Social Credit Premier **William Aberhart** was under attack by back benchers of his own party for failing to bring in promises made during the election into the current budget. Aberhart attempted to shut down debate on the budget by adjourning the Legislature, but was voted down by his own party members (wikipedia).

In 1936 the newly elected Social Credit government of Alberta had enacted a law to allow elected MLAs to be recalled (removed from office) by a plebiscite of voters in their riding if it was felt they were not representing the voters in good faith, which had been one of their campaign promises. Ironically the only MLA it was used against was the Premier of Alberta, William Aberhart, during this period. To avoid losing office, Premier Aberhart, acting as his own Attorney General, repealed the law (wikipedia).

Disillusioned by the melding of religious and economic statements made by the Alberta Premier, the creator of the Social Credit system C.H. Douglas resigns as paid advisor to the Government and cuts his ties with the Alberta Social Credit Party. Aberhart's belief that Jews were responsible for the economic depression was showing in increasing anti-Semitic statements in his radio broadcasts, while he allowed no debate of his policies or beliefs (E. Dee).

Sunday

28 Spanish Civil War, Greek cargo ship *Gardelaki* seized at sea in the Straits of Gibraltar by a Nationalist gunboat (wikipedia).

Wednesday

31 Spanish Civil War, The Nationalist campaign to eliminate the Republican Basque enclave in northern Spain begins with waves of *Condor Legion* and Italian bombers bombing the small town of Durango without warning followed by a ground offensive, and without any air defences an estimated 250 are killed in the town (wikipedia; SCW). The Republican government in central Spain could offer little assistance. Some aircraft were sent, but the best route, though neutral France, was blocked by the *Non-Intervention Committee* (SCW). At least 1 Canadian volunteer is known to have fought for the Basques in this campaign (M. Zuehlke).

Manpower of RCAF is 148 officers and 959 enlisted Regular, and 76 officers and 493 enlisted in the NPAAF. In the face of growing world wide military re-armament the years budget was greatly expanded (equal to more than the previous four years combined). Several thousand applications were received for an announced 200 positions for ground crew (R.L. Thornburn 'Class of 37' letter, *Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 1984). Total requests for enlistment were 14,000 for the year (CCMA). 104 new aircraft were ordered plus engines and armament. As many as possible of the weapons were to be made in Canada, based on the report of the *Navy, Army and Air Supply Committee*. New construction continues on airfields, and both coasts and strategic locations were surveyed for possible airfield sites. Patricia Bay and Alliford Bay in BC and Yarmouth, Sydney and Truro in Nova Scotia were identified for development. Canadians accepted for RAF service (handled by the RCAF since 1932) now begin their training at Trenton under RCAF supervision. The first RCAF Link Trainer courses were taken in the USA to teach instrument flying (CCMA).

## April 1937

-- #20 (B) Sqn. NPAAF, Regina, Saskatchewan, begins flight training on Moth aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

-- British experts predict that a war with Germany would open with an intense bombing of England lasting up to 60 days, with an estimated 2 million killed and wounded. In response British Government creates the volunteer *Air Raid Warden Service* in this month (Oxford). With new construction the numbers of RAF aircraft based in England at this time exceeded 2,000, with



about 80% of these modern designs. Expenditures for the RAF exceed those of the British Army for the first time (F.K. Mason).

-- At around this time when on vacation in England an employee of *Dominion Skyways* was contacted by a Dutch businessman who had read stories about their bush flying operations in the English newspapers. He stated he was interested in potential forestry investments on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence (P. Thiffault). See July, 1937, below.

#### Thursday

1 Aden and Burma become British Crown Colonies as the new Indian Legislature is enacted. However, the All-India Party which had won the provincial elections to form the legislature refused to form a government, demanding England leave India, and deadlocking the process (LoN).

Spanish Civil War, Six *Condor Legion* Ju 52/3m bombers attacked the city of Jaén in southern Spain, killing 159 and wounding several hundred. Jaén had no military units or defences, and the attack was ordered after a Nationalist air attack on Córdoba. In reprisal for the attack the Republican forces murdered 128 Nationalist prisoners (wikipedia).

#4 (FB) and #5 (FB) Squadrons RCAF redesignated Coastal Reconnaissance (CR) Squadrons (RCAF Sqns.).

#### Friday

2 Spanish Civil War, Greek freighter *Poli* shelled and sunk at sea by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

#### Sunday

4 After completing initial RAF testing sponsored by Captain Seymour-Biggs, **A.A. Southall** was accepted by the RAF and left Victoria for England at his own expense. On arrival in England later in the month further testing showed a slight eye problem that kept him from aircrew training. He enlisted as an airman for radio and electronic duties, served with 19 Squadron as they received the first Spitfire aircraft, with flying boats in Egypt and England, and 242 (Canadian) Squadron in France and the Battle of Britain. Later commissioned he finished the war in India and Burma in command of a signals unit, leaving the RAF in 1946. He was the first of over 700 young men and women recruited or sponsored to the RAF from Canada by Captain Seymour-Biggs between 1937 and 1941, a group known as Biggs' Boys (K. Stofer). In 1941 Captain Biggs, at 65, returned to sea in the Merchant Marine where he survived being torpedoed and sunk twice before returning to retirement again in BC after the war.

#### Monday

5 Spanish Civil War, Greek cargo ship *Nagos* seized at sea in the Straits of Gibraltar by a Nationalist patrol vessel (wikipedia).

#### Tuesday

6 Spanish Civil War, Panamanian flagged cargo ship *Andra* shelled and sunk by a Nationalist armed trawler off Santoña, 2 crew killed (wikipedia).

Ki-15 J-BAAI *Kamikaze* (Divine Wind), sponsored by *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper, departs Tokyo for London, England (wikipedia).

#### Thursday

8 General Motors workers at Oshawa go on strike demanding an 8 hour day, establishment of a seniority system of workers, and the recognition of their union, the United Auto Workers. Ontario Premier **M.F. Hepburn** opposes the formation of the Union, as he considers it's organization by the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) to be the work of foreign agitators (ie, communists). Unable to convince PM **Mackenzie King** to send in the RCMP he organizes a 'police force' of volunteers to put down the strike (www.schudak.de).

#### Friday

9 Ki-15 J-BAAI *Kamikaze* arrives in London, via French Indo-China, India, Iraq, Greece, Italy and Paris, in 94 hours 17 minutes total time (51 hours, 19 minutes flight time), the first Japanese aircraft to fly to Europe. After being used to film the Coronation Ceremonies it flew back to Japan arriving on May 21, 1937 (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

10 *Trans-Canada Airlines* created (wikipedia). Based on a proposal and research by *Canadian Airways* owner James Richardson for a commercial trans-Canadian service, the report requested by Government Minister **C.D. Howe** is then used to create a Government service instead (S. Render).

Parliament passes *Foreign Enlistments Act* to prevent Canadians volunteering to fight in Spain (www.schudak.de).

#### Sunday

11 First flight of the Ju 89 large four engined bomber, the second of the strategic bomber designs originated by the late Gen. Wever. Both the Do 19 and Ju 89 were larger and more advanced than any other similar design of the period (F.K. Mason) although their bomb load was small (3,500 lbs [1,600 kg], wikipedia). Both were intended to be heavily armed, including 2 man turrets armed with cannon, and would need larger engines to become practicable (R. Meredith). To indicate the fast changing nature of aircraft design, the De Havilland Mosquito would have a nearly identical bomb load and range with much greater speed and 2 engines in 4 years. Like the Do 19 without Gen. Wever the Ju 89 found no support from the Luftwaffe leadership, and after brief testing the two prototypes were turned into heavy transports, and the design was developed into the Ju 90 airliner.

#### Monday

12 First ground run of F/O Frank Whittles WU gas turbine in England (wikipedia). Engine run exceeds expectations, indeed it goes out of control, develops far more power than expected and has to be shut down in a hurry, due to pooling of fuel in the system causing erratic thrust.

Wednesday

14 Ontario Premier **Hepburn** forced two of his cabinet ministers to resign as they opposed his actions in the Oshawa Strike (wikipedia).

Friday

16 Spanish Civil War, Panamanian flagged cargo ship *Hordena* seized at sea by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Monday

19 Spanish Civil War, In a move to consolidate his power General Franco forces the two main right wing parties, the fascist Falangists and the royalist Carlists, to merge into a single entity called FET, under his personal control. Dissenting Falange leaders were imprisoned (SCW).

In England the prototype Wellington bomber is lost on a test flight due to the loss of an elevator. This resulted in a redesign of the tail of the aircraft (S. Bond).

Friday

23 In Oshawa Premier **Hepburn** is forced to accept defeat and allow the formation of the United Auto Workers union at the Oshawa GM plant (www.schudak.de). The 8 hour work day later became nearly universal in Canada.

Monday

26 Spanish Civil War, Basque city of Guernica, only 10 miles from the advancing Nationalist front, subjected to unopposed, sustained and intense bombing by aircraft of the German *Condor Legion* during market day, between 400 and 1,600 killed. Bombers would return to their bases to re-arm several times, as waves of bombers came every 20 minutes for three hours dropping explosive, incendiary and anti-personnel bombs. People fleeing the city were strafed by escorting fighters (SCW; A. Hochschild), as had been done at Durango (R. Meredith). The objective for this act is obscure, probably to terrorize local population by striking a town considered the centre of Basque culture as part of the ground offensive, possibly in retaliation for the reported lynching of a captured German pilot, or just as an experiment to test new weapons and tactics for use in future campaigns? Officially the target was the town's bridges, to trap Basque forces from retreating, but the targets were obscured by smoke [claimed to be from destruction inflicted deliberately by 'communists'], while the heavy use of incendiaries on a city of mostly wooden construction caused much of the destruction while having no effect on the stone bridges (R. Meredith). The bombing was seen around the world as a terror attack, and an image of what a large scale war would bring. It inspires the Picasso painting *Guernica* for display in Paris later this year (wikipedia).

Within days following the public condemnation of this attack *Condor Legion* bombers were prohibited from attacking any villages or town that might cause civilian casualties in the advance on Bilbao (R. Meredith).

Concessions by Britain break the deadlock in India, and moderate factions of the All-India Party form governments in several provinces (LoN).

Wednesday

28 General Motors agrees to a new contract with the UAW to end the strike in Oshawa (www.schudak.de).

Spanish Civil War, Durango and Guernica captured by Nationalist forces. To counter news reports on the bombing of these two cities the Nationalists claimed the Republican forces dynamited the cities themselves (wikipedia). Despite eyewitness accounts by neutral reporters who had been able to enter Guernica hours after the bombing, the Nationalist government maintained the cities had been destroyed by their own citizens until after Franco's death in 1975 (A. Hochschild). See January 11, 1938.

Thursday

29 37 Sqn. Harrow I bomber K6950 with a crew from 214 Sqn. collided in mid-air in a formation flight with 214 Sqn. Harrow I K6945 and both crashed in England **P/O W.L. Warner RAF (Can.)** and Sgt J.M. Macdonald RAF killed on K6950 and F/O J.J. McCarthy RAF (Eire), AC1 J.G. Simpson RAF and AC1 T. Garside RAF killed on K6945 (Allison & Hayward; H.A. Halliday and E. Martyn at www.rafcommands.com; W.R. Chorley).

## May 1937

-- Second US *Neutrality Act of 1937* passed to prevent US involvement in Sino-Japanese War (wikipedia).

-- Spanish Civil War, Basque defences around Bilbao broken by a 6 hour long attack by Nationalist German and Italian bombers and ground attack aircraft. One bombing in this campaign saw Basque troops in a forested area attacked by bombers that concentrated 60 tons of explosive and incendiary bombs in 2 minutes, routing the survivors (Hallion). During the month the Basque government evacuates thousands of children from Bilbao to England (SCW).

Saturday

1 General strike in Paris (wikipedia).

US *Neutrality Act of 1937* to prevent US involvement in Spanish Civil War by stopping sale of munitions to both sides goes into effect. This has the effect of cutting off support to the Republicans while loopholes in the act allow for sales of items such as trucks and petroleum products to the Nationalists by US companies that support them (SCW).

Sunday

2 Spanish Civil War, French ship *Belle Hirondelle* sinks off Palma de Mallorca after an internal explosion (wikipedia).

Monday

3 Spanish Civil War, The growth and popularity of the communist controlled Popular Army was

viewed with distrust by the Anarchist militias, who often refused to join it, and hoarded the arms provided earlier to them. The Anarchists viewed any established government with suspicion, claiming that only armed citizens were a protection against excesses by powerful interests. In Catalonia, an Anarchist strong hold, this came to a head when the government demanded the Anarchists give up control of the telephone exchange in Barcelona, leading to fighting between the Anarchists and Communists. The Republican Government tried to solve this politically and it succeeded after a week of confused fighting and truces, finally leading to military actions to force the return of hoarded weapons, but at the cost of it's unified support as the Communist factions gained more control. Many on the left felt betrayed by the Governments use of force against them, and public support for the war fell (SCW).

#### Wednesday

5 The RCMP receive the first of 4 DH.90 Dragonfly aircraft, which form the new Air Division, for surveillance and transport services (E.P. Gardiner).

#### Thursday

6 German Zeppelin LZ-129 *Hindenburg* explodes and crashes while landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey. One person on the ground and 35 of 95 on board were killed, most by jumping from the airship. Cause never determined, possibly sabotage, but this ends the era of lighter-than-air passenger flights (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

8 In Italy a specially built Caproni 161 aircraft establishes a new world altitude record of 15,655 m (51,362 ft.) (M.J.H. Taylor). The pilot wore a pressure suit with a hard helmet to reach this altitude (J.W. Thompson). See October 22, 1938.

#### Wednesday

12 Coronation of George VI (wikipedia). Newspapers of the event were flown non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean to New York on a Lockheed 10E NR16059 "*Daily Express*", specially modified with long range fuel tanks, flown by US pilots H.T. Merrill and J. Lambie, making the first commercial round-trip crossing of the Atlantic (tighar.org). See December, 1937.

#### Saturday

15 Spanish Civil War, Stalinist Communist demands for the elimination of Trotsky inspired groups of the left were resisted by the Prime Minister. On this date the Communists withdrew support for the Government and forced a new cabinet to be selected, under PM Negrín. The internal war between the Stalinist and Trotskyist factions continued. Being dependent on Russia for arms restricted Negrín's actions, but he fought to keep Spain's democracy from being taken over by the communists (SCW).

#### Thursday

20 First Fairey Battle entered service with Bomber Command (W.R. Chorley).

#### Friday

21 Ethiopia, in retaliation for the assassination attempt on Italian Viceroy, 297 monks and 23 laymen

of the Coptic Christian Monastery at Debre Libans, the second most important in the Ethiopian Coptic Church, are massacred (wikipedia).

The first floating ice station, *North Pole-1*, was established near the North Pole by Russia, the team and its supplies and equipment flown in by 4 long range TB-3 aircraft specially modified for work in the Arctic (wikipedia; <http://www.science20.com>). See February 5, 1938.

Saturday

22 The Soviet Union claims the North Pole as its territory (wikipedia).

Tuesday

25 #19 (B) Sqn. RCAF, Hamilton, Ontario begins flight training on Moth aircraft (424 SH).

*Imperial Airways* C-Class flying boat G-ADUU *Cavalier*, shipped to Bermuda by sea, makes the first trial flights to New York before beginning regular passenger service (wikipedia). See January 21, 1939.

Thursday

27 Newly completed Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco opens to pedestrians, the next day it is open to road traffic (wikipedia).

Friday

28 Neville Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister of England (wikipedia).

*Gesellschaft zur Vorbereitung des Deutschen Volkswagens mbH* founded in Germany, to produce the Volkswagen ('people's car') developed by the government as a basic, affordable automobile for its citizens (wikipedia).

Saturday

29 Spanish Civil War, While engaged in patrolling Spanish waters to "prevent" arms shipments to the country the German warship *Deutschland* illegally enters the Nationalist held port of Ibiza, Spain, where it is later bombed by Republican SB bombers mistaking it for a Nationalist warship, killing 31 and injuring 83 German sailors (wikipedia).

Rabaul, capitol of Australian mandated Papua-New Guinea, destroyed in a volcanic eruption that kills over 500 people. As a result of this it was decided to move the region's administrative centre to Lae, but this was interrupted by the war (wikipedia).

Sunday

30 Spanish Civil War, Citing the bombing of the *Deutschland* as deliberate aggression by the Republican Government the Italian and German representatives walk out of *Committee of Non-Intervention* (wikipedia).

Just off Spain the Republican liner *MV Ciudad de Barcelona* carrying volunteers and cargo to Barcelona was torpedoed and sunk with heavy loss of life (over 200) by an Italian submarine

(A. Hochschild; wikipedia).

In Chicago steel workers and their families marching in support of forming a union at the Republic Steel Mill were stopped by a police line which opened fire on the marchers before dispersing them. The gunfire killed 10 workers and wounded 30, while many others were injured. No charges were made against the police (wikipedia).

Monday

31 Spanish Civil War, In Spain the port of Almería is bombed by aircraft from the *Condor Legion* and shelled by the German ships *Admiral Scheer* and *Leipzig* in retaliation for the bombing of the *Deutschland* (M.J.H. Taylor).

## June 1937

-- #3 (Bomber) Sqn. RCAF begins to receive Westland Wapiti aircraft purchased from RAF stocks (RCAF Sqns.).

-- Fa 61 helicopter takes world speed (77 miles per hour) and altitude (7,800 ft.) records for helicopters. Later this year it would be the first helicopter design approved for manufacture.

-- As a result of the Italian invasion of Ethiopia it is realized that the Royal Navy's Intelligence service has been neglected since the end of the World War in 1918. In this month work begins to create an operational intelligence centre. This would develop into an office receiving direct and immediate reports from embassies, intelligence agencies, electronic direction locating, decoded information and commercial shipping sources, and was in direct contact with all major RN bases and RAF commands. This work was world-wide, and included the RCN, where it's Ottawa based office was responsible for reporting on Canada and (clandestinely) the USA (M. Milner), where the US Navy still considered England and the Royal Navy to be one of it's main rivals.

This gave the RN the ability to assess information, take action to confirm it, and deploy forces to respond as required quickly (Oxford). The most well known example of this would be the pursuit of the *Bismarck* in 1941. Another of it's operations was tracking of U-boat positions. The RN later encouraged the US Navy to develop it's own tracking service, with input from the RCN office. After a period of rivalry and misunderstandings (see *Washington Conference* results March 13, 1943) these three offices were given areas of responsibility, acting independently, but sharing results freely with each other (D. Syrett; others).

Tuesday

1 In the repaired Lockheed 10E NC16020 Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan depart Miami on second round the world attempt (wikipedia). Due to seasonal weather patterns they are now flying to the east.

Thursday

3 Spanish Civil War, General Mola, initiator of the uprising and leader of the Nationalist Junta, dies in a plane crash (possibly caused by a bomb), leaving no rival to Franco for leadership of the Nationalists. His leadership of the Nationalist forces in the offensive against the Basques had been strongly criticized by German observers with the *Condor Legion* (R. Meredith). Franco is now the sole military leader of the Nationalists, and political leader of right wing Spain through the FET, which while adopting some of the appearance of fascism also serves the wealthy in Spain by direct control of the poor in all aspects of life. But the power remains with the military (SCW).

The Duke of Windsor, formerly King Edward VIII, marries Wallace Simpson in France (C.E. Hipperson).

Friday

4 The first shopping carts introduced in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (wikipedia).

Friday

11 Chief designer of the Spitfire, R.J. 'Reg' Mitchell, dies in England, from cancer (M.J.H. Taylor). He was 42 years old.

Spanish Civil War, Nationalist offensive in the Basque region to capture Bilbao begins (SCW).

Friday and Saturday

11-12 After a secret trial former Commander of the Soviet Army Marshal Mikhail Tukhachevsky and seven other Russian military leaders are shot (LoN). Over 35,000 officers will be arrested and many executed in the following months (D. Sommerville). G. Persson in her short essay on the Purges "*And they all confessed...*", lists the number of high ranking army and naval commanders down to divisional level who were purged, representing 80 to 90 percent of unit commanders. This eliminates most professional soldiers from command positions in the Russian Army and Navy. Political Commissars are appointed as party representatives to oversee military commanders at all levels (LoN). Advanced armoured tactics being developed are abandoned. Building or planning fixed defensive positions was condemned as "defeatist", as political ideology focused on overwhelming attack as the "correct" military tactic to be followed. The Air Force leadership and aircraft design bureaus were also purged, as were experienced pilots, including many who would return from Spain with information on the latest German developments and tactics. The effect of the purges cannot be underestimated as fear spread throughout the services. It reduced the largest and one of the most modern armies and air forces of the time to a much less effective force (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1). See notes on invasion of Soviet Union, June 22, 1941.

Spanish Civil War, France opens border with Spain in response to Italian/German actions at *Committee of Non-Intervention* and at Almeria, but limits the flow of arms in attempt to control Republican actions. This comes too late to effect the war in the Basque region (SCW). Supplies for Nationalist forces through Portugal are uninterrupted as the Committee deems Portugal to be "neutral".



Tuesday

15 Spanish Civil War, Defences of Bilbao broken. Thousands flee the city. About half were able to reach safety in fishing boats organized by the civil authorities, but again refugees on roads are subjected to air attack (SCW).

Wednesday

16 #3 (B) Sqn. RCAF moves from Trenton to Rockcliffe, Ontario (RCAF Sqns.).

*Pan American* and *Imperial Airways* begin co-operative Bermuda-New York air services (M.J.H. Taylor). These new Atlantic passenger services were opened simultaneously under the terms of the *North Atlantic Civil Aviation Agreement*.

Friday to Sunday

18-20 Soviet Tupolev ANT-25 aircraft flies non-stop from Moscow to Vancouver, Washington, USA, via the North Pole and Canada, 5,507 miles (8,863 km) (wikipedia). Weather reports from the *North Pole-1* station are an important part of the flight planning for this flight.

Saturday

19 Spanish Civil War, Bilbao is occupied by the Nationalists (SCW).

At a second Republic Steel plant under strike in Ohio rioting began when police objected to the wives and children participating in the protest (an action planned by the strikers, called *Woman's Day*). They demanded the women leave, which was rejected. They then fired tear gas at the women, injuring a child. This began the riot which escalated when a union supporter was shot and killed. Battles with guns and tear gas continued all night until martial law was declared and the National Guard took control of the area, forcing the workers to leave, leaving 16 killed and nearly 300 wounded or injured in what became known as the *Woman's Day Massacre* (wikipedia; <http://peoplesworld.org>).

Monday

21 Coalition government of the French Prime Minister Leon Blum falls, replaced by Popular Front government of Camille Chautemps with Blum as vice-Premier (wikipedia).

Wednesday

23 Spanish Civil War, German and Italian naval ships withdraw from neutrality patrols off Spain in protest over the attack on the *Deutschland*. In the Mediterranean "pirate" attacks on shipping by unknown submarines are escalating (LoN).

Sunday

27 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist air attack on Valencia sinks the British registered cargo ship *Foynes* (wikipedia).

Tuesday

29 Following the *Imperial Conference of 1937* in England, at which he worked to keep Canada from

becoming entangled in Europe's political affairs while seeking a policy of encouraging Germany and England to work together to maintain peace, Prime Minister **Mackenzie King** visits Adolf Hitler in Germany. He warned him that Canada would support England in a war with Germany, but left (as many had before) thinking Hitler to be a man of "great sincerity". However he privately felt a war was inevitable between England and Germany, and that Canada would be involved (Douglas & Greenhouse).

It is clear to England's PM Chamberlain from discussions with their leaders at the *Imperial Conference* that the governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa would not support an aggressive action against Germany by Britain, so he instead pursues a policy of changes in the political map of Europe that will appease Germany, achieved through peaceful means (as encouraged by **Mackenzie King** and others). In this he (and they) reflect the widespread misunderstanding of the difference between Italian Fascism, which espouses change through the threat of aggression, and German Fascism, which believes in aggression as a national policy linked to its belief in racial superiority established by conflict (Oxford).

Earhart and Noonan arrive at Lae, New Guinea (wikipedia).

**Armand Bombardier** in Quebec is granted a patent for a "snowmobile".

Wednesday

30 A new world altitude record for aircraft of 53,937 ft. (16,440 m) is set by F/L M.J. Adam RAF in the Bristol Type 138A high altitude aircraft (M.J.H. Taylor).

Spanish Civil War, Portugal ordered observers of the *Non-Intervention Committee* to leave its country (wikipedia).

-- In a survey of the ruins of Icelandic sites from around 1,000 ACD in southwest Greenland plants were found growing that had descended from varieties transplanted from the mainland of North America, the first physical proof that the Old Norse Sagas were true, and that Vikings had landed in North America (N. Polunin).

## July 1937

-- Spanish Civil War, In this time the Republican government, seeking to stabilize the country, turned over one third of the farm land under its control to private farmers. To do this it forced an end to the anarchist collectives formed the previous year, sometimes using military force. Land and equipment were distributed among the farmers on an equitable basis wherever possible. In areas that fell under Nationalist control all land reforms were abolished, however, and the land returned to the wealthy (SCW).

-- Planning of sites for anti-aircraft balloons to protect London begun (J. Penny).

-- As the situation in Europe deteriorated the Royal Canadian Navy proposed the purchase of the two

more destroyers of the same class as *HMCS Fraser* and *HMCS St. Laurent*. This was approved, the newly refitted ships becoming *HMCS Restigouche* and *HMCS Ottawa* (M. Milner). See June 11, 1938, below.

-- As a result of the contact made with *Dominion Skyways* in the Spring a group came to look at the logging potential on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence. They were given a boat for the summer. They were well equipped, including a portable radio which was powerful enough to give them direct daily contact with Europe which impressed local residents (P. Thiffault). See September, 1937, below.

#### Thursday

1 Pastor Martin Niemoller, a wartime U-boat commander turned pastor, and a former supporter but now strong critic of the Nazi Party, is arrested for activities against the state, specifically rejecting Nazi control of the churches in Germany (wikipedia). See March 2, 1938.

The privately funded US *MacGregor Arctic Expedition* left the USA with the intention of wintering on Ellesmere Island, NWT. They were forced to stay on Greenland, however, but flew their Waco biplane on flights over Ellesmere, correcting maps and also making the first landing of an aircraft on Ellesmere Island. They sent regular weather reports from their station through the winter before leaving in July, 1938 (wikipedia).

#### Friday

2 Flying from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island in the central Pacific Ocean in their Lockheed 10E aircraft NC16020 Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan disappear (wikipedia). Large search by US Navy fails to find them. Radio messages from the downed aircraft were discounted at the time although now considered valid, indicating the aircraft had landed on it's wheels on an island.

#### Saturday to Tuesday

3-6 Under the terms of the *North Atlantic Civil Aviation Agreement*, *Imperial Airways* and *Pan American Airlines* begin survey flights of Trans Atlantic air routes at the same time, *Imperial Airways* C-Class flying boat G-ADHM *Caledonia* flies across the Atlantic from Foynes, Eire to Botwood, Newfoundland enroute to Montreal and New York on a proving flight. Simultaneously a *Pan-American Airways* flying boat flies from Botwood to Portugal via the Azores (wikipedia).

#### Monday

5 Highest recorded temperature in Canada to date, 45°C (113°F) in Yellowgrass, Saskatchewan (wikipedia). Not exceeded until 2021.

Canned processed meat product Spam goes on sale in the USA (wikipedia).

#### Tuesday

6 Spanish Civil War, In an attempt to divert Nationalist forces from their Basque operations Republican forces begin an offensive drive south from Brunete north-west of Madrid,

preceded by heavy attacks by aircraft on Nationalist positions (SCW; A. Hochschild).

Spanish Civil War, French ship *Liberte* seized at sea by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Wednesday

7 Marco Polo Bridge Incident outside of Beijing, beginning of the Second Sino-Japanese War (wikipedia). Also considered to be the beginning of the Second World War (Oxford). Shots were fired by an unknown party at a Japanese unit engaged on night manoeuvres near Beijing, one Japanese soldier reported missing. The soldier turned up later safe, and no Japanese soldiers were hurt, but the Japanese leaders in Beijing (as they had after other incidents) demanded concessions from China. Local officials on both sides sought to smooth things over, but hardliners in the Japanese Army, led by Manchurian Army Chief of Staff General Tojo Hideki, wanted to provoke their country into taking a more militant stand in China, and used the incident to initiate mobilization of the Army for what they believed would be a short war which would end with further Chinese concessions. Chiang Kai-Shek in Nanking was also under widespread pressure to stand up to Japanese demands, and the situation escalated.

Thursday

9 Sino-Japanese War, Two Japanese Marines killed at the Shanghai airport.

The *Peel Commission on the Future of Palestine* reported that peace between Jews and Arabs in the region seemed impossible, and recommended the region be divided into two states, one Jewish and the other Arab, with British control remaining in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The plan was not implemented (LoN).

Saturday

10 Sino-Japanese War, In a radio broadcast Chiang Kai-shek announced the Chinese Kuomintang government would resist Japanese demands (wikipedia).

Monday

12 Spanish Pavilion at the French International Modern Arts and Sciences Exposition opened, with Picasso's painting *Guernica* in the entrance hall (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, A US pilot, Harold E. "Whitey" Dahl, flying for the Nationalist Air Force, was shot down and captured. He was sentenced to death (as most captured Nationalist air crew were) but powerful diplomatic and private pressure was applied to Gen. Franco, and instead he was imprisoned until 1940. Returning to the USA he joined the RCAF and served as an instructor at Trenton. Released after the war and accused of misappropriation of surplus equipment he moved to Switzerland and flew for Swissair. Following a smuggling charge he returned to Canada and was killed in an air crash in 1956 (wikipedia). Dahl's life inspired a Hollywood movie and was in part the basis for the character Kiffin Draper in Ernest K. Gann's 1983 novel *Gentlemen of Adventure*.

Monday to Wednesday

12-14 A second Soviet ANT-25 aircraft flies non-stop from Moscow to San Jacinto, California, 6,303 miles (10,148 km), over North Pole and Canadian Arctic, landing in a field due to fog. The aircraft still had enough fuel on board to reach Panama, but did not have permission to overfly Mexico (wikipedia).

Tuesday

13 Spanish Civil War, End of the Republican Brunete offensive (SCW).

Wednesday

14 Sino-Japanese War, Chinese military in Shanghai take action with air and ground forces against Japanese warships gathering there, Japanese reply with force and fighting between the two countries begins (Oxford). Japanese Army units begin moving through China from the coast along the railway lines, seizing control of areas of the country (Oxford).

Sunday

18 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist counterattack begins on the Brunete front using troops withdrawn from Bilbao. Italian aircraft with German He 51 fighters (now used for ground attack) silence Republican anti-aircraft artillery while newly arrived Bf 109 fighters keep Republican (Russian) fighters engaged to allow close bombing attacks by Ju 52/3m bombers over the battlefield. German bombers drop barrels of fuel as improvised bombs against troops in trenches (Hallion). Among those killed in the US *Abraham Lincoln* Brigade is it's commander, Oliver Law, the first black US citizen to lead racially integrated US forces in combat (SCW).

Tuesday

27 First flight of Short *Mayo/Mercury* composite aircraft and of the Focke-Wulf Fw 200 4-engined airliner (wikipedia), two different designs developed to fly long range flights.

Wednesday

28 IRA attempts to kill George VI with a bomb in Belfast (wikipedia).

Thursday

29 Sino-Japanese War, Beijing falls to Japanese forces (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican freighter *Andutz Mendi* attacked and sunk off France by shelling and machine gun fire from submarines (wikipedia).

First flight of the Lockheed 14 Super Electra airliner (later developed as the Hudson bomber) (M.J.H. Taylor).

Friday

30 Decision that the Royal Navy will again take over control of shipboard operations from the Royal Air Force, but maritime patrol aircraft to remain under RAF control. There would be a 2 year interval for the Navy to re-establish a naval air arm, to be called the Fleet Air Arm. See May 24, 1939 (M.J.H. Taylor; H. Adlam). Until such time as proper aircraft maintenance trades

were fully trained and manned in the RN, RAF personnel would continue to fulfill these trades onboard ships (for a forthright account of the RAF aboard RN ships see C. Horrock). See September 18, 1939.

The British Army also saw the need for aircraft operating under its direct control, but did not have the technical trades to support such an undertaking, given the complexity of aircraft used for Army Co-operation (Audax, Lysander, etc.) (M. Hiscock). These aircraft had become larger and more complex as a result of trying to do too many things with one aircraft type. This followed in part from the experience of "policing the frontiers" that the RAF had been engaged in since the end of the first war, and fighting to keep the air force independent with a limited budget, which encouraged a "jack-of-all-trades" approach to the multiple roles aircraft were intended to fulfill, including communications, tactical reconnaissance, artillery spotting, fire suppression, light bombing, ambulance and so on (although the same design problem was to be found in other air forces as well without this background).

During the summer a test was made at the request of Royal Artillery officers who had become pilots through the Royal Artillery Aero Club, to see if an artillery officer flying a simple light plane could direct artillery fire. This proved successful, and a flight was formed to further test the experiment (J. Moss). See April 19, 1940. (The US Army would follow a parallel path in its army manoeuvres of the early 1940's, reaching similar conclusions.)

Saturday

31 Spanish Civil War, The Brunete fighting ends in a stalemate. The Republican forces have been forced back to where they started, losing most of their equipment, primarily due to the overwhelming air attacks by the German and Italian bombers and fighters (SCW).

**July/August** International Air Meet in Zurich, Switzerland, various military aircraft take part. Bf 109 prototypes won awards for speed and climb, and the Dornier Do 17M reconnaissance plane (equipped with inline engines) creates a stir by being faster than many fighter aircraft present. See September 28, 1940.

## **August 1937**

- The Lt. Governor of Alberta, **John Bowen**, expresses doubts that planned legislation was constitutional, and asked the Alberta Attorney General for a legal opinion. This angers Premier Aberhart, who forces the Attorney General to resign, and appoints himself to the office (E. Dee). The legislation is introduced unchanged. See October 1937.
- In Air Defence exercises in England three operating RDF stations were able to routinely track aircraft up to 100 miles away (F.K. Mason).
- In Canada cases of Infantile Paralysis (poliomyelitis or Polio) peaked at 3,905 reported, almost 4 times the total of the previous year. As expected most of these (2,546) were in Ontario, 758

(and 31 deaths) in the city of Toronto alone, but it was also higher in the prairie provinces and in New Brunswick. As the disease normally breaks out in the late summer and fall there was great debate about postponing the opening of the school year, and other measures, such as cancelling Children's Day at the *Canadian National Exhibition*, closing public parks, swimming pools, theatres and even churches to prevent the exposure of young children. The Ontario Department of Health held daily press conferences during the height of the crisis, and always advocated parents keep their children at home (C.J. Ruddy). Polio had further outbreaks in Canada in 1946-47 and 1952-53 (the worst years on record), but the introduction of the Salk vaccine in 1955 led the way to virtual eradication of the disease in modern Canada.

-- Spanish Civil War, US citizen A. Baumler, a mercenary pilot flying for the Republican air force, had been forced to return to the USA due to medical reasons in August. Since December 1936 he had been credited with 4½ victories over Italian and German aircraft while flying I-15 and I-16 fighters with a Soviet unit. Due to US laws he could not return directly from Spain, so to avoid arrest he travelled to Canada, then crossed the border into the USA as no passport was required to do this. He later re-joined the USAAC (having been dismissed in 1936 as an enlisted cadet pilot after a forced landing due to negligence), and in 1941 due to his skills and combat experience was sought out for the American Volunteer Group (aka *The Flying Tigers*), but was considered a political risk by the US State Department, who denied him a passport to leave the country due to his flying in Spain. Despite this extraordinary efforts were made by the USAAF to get him into China, which came to pass in April 1942. He returned to the USA in February 1943, again due to medical reasons, as a Major, after claiming a further 5 Japanese aircraft shot down. Post war his lack of a college education and connections to Spain and the Soviet air force again overshadowed his abilities and experience, and to continue serving in the USAAF/USAF he volunteered to reduction in rank from Major to M/Sgt, where he served until retirement (*Flight Journal*, October, 2019).

Sunday

1 Buchenwald Concentration camp opened (Oxford).

Tuesday

3 Canada Car & Foundry aircraft plant opens in Fort William, Ontario. The first contract is assembling Grumman FF-1 fighters from kits of parts under licence, for export to Republican Spain. Grumman had arranged to sell FF-1 fighters to the Republicans, shipping them to Canada in parts to avoid the US law. In Spanish service they are called "Delphins" or Dolphins. They give CCF it's first experience in aircraft production, and they build on that to produce training aircraft, transports, Canada's first fighter design, Hurricane fighters, Helldiver bombers and Harvard trainers during the war.

Before all the Delphins are completed deliveries are halted by the Canadian government. After attempts to sell the remainder in Central and South America they are stored. See September 17, 1940. The demonstrator aircraft was damaged in a crash in Central America. Salvaged in the 1960's and restored to fly it is now on display in the *US Naval Aviation Museum* in Pensacola, Florida, as an 'FF-1'.

Spanish Civil War, Franco urges Mussolini to do more to stop Soviet shipments of arms to the Republicans (wikipedia). Within days attacks on shipping across the Mediterranean intensify, as below.

Thursday

5 75 Sqn. Anson I K6301 damaged in a landing accident, *P/O R.H. Niven RAF (Can.)* safe. See November 24, 1938.

Friday

6 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist artillery again bombards Madrid (wikipedia).

#7 (GP) Fairchild Super 71P #666 crashed at Morrison Lake, Manitoba, 2 killed. Parts from this aircraft were used in the restoration of the prototype, CF-AUJ, now on display in Winnipeg (R.W.R. Walker).

Saturday

7 Spanish Civil War, British tanker *British Corporal* enroute from Iran to England, and the Italian freighter *Mongioia* nearby, were attacked and damaged off Algeria by Nationalist aircraft (wikipedia).

Sunday

8 Spanish Civil War, French freighter *Djebel Amour* and Greek freighter *K Ktistakis* attacked off Algeria by Nationalist aircraft (wikipedia).

Tuesday

10 Spanish Civil War, Italian destroyers sink the Spanish Republican tanker *Campeador* off Tunis (wikipedia).

Wednesday

11 First flight of Boulton-Paul Defiant turret fighter (wikipedia). This is a single engined all metal fighter the same size as the Hurricane and other fighters, but designed around a 4-gun turret and a 2 man crew. It is heavier than the Hurricane or Spitfire but uses the same engine, making it slower than similar fighters. To save weight it has no forward firing armament. The idea was to engage bomber formations by flying in their blind spots using the turret to engage them, and also to hunt bombers attacking in bad weather where the turret would allow quick attacks if the bomber was spotted, without the need to chase it when it might evade in cloud. This assumed the Defiant will not be attacked by escorting fighters, but made sense when it was assumed bombers attacking England would be flying at long range without an escort (comments by R.E.L. Crowdy in Skywriters section, *Aeroplane Monthly*, February, 1985). Operating Defiants in conditions where faster fighters could intercept them proved to be a mistake.

Sino-Japanese War, Japanese naval force lands in Shanghai (LoN).



Thursday

12 Soviet 4 engined DB-A bomber (configured as a passenger plane) leaves Moscow to fly to the USA via Fairbanks, Alaska, piloted by Sigizmund Levanevsky, for proposed new airline routes over the Arctic.

Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican destroyer torpedoed and damaged near Cartagena (wikipedia).

Friday

13 Radio message from Levanevsky aircraft that they have lost an engine and are diverting to the Canadian Arctic islands. Later messages indicated they had force landed (V. Yeletsky)

Sino-Japanese War, Battle for Shanghai begins (Oxford). The Japanese Naval Party is soon under heavy attack by Chinese forces, and a Japanese army is sent from Japan to support them (LoN). CP Liners *RMS Empress of Asia* and *RMS Empress of Canada* were used in evacuation of civilians from the fighting (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican freighter *Condo de Absolo*, carrying arms from the Soviet Union, sunk off Pantelleria by an Italian destroyer (wikipedia).

Saturday

14 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist and Italian troops renew offensive to eliminate Basque forces in Northern Spain, now defending Santander (SCW).

Spanish Civil War, The 12,000 ton Panamanian flagged tanker *Geo. W. McKnight* was shelled by Italian torpedo boats off Tunisia, ran aground after being abandoned and left burning. It was later salvaged by an Italian company, re-built and sold to an English company (wikipedia).

Sino-Japanese War, Chinese bombing of Japanese ships in Shanghai results in over 1,000 civilian deaths due to missed bombs (wikipedia).

Sunday

15 *Lufthansa* opens airmail route by aircraft across Atlantic using a seaplane tender to refuel between Azores and New York (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican freighter *Ciudad de Cadiz* torpedoed by a submarine off Turkey (wikipedia).

Sino-Japanese War, First Japanese bomb attack on Nanking (wikipedia).

Monday

16 Sino-Japanese War, General mobilization of military forces ordered in Japan (wikipedia).

Wednesday

18 Spanish Civil War, A second Spanish Republican freighter, *Armuru*, was torpedoed off Turkey,

beaching herself (wikipedia).

Tuesday

20 Istres-Damascus-Paris Air Race. This was a race to replace a proposed race from Paris to New York to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Lindbergh flight, but this was deemed too dangerous by US Authorities. The route from Istres in southern France, to Damascus and returning non-stop to Paris was intended to simulate the distance from New York to Paris that Lindbergh had flown (wikipedia).

Saturday

21 *Sino-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact* signed (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Italian submarine *Iride* attacks Non-Intervention Patrol destroyer *HMS Havock* in error off Spain, which replies with depth charges (wikipedia). Britain calls an emergency meeting at Committee headquarters in Nyon in Switzerland to address the increasing attacks on shipping in the Mediterranean (SCW).

Istres-Damascus-Paris Air Race finishes. The Italian Air Force had decided to promote the speed of its SM.79 bomber and entered 5 race modified aircraft, 3 of which which arrived within minutes to win the top prizes (L. Caliaro).

Monday

23 After purchasing the prototype Consolidated 28 (later called Catalina) flying boat *Guba* in the USA the Soviet Union sends it to Edmonton (Cooking Lake), Alberta, where on this date it made the first of 5 long range search flights in the Canadian Arctic looking for the missing Levanevsky aircraft, flown by bush and Antarctic pilot **H. Hollick-Kenyon**. They are also joined by a US Lockheed 12 flown by "Jimmy" Mattern, a US long distance pilot whose life Levanevsky had saved after Mattern had crashed in Russia.

Tuesday

24 Spanish Civil War, Another Republican offensive is begun in Aragon to divert Nationalist forces from northern Spain (SCW).

August 24 - September 27 *Lufthansa* trial flight from Kabul, Afghanistan to China (M.J.H. Taylor).

Friday

27 Spanish Civil War, After evacuating many citizens to safety by boat the Basque army surrenders on the promise no reprisals would be taken and their leaders would be allowed to leave to live in exile. After agreeing to this the surrender takes place, but Franco orders the Basque leaders arrested. They are forced at gunpoint from neutral British vessels and executed (SCW).

Vatican officially recognizes Franco government (LoN).

Tuesday

31 Spanish Civil War, Soviet freighter *Timiryazev* torpedoed and sunk off Tunisia by an Italian destroyer (wikipedia).

## September 1937

-- Heinkel He S-1 jet engine run successfully on gasoline (wikipedia).

-- To further their work the Dutch team looking at forestry on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence leased two Fairchild aircraft from *Dominion Skyways* to do surveys of Anticosti Island. On route, in Quebec, pilot **Walter "Babe" Woollett** was given a telegram in error for one of the party, and was surprised to see it was in German. On Anticosti he was also impressed with the portable radio they were using, and curious that the survey was more interested in surveying water depth of the St. Lawrence River and taking photos of hydro-electric dams. He determined that the party had a number of German members with military and aviation backgrounds, and others with contacts in the German government (P. Thiffault). See December 2, 1937.

-- Around this time a group called the Aviation Scouts of Canada was formed, sponsored by **Errol Boyd** (R. Smyth). This was one of the precursors to the Air Cadets.

Wednesday

1 First revenue flight of *Trans-Canada Airlines*, Vancouver, BC to Seattle, Washington (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, British tanker *Woodford* torpedoed and sunk off Spain by an Italian submarine (wikipedia; www.subsim.com).

Thursday

2 First flight of the Grumman F4F (Wildcat) naval fighter (*Flypast*, September 1986). This was an all metal stressed skin monoplane fighter developed from Grumman's successful biplane fighter designs. Like all US Navy combat aircraft it uses a radial engine for reliability.

Spanish Civil War, Soviet freighter *Blakioeff* torpedoed and sunk by an Italian submarine off Skyros in the Aegean Sea off Greece (wikipedia).

In a speech Herman Göring warns that any attempt to boycott Germany by the international community will result in reprisals against German Jews (wikipedia).

Saturday

4 Spanish Civil War, Sinking of Russian and neutral shipping in the Mediterranean by submarines blamed on Italy by the Soviet Union (wikipedia). Italian submarine attacks on merchant ships ordered to end by Mussolini (www.clashofarms.com), while some Italian submarines are turned over to the Nationalist navy with Italian crews to continue the attacks.

Sunday

5 Sino-Japanese War, Japanese Naval blockade extended from Shanghai to the entire Chinese coast except treaty ports (LoN).

Wednesday

8 Pan-Arab Congress meeting in Syria rejects the *Peel Report* and demands the British mandate ends, guaranteeing Jewish rights as a minority in the region but calling on an end to establishing a Jewish National Homeland as sought by Britain (LoN).

Spanish Civil War, Mussolini replies to Soviet statements about submarine attacks in the Mediterranean, denying Italy is involved (wikipedia).

Friday

10 In the King's Cup Air Race in England Miles M.3A Falcon Major G-AENG was caught in turbulence and crashed, W/C E.G. Hilton DFC AFC RAF and **W/C P.C. Sherren MC RAF (Can.) (Retired)** killed (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1937.htm>).

Tuesday

14 Spanish Civil War, In the absence of German and Italian delegates the *Nyon Conference Agreement* is signed to patrol the wider Mediterranean with destroyers (British & French) to protect shipping against submarine and air attacks (wikipedia). The effectiveness of this is then compromised when England asks Italy to join the patrols (SCW).

Tuesday

21 J.R.R. Tolkien's book *The Hobbit* published in London.

#1 Fighter (F) Sqn. RCAF formed from Fighter Flight of #3 (B) Sqn., Trenton, Ontario, which then moved to Ottawa with #2 (AC) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).

Thursday

23 Vickers Vedette #814 (originally C-CYWQ), **F/O M.G. Doyle**, **F/O H.A. Walker** and **F/O J.L. Berven**, force landed in a swamp near Trenton, Ontario, where the wreck was abandoned. In 1977 the nose and forward hull were salvaged, the only remains known of a Vedette aircraft, one of the countries first successful indigenous designs (*Airforce Magazine* Vol. 1, #4). They are now in the *National Aeronautical Collection* in Ottawa.

Friday

24 *Imperial Airways* C-Class flying boat *Cambria*, after having a damaged float repaired in Toronto, flies to Hamilton, Ontario before returning to England via Botwood, Newfoundland and Foynes, Eire (M. Milberry, *Short Flying Boats in Canada*, CANAV Website, December 2021).

Wednesday

29 First flight of the Bloch MB.150 fighter, developed into the Bloch 152 (*Flypast*, September 1986).

At the end of the month the search for the Levanevsky aircraft is suspended as the Arctic night

begins, and the *Guba* aircraft is shipped to the USSR. See December 1937, end of March 1938 and July 5 and 25, 1942.

- Sino-Japanese War, Chinese Air Force begin to receive complete Soviet units of SB bomber and I-16 fighter aircraft manned by Soviet ground and aircrew "volunteers", under terms of *Sino-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact* (wikipedia). These "volunteers" usually served for only a few months, and then were replaced by others who would gain combat experience before being replaced in turn (A. Beevor).

## October 1937

- British PM Chamberlain's continued support of Nazi Germany as a counterbalance to Communism in the USSR is opposed in Cabinet by Anthony Eden. Eden had originally advocated total neutrality in Spain, later wanted England to support Republicans.
- Visiting Luftwaffe staff officers tour an RAF fighter airfield during the month and are allowed to inspect the Gladiator biplane fighters there, then the most modern fighter in Fighter Command service (F.K. Mason).
- The RCAF had two Pacemaker aircraft based in Calgary making aerial surveys of drought stricken regions in southern Alberta (B.W. Gowans).
- Spanish Civil War, German *Condor Legion* seaplanes based in Minorca begin sustained attacks on Republican shipping, replacing Italian submarines in disrupting supplies to the Republicans and circumventing the naval *Nyon Agreement* (www.clashofarms.com).
- The three controversial laws limiting the press and taking Provincial control over the banks are passed in the Alberta Legislature. Lt. Governor **John Bowen** of Alberta refuses to sign these acts into law, however, and being denied a legal review by Premier/Attorney General Aberhart, sends them to the Governor General (as the King's representative in Canada) to be reviewed by the Supreme Court.

The bills would force Alberta Government control of the banks in the province [which are federally, not provincially controlled in Canada] by licensing them and their employees. Banks which refused to be provincially licensed would pay an exorbitant tax and would be denied access to the Alberta courts, making them unable to do business. Newspapers were required to submit all their articles to the government for approval before publication, and would be required to print such approved material beside Government rebuttals of any of their content the Government deemed as critical of its actions. They would also be required to print the names and addresses of all sources reporters had used in the printed stories, and failure to do these things would result in suspending their business license to print and a fine of \$1,000 per day [about \$18,000 per day in 2020] until they complied (E. Strikwerda). Other law changes prohibited any court case that challenged provincial legislation on a constitutional basis (E. Dee), and proposed that Albertans could not leave the province for longer than a

month without permission from the Provincial Government (E. Strikwerda).

In response to Bowen's action to have these bills reviewed Premier Aberhart takes away all Provincial support for the Office of Lt. Governor, his staff, his official car, disconnects power and water to Government House (the official residence), and even passes a bill abolishing the office of Lt. Governor (later rescinded). Eventually the Supreme Court would rule, in 1938, that the bills go beyond the power of the Alberta Legislature to enact, but by that time the Lt. Governor and his family had been forced to leave Government House. It remains the property of the Province to this day, and is used primarily for meetings of the Cabinet, while the Lt. Governor of Alberta has no official residence. This incident and the Quebec *Padlock Law* are indicative of the extremes of government at the provincial and state levels to found in Canada and the USA in this time of political turmoil.

Friday

1 In response to the assassination of the British District Commissioner for Galilee September 26, the leaders of the Arab High Commission were arrested on this date. It was hoped this would lead to an end to the fighting in the region, but instead it removed moderate Arab leaders from control, leading to more organized violence (LoN).

Sunday

3 Sino-Japanese War, Japanese troops move towards Nationalist Capitol of Nanking (wikipedia). In compliance with a defence plan developed with help of German Army advisors working to modernize the Chinese Nationalist Army, Chinese forces fall back into the countries interior. Chaing Kai-Shek believes the Japanese occupation to be unsustainable over time (Oxford). Japanese diplomats seek the assistance of Germany to mediate an end to the fighting with some success (Oxford).

Monday

4 Spanish Civil War, In the Mediterranean an unknown submarine fired torpedoes at the destroyer *HMS Basilisk*, which replied with depth charges (wikipedia).

Tuesday

5 Spanish Civil War, President Roosevelt condemns "Nazi-Fascist aggressors in Spain" in a speech in Chicago. Isolationists condemned his speech (LoN).

Wednesday

6 Spanish Civil War, Italy reinforced it's air force in Spain with three squadrons of new SM.79 bombers (wikipedia).

Sunday

10 Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican freighter *Cabo Santo Tome* with a cargo of aircraft and munitions intercepted by Nationalist destroyers off Algeria which sank the ship by shelling (wikipedia; www.wrecksite.eu).

## Monday

11 US flier Charles Lindbergh begins another tour of German aircraft factories (wikipedia).

## Tuesday

12 First production Hurricane flies in England. With a Rolls-Royce Merlin II engine it was capable of 318 mph with a fixed pitch wooden propellor. By Christmas the first 4 would be in squadron service, and the first fully equipped squadron would be operational by February, 1938 (F.K. Mason). RCAF orders for this fighter have been placed and plans are underway to build them in Canada.

## Wednesday

13 Germany guarantees the integrity of Belgium as long as that country abstains from military action against Germany (wikipedia). See October 28, 1939, January 10 and May 10, 1940.

## Thursday

14 Trains and buses attacked in Palestine, 7 killed (wikipedia).

## Friday

15 First flight of the Boeing XB-15 bomber, an enlarged version of the Model 299, which proves to be underpowered, but gives design input into the Boeing B.314 Clipper flying boats and later B-29 Superfortress (M.J.H. Taylor).

## Saturday

16 First flight of the Short Sunderland, military maritime patrol version of the C-Class flying boat (M.J.H. Taylor).

## Monday

18 RCAF Trenton, Fawn II #229 and #234 collided in mid air, **F/L J.A. MacInnes**, **P/O R.L. Doucett** and **Sgt E.F. O'Connor** killed (www3.gendisasters.com; R.W.R. Walker).

## Tuesday

19 New Zealand born physicist Ernest Rutherford dies in England. Known as the father of modern nuclear physics, his early work on radioactivity was done as Macdonald Professor of Physics at McGill University in Montreal (wikipedia). In a sense, the road that led to Hiroshima began at McGill.

Spanish Civil War, Panamanian ship *Reina* bombed and sunk at Gijon (wikipedia).

## Thursday

21 Spanish Civil War, Asturias, the last province in northern Spain fighting for the Republic, is forced to surrender. Fighting in the Aragon region peters out, having cost most of the Republic's remaining fighting units and equipment for little gain and without affecting the loss of Asturias or the Basque region (SCW). Republican destroyer *Ciscar* sunk by Nationalist aircraft (wikipedia).

Sunday

24 Spanish Civil War, French freighter *Oued Mellah* bombed and sunk off the Balearic Islands by an unknown aircraft (wikipedia).

Thursday

28 Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican government forced to leave Valencia for Barcelona (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Jean Weems* bombed and sunk off Catalonia (wikipedia).

84 Sqn. Vincent I K6346 stalled and crashed at Khor Gharim, Oman, W/C A.R.M. Rickards OBE AFC RAF, **P/O R.H. McClatchey RAF (Can.)** and AC1 L.G. O'Leary RAF killed (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Accf1939.htm>). See December 4, 1946.

## November 1937

Friday

5 In a secret meeting of top military leaders of Germany Hitler announces his plans for the expansion of Germany over the next 5 years, in particular into Austria and Czechoslovakia (Polsson; wikipedia). These plans include a military buildup for further expansion into Poland and the USSR, and anticipate a war with France and England will occur no earlier than 1942 (Oxford; M.J.H. Taylor; P. Adair).

Saturday

6 Italy joins the Anti-Comintern Pact (wikipedia).

Tuesday

9 Sino-Japanese War, Japanese troops seize Shanghai after an intense 7 week battle with Chinese forces (wikipedia).

Monday

15 To allow for expansion of new military squadrons in the RCAF the squadrons of the NPAAF were re-assigned 100 block numbers, becoming #110 Sqn. (Toronto), #111 Sqn. (Vancouver), #112 Sqn. (Winnipeg), #113 Sqn. (Calgary), #115 Sqn. (Montreal), #118 Sqn. (Montreal), #119 Sqn. (Hamilton), #120 Sqn. (Regina), #121 Sqn. (Quebec City). #111 (AC) re-designated as a Coastal Artillery Co-operation (CAC) Squadron (CCMA), #113 (AC) Sqn. redesignated #113 Fighter (F) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).

Saturday

20 Sino-Japanese War, Chinese capitol moved from Nanking to Chunking (Chongqing) (wikipedia).

Monday

22 Heinkel aircraft receives an order for 3 He 111F airliners modified for photo reconnaissance to be



delivered in February. They were painted and given the codes of He 111 airliners already in service with *Lufthansa*, but using dull or matt paint. These were then used on secret flights over neighbouring countries to identify and photograph future military targets (V. Koos). See March 25, 1939.

Wednesday

24 First awarding of the *Governor General's Literacy Awards*, by John Buchan (Lord Tweedsmuir), himself an author (wikipedia).

Sunday

28 Spanish Civil War, General Franco declares a Nationalist naval blockade of the remaining Republican coast, with naval and *Condor Legion* air units based out of Majorca (LoN).

Monday

29 Spanish Civil War, Japan recognizes Franco government.

## December 1937

-- First flight of Brewster F2A (Buffalo) naval fighter (wikipedia).

-- Hawker Hurricane enters service with the RAF, it's first modern cantilever monoplane fighter with retracting undercarriage (RAF Timeline).

-- NPAAF Squadrons in Canada begin replacing DH.60 Moth aircraft with more modern DH.82A(Can.) Tiger Moth trainers (424 SH).

-- In England Parliament votes a massive 5-year rearmament budget, recognizing that the situation in Europe is slipping out of control. Having been shown that deterrent is no longer working, and with development of RDF, a decision is made that the RAF will not try to match Germany in the numbers of bombers deployed, but to concentrate first on defence by producing fighter aircraft instead. The orders for bombers are reduced. By chance this decision will give England the ability to defend itself against the Luftwaffe, whose doctrine of gaining air superiority by first destroying an opponents air force had not yet been revealed.

The development of an integrated air defence system to use the RDF system and these fighters begins, building on the existing defence organization which in turn had its origins in the defence against German Zeppelin and Gotha attacks on England in the Great War. In early 1937 C-in-C of Fighter Command, ACM Dowding, would order the RDF technology "frozen", to be put into production and operational use as fast as possible. Development would continue and benefit from the knowledge gained from deployment, but England needed a working system as soon as possible, even if it wasn't the cutting edge of the technology. Improvements could be made later (A. Price).

This represents a major change in the development of systems of air defence against the threat of

bombers, marking a milestone in aviation. The Battle of Britain is just 30 months away (A Short History of the RAF; Oxford).

British production of aircraft was reaching it's limits, so plans are begun to search for sources in the USA (see April 14, 1938 below) as well as involving the car manufacturing industry in building aircraft. See April 14 and 21, 1938.

-- The Soviet Union purchases the long range modified Lockheed 10E aircraft NR16059 "*Daily Express*" (that had flown to England and returned with newspapers of the Coronation), equips it with skis and employs **H. Hollick-Kenyon** to fly it reregistered as SSSR-N-214, based out of Edmonton, on further searches for the missing Levanevsky aircraft in the spring.

-- Soviet air force begins using the RS-82 ground attack rocket (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2). See June 4, 1939.

-- *Time* magazine names Chiang Kai-Shek and Soong May-Ling as 'Man and Wife of the Year'. See December 1938.

Wednesday

1 #5 (CR) Sqn. RCAF redesignated General Reconnaissance (GR).

Thursday

2 The work of the Dutch-German forestry party led to a multi-million dollar offer to purchase Anticosti Island, and invest in facilities and employment there. Suspicious of what he had witnessed, pilot W. Woollett met with RCMP officers, who dismissed his comments. Worried, he spoke to a reporter from the *Montreal Gazette* newspaper, and on this date a story was published about the group that revealed their military and political backgrounds. This led to questions in Parliament about what their intentions were (P. Thiffault). See January 1938, below.

Saturday

4 First launch of the Unit-3 development rocket from which the later V-2 was developed, from Peenemünde, Germany.

Wednesday

8 First foreign sale of a Beech 18 aircraft, CF-BGY, on floats, to *Starratt Airways* of Hudson, Ontario (C. Sloat).

Spanish Civil War, Barcelona bombed (wikipedia).

Saturday

11 Italy resigns from the *League of Nations*.

Sunday

12 Sino-Japanese War, While evacuating US civilians and Embassy staff from the Chinese capitol of Nanking US Navy gunboat *USS Panay* is attacked and sunk in error by Japanese Naval

aircraft, despite US flags painted on the decks. Japan later apologizes and pays an indemnity (wikipedia).

Monday

13 Sino-Japanese War, Nanking falls to the Japanese with slight resistance after Chinese Nationalist troops withdraw. Possibly in an attempt to thwart efforts by politicians to end the war, Japanese soldiers begin attacking civilians in Nanking, committing wide scale rape, looting and murder which extended for 3 months. 250,000 to 300,000 Chinese were killed in these reprisals (wikipedia).

Wednesday

15 Spanish Civil War, In a move to force postponement of another Nationalist offensive to cut off Madrid the Republican forces launch an offensive against the Nationalist positions around Teruel in the mountains of Aragon (SCW). The winter weather turns into a blizzard, which grounds air activity, allowing the Republican soldiers to take most of the town in hard fighting (Hallion).

Friday

17 Spanish Civil War, French freighter *Sydney* seized in the Straits of Gibraltar by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

1 Sqn. Fury I K2901 and K2902 collided over England, **Acting F/L H.H. Peck RAF (Can.)** and Sgt R.E. Patten RAF killed. F/L Peck had graduated from Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario (H.A. Halliday; aviation-safety.net).

Tuesday

21 First Canadian built RCAF DH.82A(Can.) Tiger Moth #239, flies at Downsview, Ontario (C.D. Long).

Spanish Civil War, French freighter *Francois* seized at sea in the Straits of Gibraltar by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Premier of the Disney animated movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 *Pan-American Airlines* begins freight and air mail flights from the USA to New Zealand (M.J.H. Taylor).

Spanish Civil War, Franco is forced to suspend the planned offensive against Madrid to send troops to the fighting around Teruel (SCW).

First flight of a production Wellington I bomber (S. Bond).

Friday

24 First flight of the Macchi MC.200 fighter (wikipedia).

## **1938**

- Early in the year **Prime Minister Mackenzie King's** government ends the Federal support for Provincial Relief Camps, forcing most of these programs to close (wikipedia).
- The world's first sleeve valve aircraft engine, the Bristol Perseus, goes into production (M.J.H. Taylor). A sleeve valve engine uses a mechanically driven rotating sleeve around the piston cylinder to open and close intake and exhaust ports machined into the piston wall. More complex than valve ports, it allows operation at higher power and rpm settings as the mechanical ports are not limited by the "floating" effect of valve springs, and are smoother in operation. This allows smaller, lighter piston engines capable of sustained high power.
- In the USSR work begins on developing a turbojet engine (M.J.H. Taylor). Ukrainian born Arkhip Lyulka was the chief designer, who in 1941 conceived the idea of the turbo-fan engine, now used for most jet airliners (wikipedia).
- The new Soviet *Five Year Plan* introduced in this year included shortening the time allowed for training new military pilots (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).
- Following surveys of the Canadian Pacific Coast construction began on a fort at Yorke Island, BC, to protect Vancouver and Victoria from a naval attack from the north through the Johnstone Strait (B. Coyle, others).

## **January 1938**

- First flight of the Japanese Aichi D3A naval dive bomber (M.J.H. Taylor).
- Early in the year the RCAF decided that fighters designed for the RAF, specifically the Hurricane and the Spitfire, did not meet the specifications they had been looking for for a Canadian fighter aircraft, and turned to US sources. At this time they were looking for a larger, multi-engined aircraft with the range to patrol Canada's large areas (similar to the specifications that led to the Avro Arrow). It was decided to look to US sources, but although being well received by the US Military they were not offered anything that fulfilled their requirements (C. Vincent). See June 14, 1938, below.
- Following the publication of newspapers stories about their background and questions about their activities in the Parliament the German 'forestry' team fled the country, leaving their personal belongings behind. Naval and air force units examined Anticosti Island later in the year and **PM Mackenzie King** announced a military base would be built on the Island, but this never occurred. RCMP investigated their contacts and identified a German pilot employed by Fairchild Aircraft Canada, who left Canada for the USA when war broke out in Europe. He was also in possession of a long-range radio, discovered in his apartment (P. Thiffault).

Saturday

1 #4 Coastal Reconnaissance (CR) Squadron RCAF redesignated #4 General Reconnaissance (GR) Squadron (RCAF Sqns.).

Spanish Civil War, Improving weather allows the *Condor Legion* to support ground operations as Nationalists send fresh troops to the region to seize the heights above the city of Teruel before another blizzard moves in (SCW).

1-2 Spanish Civil War, As a demonstration of airpower the Italian Air Force Chief-of-Staff flew an SM.79 in an attack from Rome and returning in a 6 hour non-stop flight, dropping a small bomb load of 800 kg on Barcelona (L. Caliaro).

Friday

7 Spanish Civil War, Republican forces in Spain take Teruel, the besieged Nationalist commander surrendering his surviving soldiers (Hallion; SCW). But with Nationalists placed on the high ground around the city the Republicans are now in a vulnerable position (SCW).

Italy announces a second naval construction program (LoN).

88 Sqn. Battle I K7642 was on a delivery flight when it became lost, **P/O D.A.J. Foster RAF (Can.)** attempted a force landing in a field but skidded into a sunken lane and the brand new aircraft was written off (W.R. Chorley). See April 27, 1939.

Tuesday

11 The first airplane lands at Gander, Newfoundland, a government owned DH.83 Foxmoth VO-ADE equipped with skis (C.F. Warren et al). The aircraft is to be used to make meteorological flights.

Spanish Civil War, Dutch freighter *Hannah* torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean off Spain carrying grain to Valencia (wikipedia; [www.wrecksite.eu](http://www.wrecksite.eu)).

Sunday

16 Sino-Japanese War, Atrocities by Japanese Army in Nanking ends attempts for a negotiated settlement by Japanese and German diplomats (Oxford). This serves the purposes of those Japanese Army officers who desire the war to continue.

Tuesday

18 Dormitory fire at a Catholic school at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, kills 47 students and staff ([www3.gendisasters.com](http://www3.gendisasters.com)).

DH.82A(Can.) Tiger Moth trainer enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

Wednesday

19 Spanish Civil War, In one day of fighting around Teruel Nationalist aircraft make 400 sorties to drop 100 tons of bombs on Republican positions (Hallion).

Friday

21 Spanish Civil War, British coaster *Endymion* torpedoed off Spain by a Nationalist submarine provided by Italy, 11 killed (wikipedia). Estonian freighter *Pomaron* seized by a Nationalist cruiser in the Straits of Gibraltar (wikipedia).

Saturday

22 First flight of the He 100 fighter, developed from the He 112 (wikipedia). See March 30, 1939.

Spanish Civil War, Estonian freighter *Juss* seized in the Straits of Gibraltar by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Monday

24 Three of the race modified Italian SM.79 bombers were further modified for long range flight, and on this day they flew non-stop from Rome to Dakar (L. Caliaro).

Tuesday

25 Of the three Italian SM.79 aircraft that took off from Dakar, one landed in Natal, Brazil following an engine failure, but the other two landed as planned in Rio de Janeiro (L. Caliaro). This would lead to the development of a dedicated long-range airliner based on the SM.79, the SM.83. See December 21, 1939.

Thursday

27 Field Marshall Blomberg, German Minister of War, forced to resign due to a marriage scandal, replaced as Minister of War by Hitler (Oxford).

Friday

28 Spanish Civil War, Turkey recognizes Franco government.

US President Roosevelt calls for increase in US defence spending (C.E. Hipperson).

## **February 1938**

-- Spanish Civil War, Nationalist forces counter attack to re-take Teruel, the air campaign includes the first combat use of the Ju 87 dive bomber, later called the Stuka (Hallion).

Thursday

3 General Baron Fritsch, Commander-in-Chief of the German Army and considered by many to be the best replacement for Field Marshall Blomberg, is accused of homosexuality and forced to resign by Hitler acting as War Minister. He is later found not guilty but is not re-instated. This and the resignation of Field Marshall Blomberg marks Hitler's taking political control of the German Army (Oxford). Hitler quickly dismisses or transfers senior generals and officers he does not trust to replace them with officers loyal to him (R. Moorhouse).

Friday

4 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Alcira* bombed and sunk by Nationalist aircraft off Barcelona (wikipedia).

Hitler appoints Joachim von Ribbentrop, then Ambassador to England, as Foreign Minister.

Saturday

5 Enroute to Murmansk to attempt a rescue of the Soviet *North Pole-1* party on the Arctic ice, now threatened with the drift ice breaking up, the Soviet airship W.6 *Ossoawiachika* crashes into a mountain killing 16 of the 19 crew (wikipedia). The 4 man crew of the ice station were lifted off by Soviet ice breakers on February 19, having drifted from near the North Pole to off the eastern coast of Greenland in 9 months.

Monday

7 The number of Germans leaving Germany forces the *League of Nations* to convene a conference, the third in less than two years, to assist these refugees (LoN).

Thursday

10 Spanish Civil War, At Valencia the British freighter *Lucky* was hit by bombs and sunk (wikipedia).

Friday

11 Hitler summons Austrian Chancellor Dr. von Schuschnigg to his residence in Berchtesgaden and demands dismissal of political opponents to Germany in Austria, and the appointment of Austrian National Socialist supporters in their place (Oxford). He has the leader of the *Condor Legion* describe the effects of bombing of cities in Spain, and threatens to bomb Austria in the same manner (A. Hochschild). Chancellor von Schuschnigg signs an agreement to make the appointments (Polsson), but on return to Austria tries to reduce it's effect by seeking a referendum which would confirm his countries desire to remain independent (Oxford). See March 9, below.

Monday

14 With completion of a floating dry dock (C. Clark), the Royal Naval base at Singapore is symbolically opened (wikipedia), although it had been operating as the main RN base in the western Pacific for over a decade. The naval base was built to replace the base at Hong Kong. Under the *1922 Washington Conference* on naval warships the USA and Britain had forced Japan to accept a lower ratio of capital ships, which Japan viewed as an insult. As a concession it was agreed not to base USN or RN capitol ships closer to Japan than Singapore or Hawaii, thus the need for the new base. As is widely publicized the gun defences were emplaced to cover sea approaches, but these were meant to be used with several squadrons of bombers and torpedo bombers, as well as a fleet of ships, to protect the base. They could in fact fire inland, but were not equipped with ranging equipment or shells useful against land targets (Oxford). At the time of their design this was not seen to matter. To the north was Malaya for 400 miles protected by Army forces, then the independent Kingdom of Siam, followed by French Indo-China which was flanked by the US possession of the Philippines, so it was felt by the planners any viable attack would come from the south, by

sea. The economic depression had affected the defence plans, of course, and the air component was smaller than originally planned, while the Vildebeest torpedo aircraft available were obsolete and in urgent need of replacement, but were to be still in service in 1942 (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Sunday

20 Hitler states Germany will protect the rights of ethnic Germans in other countries, a statement aimed at Austria and Czechoslovakia (LoN).

Spanish Civil War, In protest over British PM Chamberlain's policies towards Germany, Italy and Italian involvement in Spain, Anthony Eden resigns as Foreign Secretary (LoN).

Monday

21 Spanish Civil War, Teruel is retaken by Nationalist, Italian and German forces. Franco decides to abandon capturing Madrid and reinforces the front at Teruel with the strongest military force so far seen in the War, far outnumbering the exhausted Republican forces opposing it in men and equipment. Over 900 aircraft, some the latest German fighters and dive bombers, face about 60 Republican aircraft (SCW).

Tuesday

22 A motion censuring PM Chamberlain's policy of appeasement to preserve peace in Europe following the resignation of Anthony Eden is overwhelmingly defeated in the British Parliament (wikipedia). Winston Churchill, who was deeply affected by Eden's resignation, spoke out against his party's policy (A. McCarten).

Wednesday

23 Sino-Japanese War, Soviet manned Chinese Air Force SB bombers attack Japanese airfields on Formosa (Taiwan) (wikipedia).

Two RAF Wellesley aircraft of the Long Range Development Unit make an endurance test flight around England. One aircraft, Wellesley I K7734, disappeared without a trace. In March a tail-wheel believed to come from the aircraft was found in Norway (hushkit.net). F/L F.S. Gardner RAF (Aus.), F/O G.J.D. Thomson RAF and Sgt G. Higgs missing RAF (crashsiteorkney.com/the-mystery-of-wellesley-k7734.html).

Saturday

26 French Chamber of Deputies votes overwhelmingly to endorse joining with Britain in negotiations with Germany and Italy (wikipedia).

Sunday

27 Spanish Civil War, Mass march on Italian Embassy in London by 10,000 opposed to the government's appeasement policy (wikipedia).



## March 1938

-- After much financial hardship the Power Jets gas turbine engine receives Air Ministry funding and is made a secret project (wikipedia).

Tuesday

1 RCAF Western Air Command formed in Vancouver (CCMA).

On orders from Hitler the US *German American Bund* is prohibited from using the Swastika or other Nazi emblems in an attempt to distance the Nazi Party from being associated with the Bund and its activities (wikipedia).

Political demonstrations supporting the Austrian Nazi Party break out in the area of Austria that is ethnically German. The Austrian government was unable to control or end these demonstrations as they feared offending Germany (LoN).

A four day blizzard struck California that killed 120 people in cold and flooding, including 9 crew and passengers killed in a *TWA DC-2 NC13789* that went missing for 3 months until being found crashed on a mountain in Yosemite National Park (wikipedia).

149 Sqn. Heyford K4032 damaged in a taxiing accident, *P/O W. J. MacRae RAF (Can.)* safe. See August 2, 1939.

Wednesday

2 Pastor Martin Niemoller is freed by a civil court, but immediately taken into "Protective Custody" by the Gestapo and is sent to the concentration camps. He survived the war and is best known for the quote/poem "*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Socialist. ...*" etc (wikipedia).

Thursday

3 Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia (wikipedia).

More troops and a new, tougher high commissioner, sent to Palestine to stop the fighting there (LoN).

Friday

4 Alberta's Social Credit *Accurate News and Information Act* deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada (wikipedia).

Tuesday

8 Chamberlain announces further increase in defence spending.

Wednesday

9 Austrian Chancellor von Schuschnigg calls for a public vote March 13 to decide if Austria will remain independent or join Germany (Polsson).

Spanish Civil War, The Nationalist counter offensive from Teruel begins, taking Republican forces by surprise, and forcing a breakthrough into Catalonia (SCW).

Thursday

10 Hitler orders the occupation of Austria, using a largely *ad hoc* plan (Polsson).

Friday

11 Austrian Chancellor von Schuschnigg forced to resign and is replaced by the leader of the Austrian National Socialist party (Oxford).

Saturday

12 Anschluss, German troops enter into Austria unopposed. Luftwaffe transport aircraft fly 2,000 armed soldiers to Vienna, while flights of German bombers overfly the country and its cities at low level during daylight hours, intimidating the population (F.K. Mason). Arrests of potential enemies of the Nazi party began (wikipedia).

Sunday

13 Leon Blum becomes Prime Minister of France again.

Monday

14 Anschluss, German forces complete occupation of Austria, annexation of Austria to Germany declared. This now left western Czechoslovakia as a salient sticking into Germany, with vastly increased border protection problems (LoN). Germany gives assurances of peaceful intentions to Czechoslovakia (LoN). France pledges to defend Czechoslovakia.

Tuesday

15 In Moscow the last of the public trials concludes, with 17 of 21 Communist leaders shot (including Nikolai Bukharin) and the others sent to labour camps. The killing of Bukharin, Stalin's final rival, had wide spread effects in Communist organizations in other countries as they were also being "purged" as the split between the factions represented by Stalin and Trotsky widened (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, France re-opens border to Spain as Nationalist forces advance on Barcelona.

Wednesday to Saturday

16-19 Spanish Civil War, on orders of Mussolini, Barcelona is repeatedly bombed by Italian aircraft of the Nationalist air forces based in Majorca, using incendiaries and possibly gas. This series of attacks was the largest and heaviest bombing attack against a city at the time (A. Hochschild). Over 1,000 (some sources quote 3,000) die, including the French Consul. These attacks angered even the Spanish Nationalists, and off-duty Italian soldiers (never popular in Spain due to their boasting manner) were attacked by groups of Nationalists (SCW). France partially mobilizes and threatens to send troops to Spain in support of Republican forces. Hitler, whose army is engaged with the occupation of Austria, asks Franco to suspend the invasion of Catalonia.

Friday

18 Mexico nationalizes oil properties in the country (wikipedia).

Saturday

19 Spanish Civil War, Soviet freighter *Lensovet* seized by Nationalist patrol boats in the Straits of Gibraltar (wikipedia).

Sunday

20 Spanish Civil War, Mussolini is persuaded to suspend the bombing of Barcelona, switching to air attacks on other towns along the Mediterranean coast (SCW).

Friday

25 Chamberlain announces in the House of Commons no direct guarantee for Czechoslovakian independence, and non-intervention to continue in Spain, but further acceleration of re-armament of British forces. Thus Chamberlain is convinced that German force must be met with force, but England needs time to catch up militarily (Oxford). Hitler was aware of this, but his reaction to the re-armament of Britain and France was to accelerate his plans for expansion before they reached parity with Germany (A. Beevor).

In Alberta the fight between the Social Credit government of **William Aberhart** and the newspapers continues. On this date Premier Aberhart acting as Attorney General, claims an *Edmonton Journal* reporter misquoted a Social Credit MLA in an article and orders the reporter jailed. The reporter managed to stay out of jail, but the story was news all over Canada and the USA, where it was seen as an attempt to destroy a free press (E. Dee). See July 8, 1938.

Saturday

26 DH.60 Moth trainer is retired from RCAF service (Griffin CMA).

Sino-Japanese War, In Japan the *National Mobilization Law* is passed to give government greater control of the economy in the undeclared war with China (Oxford; wikipedia).

Sunday

27 Spanish Civil War, Franco halts the occupation of Catalonia on the line of the Ebro River and turns his soldiers south, towards Valencia. This allows the Republican forces on the Ebro, all but destroyed in the retreat from Teruel, to regroup and form strong defensive positions. Russia, which had been cutting back aid, rushed 300 aircraft to the country. The Nationalist forces are also low on supplies, which are replenished from Germany in exchange for more economic agreements for raw materials (SCW).

Sunday to Tuesday

27-29 A *Lufthansa* Do 18F seaplane flies from a catapult launch in England to Caravellas, Brazil, establishing a distance record for seaplanes of 8,392 km (5,215 miles) (M.J.H. Taylor).

Monday

28 Hitler meets with the leader of the Sudeten Germans and tells him to make impossible demands of the Czechoslovakian government to create a crisis (wikipedia).

Wednesday

30 Spanish Civil War, Greek freighter *Lena* torpedoed by a submarine, towed into Barcelona where it sank (wikipedia).

Mine explosion kills 5 and injures 5 at Hinton, Alberta (www3.gendisasters.com).

Thursday

31 Manpower of the RCAF 178 officers and 1,523 enlisted Regular, 80 officers and 729 enlisted NPAAF Auxiliary. Enlargement of existing bases and construction of new ones such as Patricia Bay and Alliford Bay continues. Survey work for further bases continues. As well as armaments it is decided to begin obtaining wireless equipment from Canadian sources. During the next year #1 (F) Squadron (six Siskin fighters) and #3 (B) Squadron (Wapiti's) will be transferred from Trenton and Ottawa to Calgary, and #6 Torpedo Bomber (TB) Squadron from Trenton to Vancouver. #2 (AC) Squadron moved back from Ottawa to Trenton. Radio direction finding (radar) experiments are being carried out at the NRC in Ottawa (CCMA).

(The move of almost all of the RCAF's military equipped units to bases in Western Canada is curious. It is interesting to speculate if the actions of the Social Credit government of **William Aberhart** had some influence on this?)

-- Soviet searches of the Canadian North for the missing Levanevsky aircraft are suspended and the Lockheed 10E SSSR-N-214 is shipped to the USSR, where it was later dismantled and examined at the Tupolev factory (tighar.org). It is thought likely that the Levanevsky DB-A aircraft landed on the sea ice and was carried to some unknown final resting place on the seabed by the ice. The aircraft was equipped with emergency equipment for Arctic survival, but if the crew attempted to walk out like the André balloonists, and if so, how far they got, remains one of the Norths mysteries. No trace of the aircraft or crew has been found to date.

## April 1938

-- *The Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* in England publishes a paper, "*The artificial production of carbon dioxide and its influence on temperature*" by Canadian born **Guy S. Callendar**, that reported man-made carbon dioxide emissions in the last 50 years had increased the temperature of the planet, as the gas produced a heat-trapping layer in the atmosphere, now called the "Callendar Effect". Widely derided at the the time, it is now recognized as the first connection of mans activities as a contribution to global warming.

Friday

1 Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Air Force, an indication of how recent the development of military aviation was at this time.

RAF forms new Maintenance Command (RAF Timeline).

New NPAAF Squadrons authorized, #114 Bomber (B) at London, Ontario, #116 Coastal Army Co-operation (CAC) in Halifax, NS, and #117 Fighter (F) in Saint John, NB (CCMA).

Wednesday

6 First flight of the Bell XP-39 Airacobra (*Flypast*, September 1936). This was an inline engined, cantilever winged, monocoque metal fighter with retractable undercarriage, but unlike other fighters of the time the engine was located behind the pilot, near the centre of mass, an installation intended to improve its manoeuvrability while also allowing a cannon to be mounted in the nose firing through its propeller hub. It was also equipped with tricycle undercarriage (nose wheel and 2 main wheels). The prototype gained world wide notice when it exceeded 400 mph (644 km/hr), but this was without much of the military equipment later installed in production aircraft. In service use it was a disappointment, but was widely favoured in the USSR where it was used for ground attack. See November 26, 1942.

Thursday

7 #9 Flying Training School (FTS) RAF, England, Audax I K7307 crashed after take-off, **Acting P/O R.B. La Pointe RAF (Can.)** and **Acting P/O J.R. Vincent RAF (Can.)** killed (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Accf1939.htm>).

Friday

8 Blum resigns as French PM, replaced by Daladier, a radical socialist, who seeks a dialogue with Hitler.

Sunday

10 Anschluss, Vote in Austria on joining Germany, held under German control, announced propaganda results of 99.08% in favour of amalgamation. Austria ceases to exist as an independent country, and Czechoslovakia's border with Germany is suddenly increased. German police and SS begin arrests of Austrian political opponents, labour leaders and Jews (Oxford).

Spanish Civil War, In London's Hyde Park 50,000 protested the British governments policy on Spain (wikipedia).

Wednesday

13 Conservationist Arthur Bellamy, aka Grey Owl, dies at his cabin near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan ([www.schudak.de](http://www.schudak.de)).

Thursday

14 The Weir Mission to investigate purchasing aircraft in the USA for the RAF is formed and on this date receives specifications for 4 types of aircraft needed by the RAF that might be purchased in the US; a maritime patrol aircraft, a heavy bomber, an advanced pilot trainer and a naval fighter (Butler & Hagedorn).

Friday

15 Spanish Civil War, Nationalist army advancing from Teruel reaches the Mediterranean, dividing Republican Spain into two parts (SCW). France closes border with Spain.

Saturday

16 Spanish Civil War, Air Raids on Barcelona resume.

*Anglo-Italian Pact* signed. England agrees to recognize Italy's claim to Ethiopia while Italy promises to remove its large army from Spain, to come into effect when the Civil War in Spain ends (LoN).

Thursday

21 British government announces "shadow factory" scheme to build aircraft, aircraft engines and munitions at dispersed locations in England, built at Government expense, to be operated by private businesses involved in vehicle production (M.J.H. Taylor). This increased production of aircraft components and airframes while providing redundancy of source in case of bomb attacks.

Montreal Canadiens and Detroit Red Wings begin a three week, 9 game exhibition series tour of England and France. Montreal would win 5 games and tie one in the tour, the first NHL league games played in Europe (wikipedia).

Sunday

24 Leader of Czechoslovakia's Sudeten Germans makes demands that include their right to support German ideology and major changes to the country's foreign policy, rejected by the Czechoslovakian government (LoN).

Monday

25 The Weir Mission headed by engineer and industrialist James G. Weir and including Air Commodore A.T. Harris RAF (later commander of Bomber Command), leaves England for the USA. Much preliminary diplomatic work had been done to gain access to the latest US designs (Butler & Hagedorn).

Tuesday

26 Largest peace-time budget to date introduced in England, due to the costs of re-arming the military (wikipedia).

## May 1938

-- The Weir Mission comes to Canada to evaluate potential of Canadian aviation industry to produce aircraft for the RAF, re-proposes establishing RAF bases in Canada for training, again **Mackenzie King** refuses, he wants such bases to be Canadian owned and operated (Dalke). During the year the RCAF adopted the RAF training protocols, using a 3 stage program of

elementary (contracted to civilian flying schools), intermediate and advanced flying training designed to be completed in 1 year (CCMA).

- General Tojo appointed Japanese Army Vice Minister, where he opposes negotiation with China (Oxford).
- During the month it was revealed that The Woolsack, the traditional seat of the speaker of the British House of Lords, was in fact stuffed with horse hair. It was remade using wool donated from all the countries in the Commonwealth (wikipedia).

Sunday

- 1 Spanish Civil War, Seeking a negotiated settlement to the war Republican PM Negrín sets out a 13 point plan of war aims, both to inspire loyal Spaniards with a better post war future and form a basis for discussion with the Nationalists. His efforts are ignored by Franco, who wishes no reforms he does not control (SCW).

Thursday

- 5 Spanish Civil War, Vatican recognizes Franco government in Spain (wikipedia).

Friday

- 6 90 Sqn. Blenheim I K7054 90-F landed long from a bombing exercise and hit an obstruction, **P/O C.E. Harris RAF (Can.)** [and crew?] safe (W.R. Chorley). See Oct. 12, 1940.

Wednesday

- 11 Integralista uprising, supported by Germany and Brazilian Germans, suppressed in Brazil (LoN).

Thursday

- 19 Fairchild FC-2L utility aircraft retired from service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

Spanish Civil War, Greek freighter *Ellinico Vuono* seized at sea off Cape Passer by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Political protests break out in Czechoslovakia (LoN).

Friday

- 20 In response to rumours that German troops are massing on it's borders, Czechoslovakia mobilizes forces along the German and ex-Austrian borders, expecting an invasion by Germany (wikipedia). The invasion did not happen, and within days the Czechoslovakian forces were stood down. The Czech military was at this time one of the most powerful, well trained and best armed forces in Europe, nearly as large as Germanys, with extensive defensive forts on it's frontiers and producing it's own advanced artillery and tank designs at the Skoda works at Pilsen (Dieghton). It's air force was in the process of modernizing, producing designs such as the Russian SB bomber under licence for example, and the indigenous Avia BH.534 fighter, a biplane design as good as contemporary French or Italian fighters, but all in numbers much less than what Germany could field. Again German propaganda made their

forces to be more powerful in the public's eye. England, in particular, did not fully realize Czechoslovakia's strengths vis-à-vis Germany, and the opinion of the Chiefs of Staff to Chamberlain was that nothing could be done at this time to support Czechoslovakia without entering into co-operation with France, which the government was unwilling to do (Oxford).

In Vancouver a communist organized occupation of the Federal Post Office, Hotel Georgia and Vancouver Art Gallery at Granville and Hastings Streets by 1,200 men begins, to protest the end of the Provincial Relief Camp Program the month before (ended after the withdrawal of Federal support). The Hotel manager pays the occupiers to leave the hotel, which they do. The head of the police asks the occupiers of the Post Office and Art Gallery to leave peacefully, but they reply they have no homes to go to and offer to be peacefully arrested instead, which is declined as the city does not want to house that many people.

Sunday

22 Britain and Poland informed France they would not support France if it acted alone against Germany to support Czechoslovakia (wikipedia).

Monday

23 Germany denies any plans for attacking Czechoslovakia (wikipedia).

In his newspaper, popular radio minister **Father Charles Coughlin** calls for a crusade against Communism. This leads directly to the establishment of the group *Christian Front* in the USA in November, a group that reflected Canadian born Father Coughlin's anti-Communist, anti-union and anti-Jewish beliefs (wikipedia). See November 20, below and February 20, 1939.

Wednesday

25 The Weir Mission leaves the USA after having visited Canada. It recommended purchase of a maritime patrol version of the Lockheed 14 (Hudson), and the North American NA-16 (Harvard) trainer. As US companies were still affected by the depression, it recommended England provide funding to enable expansion of US plants to allow large scale production to begin. It also recommended a further mission be sent to Canada (see July 1938) (Butler & Hagedorn). The funding for investment in US plants was approved, and this large cash transfer from England is credited as playing a large part in finally turning the US economy out of the Depression, and at the same time creating the production facilities to allow the US military to begin re-arming itself (A. Beevor). See June 23 below and September, 1938.

The forthright report by the senior RAF officer, A/C Harris (later head of Bomber Command) included the statement on US military aviation (quoted by John Maynard in his *Crosswind* feature in *Aeroplane Monthly*, December 1994) that "*They have the money, enthusiasm, enormous potential, industrial resources, together with a vast reservoir of efficient personnel. They also have ideas, although their major obsession is that all their geese are swans and that everyone else's are at best ducks. They could certainly have a magnificent Air Force if they decided to.*" This statement is both prophetic and indicative of the different outlooks of the British and American air forces. The position of the RCAF would be affected by both. See comments February 15, 1930 and for May, 1943



Spanish Civil War, British ship *Thorpehall* bombed and sunk off Valencia (wikipedia).

Thursday

26 Spanish Civil War, Danish freighter *Jan* seized by a Nationalist patrol vessel, and the Soviet freighter *Skvortzov Stepanov* was seized by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Friday

27 *Ginger Coote Airways* Fairchild 51A CF-AUX lost on a flight between Vancouver and the gold mines at Zeballos, BC, pilot **Len Waagen** and 3 passengers missing. A large scale search was undertaken by civilian, RCAF and USCG aircraft, but nothing was found (E. White). See March 9, 1939.

Sino-Japanese War, Japanese bombers begin daily attacks on Canton (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Panamanian tanker *Nausicaa* bombed at sea in the Mediterranean south of Minorca, set on fire and later sank (wikipedia).

Saturday

28 Hitler secretly orders directive for campaign to split apart Czechoslovakia politically to enable it's occupation using subversion and indirect means (wikipedia). He sets the date for the beginning of the invasion as Sept. 30. His demands dismay many in the German Army High Command (Oxford).

Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Greatend* sunk by bombing at Valencia (wikipedia).

Monday

30 Spanish Civil War, French ship *El Djem* bombed and sunk off Valencia (wikipedia), and the Panamanian coaster *Wintonia* was seized at sea by Nationalist cruisers (wikipedia).

31 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Penthames* sunk by bombing off Valencia, and the Soviet freighter *Potichev* was seized at sea by a Nationalist auxiliary cruiser (wikipedia).

## June 1938

-- Prototype Heinkel HeS-3b turbojet tested in the air on a He 118 aircraft, first flight of an aircraft with a jet engine onboard (wikipedia).

-- Supermarine Spitfire enters RAF service.

-- Sino-Japanese War, As part of a plan to slow the advancing Japanese army Chinese forces blow up dykes along the Yellow River (Huang He), causing flooding that kills hundreds of thousands of people. The river was not returned to it's controlled channel until 1947 (Oxford).

-- For the first time since 1929 the permanent force of the Canadian Army held summer manoeuvres at Camp Borden. Lacking any modern equipment they used trucks to simulate armoured cars and tanks, and artillery and anti-tank guns were dummies. Given the lack of training on this scale in 8 years results were mixed. Funding did not allow similar training in 1939, so for the permanent force, which would form the bulk of the first soldiers sent overseas in the event of a war, this was their only training period as an assembled force prior to the declaration of war (S.J. Harris).

-- In Canada **Adrien Arcand's** *Canadian National Socialist Unity Party* (based in mostly Quebec, Alberta and BC) and the Ontario based pro-fascist *Nationalist Party* merge to form the *National Unity Party*, with Arcand as leader. It holds a rally at Massey Hall which attracts 800 Blue Shirts and supporters, but is dwarfed by a rally of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy (founded by the Canadian Communist Party) which holds a competing rally at Maple Leaf Gardens in opposition, with 10,000 supporters in attendance (wikipedia). See May 30, 1940.

Friday

3 Spanish Civil War, British tanker *Maryad* bombed and set on fire at Alicante, Spain (wikipedia).

Monday

6 Spanish Civil War, British flagged ships *English Tanker* sunk and *St. Winifred* heavily damaged by bombing at Alicante (wikipedia).

Sigmund Freud, creator of psychoanalysis, arrives in London, aged 81, as a refugee from Austria after a difficult departure (wikipedia). See September 23, 1939.

Tuesday

7 Spanish Civil War, Dutch freighter *Parkiaan* bombed and badly damaged at Alicante, Spain (wikipedia).

Wednesday

8 Spanish Civil War, French registered *Brisbane* bombed off Denia, run aground (wikipedia).

Thursday

9 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Isadora* bombed and sunk at Castellon (wikipedia).

Friday

10 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Thorpeheaven* sunk at Alicante by bombing (wikipedia).

Saturday

11 Given the situation in Europe *HMCS Restigouche* (formerly *HMS Comet*) was commissioned into the RCN in England even though still undergoing it's re-fit (M. Milner; wikipedia). See June 15, below.

Monday

13 #3 Elementary and Reserve Flying Training School (ERFTS) RAF, Magister I L6894 spun and crashed, student pilot **G.I.F. Colmore** killed (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1939.htm>).

Tuesday

14 Given the political situation in Europe, and the lack of success in finding any fighter that could meet their specification, the RCAF instructed it's Liaison Officer in London to approach the British Air ministry to obtain fighters from England, preferring the Spitfire and the Hurricane second (C. Vincent). See August, 1938, below.

Wednesday

15 Ball point pen patented in France by Laszlo Biro (wikipedia). Developed by Laszlo and George Biro in Hungary in 1931. Laszlo was forced to leave Hungary for France, and later to Argentina, where he again patented the idea in 1943 and started a company to produce them. One of his first contracts was for the Royal Air Force who would issue them to navigators as they would not leak or skip at high altitudes as fountain pens did (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, French coaster *Cap Bear* bombed and destroyed, and French ship *Gaulois* sunk at Valencia (wikipedia).

*HMCS Ottawa* commissioned into the RCN, giving the navy 6 modern destroyers (M. Milner). See July 1938, below.

Thursday

16 German anti-Jewish laws go into effect in the former Austria (LoN).

Sunday

19 Vancouver Police and RCMP begin to evict occupiers of the Post Office and Vancouver Art Gallery. The latter is cleared without harm (the protesters were always careful not to cause any damage to private property) using tear gas and negotiation, but the Post Office is damaged, and occupiers forced out were made to run a gauntlet of baton armed police, where several were injured. Rioting spread and several stores were damaged. A later rally that afternoon to protest the police tactics attracted over 10,000 people, but no further violence occurred (wikipedia).

Monday

20 #2 FTS RAF **Acting P/O W.E. Milburn RAF (Can.)** killed in a crash of either a Fury or an Audax aircraft (<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1939.htm>).

Tuesday

21 In the British House of Commons, in reference to the bombings of the Spanish Civil War, Prime Minister Chamberlain states that air warfare had developed "*new methods, new scope and new horrors which have, in fact, materially changed it's character.*" He went on to note that although no internationally agreed code of air warfare existed, the basic principles of sea and land warfare should apply. Thus it was accepted by England that the deliberate targeting of

civilians was against international law, although it was recognized that civilians might be killed by aircraft attacking military targets (P. Gray). This is a complete failure to acknowledge the deliberate bombing of civilians that had become a hallmark of the war in Spain. See September 15, 1938.

Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Thorpeness* sunk off Valencia by Nationalist aircraft (wikipedia).

Hot and dry conditions from California to Alaska contributed to a high number of forest fires in Western North America. On this date smoke haze from forest fires in northern Alberta grounded aircraft in Alberta and Saskatchewan (J. Parminter).

Wednesday

22 A contract for 200 North American Aviation Harvard trainers is placed by the RAF in the USA (Butler & Hagedorn).

Spanish Civil War, British registered *Sunion* bombed and sunk off Valencia (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 A contract for 200 (soon increased to 250) Lockheed Hudson patrol bombers is placed by the RAF in the USA (Butler & Hagedorn). The Hudson is a bomber version of the Lockheed 14 Super Electra transport first proposed for the Chinese Air Force. For the RAF it is desired as a maritime patrol aircraft for Coastal Command, replacing the Anson. For purchasing it was designated as a "navigation trainer" as a way of deflecting criticism from isolationist or pacifist factions in the USA (I. Wikene). See July 10-14, 1938.

This one contract for \$25 million was the largest single contract for an airplane purchase placed in the US up to that time, more than half of what was spent on all production in the USA just a year ago. All told within a year contracts for aircraft alone for Britain and France far exceeded spending by the US government on military aircraft. Although eager to obtain these contracts the size of them threatened to overwhelm the aircraft industry despite the loans they received from England to expand their plants. Soon the US government became involved to not only ensure that it's own needs were covered, but for strategic reasons it as it wished aircraft factories, then concentrated on the US coasts and vulnerable to foreign attack, to be moved to safer inland locations. New methods of building aircraft had to found both to speed up the process and to make tasks simpler so that unskilled labourers could be trained to do these tasks. Without this investment from Europe, and the involvement of the US Government, it would have taken much longer to produce the aircraft it would need after it entered the war. As well the experience that the RAF would gain in combat was directly fed back to the US factories, and because they were the paying customer these specifications were applied, enabling the manufactures to produce aircraft better suited to the fighting they would face and thus improving the quality of US aircraft without their having to find out by trail and error what worked and what didn't (P.A. Sammons). See October 26, 1940 for an example of this.

As well as aircraft the Pratt & Whitney company making aircraft engines was affected. The decision by the USAAC to support the development of liquid cooled in-line engines left their

production of radial engines with only 6 months of work until orders from France came in (P.A. Sammons). This gave the funding that allowed development of the higher powered R-2800 engine to continue, which later powered many US fighter and bomber designs.

In BC smoke and haze forces two aircraft of *United Air Transport* (Edmonton) flying from Vancouver to Prince George to make forced landings at other communities (J. Parminter).

Saturday

25 Spanish Civil War, In an attempt to stop the Italian bombing campaign the Spanish Republican government threatens to bomb ethnic Italian towns in the Balearic Islands. Mussolini responds saying he will wipe Republican held cities from the map (wikipedia).

25 Sqn., Demon I K3798 flew into a hill in fog, **P/O R.B. Whaley RAF (Can.)** and P/O C.C. Law RAF killed (Allison & Hayward; <http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1939.htm>).

Monday

27 Spanish Civil War, British tanker *Arlon* bombed and set on fire at Valencia, towed to sea and scuttled (wikipedia), while the British *Farnham* was sunk by bombing at Alicante (wikipedia).

## July 1938

-- The Lever Mission is sent to Canada to negotiate license production of British aircraft designs in Canada for the RAF, and to continue discussions of an RAF training scheme in Canada (Butler & Hagedorn). In December a similar Mission was sent to Australia (R. Hayward).

-- During a discussion in the House of Commons PM **Mackenzie King** makes it clear he is not objecting to RAF airmen being trained in Canada at Canadian bases, but he does not want a foreign military organization headquartered in Canada and funded by Canada. On this basis England sends an RAF officer for further discussions. Prime Minister King is willing to discuss training British students in Canada to serve in the RAF, but he rejects proposals that Canadians be recruited and trained in Canada for the RAF. He was unaware that just such a plan had been created by RCAF senior officers who looked to the RAF for their policies (Dalke).

-- The first Air Defence Cadet Corps (ADCC) units were formed in England (B. Philpott, *Challenge in the Air*, via Royton at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

-- Having built up a small but effective fleet of 6 modern destroyers and 4 Canadian built minesweepers it is proposed to purchase a seventh destroyer as a flotilla leader. This would be *HMCS Assiniboine* (ex *HMS Kempenfelt*), purchased in mid-1938 but transfer to the RCN delayed until late 1939 due to war needs in England (M. Milner; wikipedia).

5 The Bloedel Fire, On Vancouver Island several fires were already being fought in record dry and hot conditions. In the afternoon smoke was seen coming from logs piled just off the Bloedel,

Stewart & Welch Logging Co. rail track near Campbell River. The fire was soon being fought and after a few days was thought to have been controlled, but came back and expanded. In the next month some 2,500 men were involved in fighting the fire. Aircraft and horse patrols were used to scout the fire and plan where to create fire breaks and back burns using bulldozers and professional loggers, while trucks and trains carried crews, supplies and water to points on the railways (see June 26, 1946). Smoke from the fire inundated Vancouver harbour, forcing ships and boats to use fog horns when moving during the day. Civilians threatened by the fire were evacuated to several towns on the coast. At one point Comox and Courtney were threatened and from Esquimalt the destroyers *HMCS St. Laurent* and *HMCS Fraser* were stationed there to provide an emergency firefighting force at Comox, a fire fighting force in the woods, radio communications for the BC Forestry Service, patrols in the towns and stood by for emergency evacuation of citizens if needed. The minesweeper *HMCS Armentieres* was used to carry pumps sent to Vancouver from the USA to Courtney, and perform other duties, while the RN cruiser *HMS York* was diverted to Esquimalt to support an evacuation if needed, and reporters from all over North America converged on the area to film and report the fire and the possible destruction of the towns. When the weather finally changed and the fire was put out in early August it had burned nearly 74,500 acres (30,000 Hectares) of forest and farm land, several logging camps, a hotel and 20 road and rail bridges, the largest fire in BC at that time (J. Parminter).

One of the reasons for the spread of the fire was due to slash, or rubbish of bark and branches left to rot in the forest after logging, but forming a dangerous source of fuel for fires. The problem had been recognized and new regulations requiring the controlled burning of slash had come into effect at the beginning of the year, but the rubbish of decades of logging was still in the cut areas when the fire broke out (J. Parminter).

Friday

8 The Privy Council upholds the decision of the Supreme Court that the "*Accurate News and Information Act*" passed by the Alberta Social Credit Government of William Aberhart was invalid. The US Pulitzer Prize committee awarded a Special Citation to the *Edmonton Journal*, the *Calgary Herald*, the *Red Deer News*, the *Lethbridge Herald* and Alberta weekly newspapers for their defence of freedom of the press in it's opposition to this Act, the first and only award of a Pulitzer Prize outside the USA ([www.schudak.de](http://www.schudak.de); wikipedia).

Agreement between I.G. Farben in Germany and US Ethyl Corporation to supply 500 tons of tetraethyl-lead additive for high octane gasoline. The process had been traded to Farben in exchange for a synthetic rubber making process (that was never delivered) earlier in the year, but the plants to supply this in Germany would not be ready until early 1939, and the Luftwaffe required the additive now before the plan to take over Czechoslovakia was implemented ([www.soilandhealth.org](http://www.soilandhealth.org) and other sources).

Sunday to Thursday

10-14 Howard Hughes completes record 91 hour round the world flight in a modified Lockheed 14 Super Electra NX18973 (wikipedia).

Monday

11 Lake Kasan Incident, border clashes between Japanese and Soviet soldiers and aircraft begin on the Manchukuo/Soviet border (M.J.H. Taylor).

Thursday

14 Publication in Italy of the *Manifesto della razza* (Manifesto of Race), outlining new racial laws to be made in Italy. This was an action Mussolini had opposed before, but was done as Germany and Italy became more involved together, to appease Hitler (wikipedia). One effect was to cause Italy's leading physicist, Enrico Fermi (whose wife was Jewish) to leave for the USA. See November 17 and December 10, 1938.

Saturday

16 Japan notified the International Olympic Committee that due to the pressures of the Sino-Japanese War it could not host the 1940 Olympics, and asked to hold the 1944 games instead.

Monday

18 Denied permission to fly the Atlantic solo by new US regulations, US pilot Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan takes off from New York for a reported non-stop flight to California in a light single engined modified Curtiss Robin, and lands in Ireland, claiming he made an error in navigation (wikipedia).

Thursday

21 Spanish Civil War, Norwegian ship *Skulda* sailing from Iceland to Marseille was seized in the Straits of Gibraltar by a Nationalist cruiser. Like all such ships captured by Nationalist ships it was confiscated and re-registered as a Spanish ship (wikipedia).

Thursday to Friday

21-22 Short *Mercury* aircraft is launched from its *Mayo* mother ship off Ireland to fly non-stop to Montreal, Quebec in 20 hours and 20 minutes, then to New York, by Australian Capt. D.C.T. Bennett (M.J.H. Taylor). See October 6-8, 1938.

Friday

22 Britain rejects proposal for four power (UK, France, Germany and USSR) summit on Czechoslovakia, as Chamberlain will not accept the presence of the Soviet Union (wikipedia). See September 27, below.

Saturday

23 In England the formation of the *Civil Air Guard* is announced, to promote civil aviation by offering subsidized training for pilots, and organize private pilots who were overage or medically unsuitable for the air force, and women pilots, for liaison work, ferrying, and flight instruction in the event of a war; forerunner of the Air Transport Auxiliary (L. Curtis).

Sunday

24 At an airshow in Columbia a *Fuerza Aérea Colombiana* Curtiss Hawk II biplane struck a viewing

stand and out of control flew into another, killing the pilot and at least 74 spectators, over 100 people were injured (wikipedia). This may have been the worst accident at an airshow until the jet crash at Sknyliv, Ukraine in 2002.

Monday

25 Spanish Civil War, Battle of the Ebro begins in Spain (wikipedia). Attacking Republican forces including the *International Brigades* cross the river in the night in boats and cover bridge building parties that allow the main body of the army to drive a wedge into the Nationalist lines. The bulk of the Nationalist army is still engaged in the fighting towards Valencia (SCW). Lacking artillery on the Ebro front Nationalist aircraft of all types begin day long attacks on advancing Republican forces (Hallion).

Tuesday

26 Grumman Goose amphibian flying boat goes into service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

Wednesday

27 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Dellwyn* sunk by bombing at Gandia south of Valencia (wikipedia).

Thursday

28 *Pan American Airlines* Martin M-130 NC14714 *Hawaii Clipper* disappears over the Pacific between Guam and Manila with the loss of 15 passengers and crew (wikipedia). No wreckage is found, the loss remains a mystery.

Friday

29 Spanish Civil War, Danish ship *Bodil* sunk by bombing at Palamos (wikipedia).

Saturday

30 Lake Kasan Incident, Japanese troops invade the Soviet Union to gain strategic positions at the junction of the borders of Manchuria, Korea and the USSR. Although fortified, the Russian positions are quickly taken (D. Nedailkov).

## August 1938

-- Sino-Japanese War, In Japan lack of public support for the undeclared war in China leads to a campaign of 'spiritual mobilization' to increase patriotic support with establishment of community groups to promote lectures and material encouraging military actions (Oxford).

-- The Air Ministry in England informs the RCAF that Spitfire aircraft will not be available. When pressed to supply Hurricane fighters the Air Ministry was willing to release aircraft from production for the RAF, but expressed concern that any sent to Canada would be not be able to be flown if sent then because of snow, and had to be reassured that even in winter aircraft with wheels were flown in Canada (C. Vincent). See September 24, 1938, below.



-- Great Depression After many years as Quebec's 'Anglo' hockey team the Montreal Maroons cease operations, leaving only 7 teams in the NHL (wikipedia; K. Cuthbertson). See April 1942.

Monday

1 On this date the German Luftwaffe had on strength nearly 3,000 aircraft, over 1,100 of which were bombers. Many of these were older designs but newer aircraft incorporating improvements from the experience in Spain were entering production. German factories, expanded by government loans, were building over 700 aircraft per month, and special units were established to quickly incorporate new designs and tactics into the air force (F.K. Mason). See August 31, 1939.

Thursday

4 First Spitfire received by 19 Squadron RAF for operational use.

Saturday

6 Lake Kasan Incident, Soviet army with armour and heavy air support attack Japanese incursion. The Japanese planners had not foreseen the need for aircraft to protect the positions they had seized. TB-3 heavy bombers with SB-2 medium bombers, escorted by fighters and ground attack aircraft, made a heavy bombing attack virtually unopposed (D. Nedailkov).

Spanish Civil War, British ship *Lake Lugano* damaged by air attack and beached at Palamos, where it was destroyed by gunfire from a Nationalist ship in January, 1939 (wikipedia).

Monday

8 British proposal to establish RAF training bases in Canada to train Canadians for service in the RAF discussed in Cabinet, rejected by PM **Mackenzie King** as it might indicate to Canadians, especially Quebec, that Canada was planning automatic involvement in a European war.

Construction of Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria begun (wikipedia).

Tuesday

9 Lake Kasan Incident, Japanese on Soviet border in full retreat (D. Nedailkov).

Wednesday

10 Having received reports that a missionary, Fr. J. Cochard, was seriously ill at Arctic Bay NWT (now Nunavut), the Catholic Missionary Stinson SR-8C Reliant floatplane NC16199, flown by Fr. Schulte, left Churchill, Manitoba, and arrived in Igloolik via Chesterfield Inlet and Repulse Bay. After one unsuccessful attempt Fr. Schulte reached Arctic Bay on August 11, picked up the ill priest, then brought him to Chesterfield Inlet August 12, where he was diagnosed and recovered. Fr. Schulte had been a pilot in the German Air Force in the war of 1914-18 before entering the priesthood, had founded a society to provide vehicles, motorboats and aircraft for church work in remote locations, and celebrated the first mass in the air in 1936 on the airship *Hindenburg* enroute to the USA. This was the first time an aircraft had been used for a medical evacuation in the Canadian High Arctic (Kenn Harper at <http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories>, details from R. Fortier).

Wednesday to Thursday

10-11 German 4-engined Fw 200 Condor airliner D-ACON *Brandenburg* flies non-stop from Berlin to New York in 24 hours and 36 minutes (wikipedia). To achieve this it carries almost no payload. The flight was planned in secret after the USA denied the use of airfields for a proposed round-the-world flight. *Lufthansa* used a scheduled flight of a flying boat to mask the attempt, and the first indication that a Fw 200 was making the flight was when they broke radio silence over Newfoundland (R.J.M. Mulder and G. Ott). The aircraft returned non-stop August 13-14. See November 28, below.

Thursday

11 Lake Kasan Incident, Fighting ends on the Manchurian border with a Japanese and Soviet armistice (D. Nedailkov; wikipedia).

Friday

12 Munich Crisis, German Army mobilizes for "large scale manoeuvres" (LoN).

Saturday

13 Spanish Civil War, Danish ship *Edith* bombed and sunk off the Balearic Islands (wikipedia).

Sunday

14 Spanish Civil War, French coaster *Artois* sunk by a mine 35 miles south east of Gibraltar (wikipedia).

Monday to Friday

15-19 Spanish Civil War, German fighters establish air superiority over the Ebro battlefield in Spain (wikipedia). This would lead to the Republican attack being contained after an advance of 90 miles (Hallion; SCW). A force of 200 Nationalist aircraft operating continuous sorties drops 10,000 bombs a day (mostly light anti-personnel bombs) on Republican positions on the Ebro front (Hallion). Rather than outflank the Republican salient as his German and Italian advisors suggest, Franco chooses to attack head on in a battle of attrition (SCW).

Thursday

18 Munich Crisis, General Ludwig Beck resigns as chief of German General Staff in protest over Hitler's decision to seize Czechoslovakia, which he believes will result in a European war (wikipedia). He hoped his action would precipitate more resignations from the army staff, but no other officer supported him (Oxford). Opposition to Hitler's plans were growing, however, as Germany's commanding generals had no desire to engage in another war with Britain and France (LH), however under Hitler the Army had been rejuvenated and expanded, resuming its position of importance in German Society while the hated *Versailles Treaty* had been effectively destroyed, gaining him support from most in the military (R. Moorhouse).

Friday

19 6 Sqn. RAF Hardy observation aircraft K5920 shot down in Palestine by ground fire, 2 airmen killed (A. Smart & Alex Crawford at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Saturday

20 Amateur World Series of baseball ended in England with England winning the series. The British team was heavily salted with Canadian players playing in the British baseball leagues (wikipedia).

Monday

22 *Treaty of Bled* signed, in which its neighbour countries allowed Hungary to re-arm itself (H.W. Neulen).

Wednesday

24 Sino-Japanese War, *Chinese National Airways Corporation* DC-2 #32 *Kweilin* forced down approaching Hong Kong by Japanese fighters, and then strafed with machine-gun fire killing the co-pilot and 13 of the 14 passengers on board, 2 crew and one wounded passenger survived. Believed to have been an attempt to assassinate the former Chinese finance minister (Shores, Cull & Izawa). This was the first time an airliner had been shot down (wikipedia).

Friday

26 Second 6 Sqn. RAF Hardy observation aircraft K4317 lost over Palestine with the crew P/O F.T. May RAF and AC1 T. Bagge RAF both killed (A. Smart & Alex Crawford www.rafcommands.com).

Munich Crisis, In response to German mobilization the Royal Navy begins mobilization (LoN). Army and RAF soon follow.

Tuesday

30 Munich Crisis, RAF Bomber Command responds to a question from the RAF Commander in Chief regarding bombing of German aircraft factories that due to technical limitations a portion of the bombs would miss the designated target and might cause civilian casualties (P. Gray). See September 15, below.

#1 (F) Sqn. RCAF moves from Trenton, Ontario, and is established at Calgary, Alberta (RCAF Sqns; B.W. Gowans).

## September 1938

Thursday

1 The Hungarian Air Force, which had been banned in 1920, and had been operating clandestinely as "Flying Clubs" since 1928, becomes an official force and begins re-arming with help from Italy (H.W. Neulen).

Thursday to Friday

1-2 Severe storm hits Quebec City, an apartment building collapsed following a land slide and

flooding washed out a railroad bridge, wrecking a passenger train, 11 people were killed (www3.gendisasters.com).

#### Saturday

3 #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF Siskin fighters arrive in Calgary by train from Trenton (B.W. Gowans). These 6 fighters represent all of Canada's fighter force.

#### Monday

5 Sino-Japanese War, *Eurasia* (Lufthansa subsidiary) Ju 52/3m airliner attacked by Japanese Army fighters in China, slightly damaged (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

#### Tuesday

6 Sino-Japanese War, Second attack on a *Eurasia* Junkers by Japanese fighters leaves the airliner badly damaged (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

#### Wednesday

7 Munich Crisis, In response to the situation in Czechoslovakia between the government and Sudeten Germans the French army begins to mobilize (LoN).

#### Friday

9 Following the British lead France places an order for 100 Curtiss Hawk 75 fighters (P-36, later Mohawk) in the USA (Butler & Hagedorn). Concerns about delays in production for the USAAF lead to France investing in new production facilities at the Buffalo, NY, plant, similar to British investments in other US aviation factories (D. Hagedorn & A. Tincpoa).

In England the Auxiliary Territorial Service was set up specifically to give women the opportunity to train for military service in the Army, Navy or Air Force (B. Kite). See June 28, 1939.

#### Saturday

10 Munich Crisis, Foreign aircraft flying over Germany are restricted to specified air corridors from this date (M.J.H. Taylor).

#### Monday

12 Munich Crisis, Hitler verbally attacks Czechoslovakia at closing speech of the Nuremberg rally, demanding self-determination for Sudeten Germans (LoN).

#### Tuesday

13 Munich Crisis, Armed revolt "breaks out" in Sudetenland (populated by ethnic Germans), by groups demanding separation from Czechoslovakia, martial law declared (LoN).

Wishing to avoid a war, French PM Daladier asks British PM Chamberlain to seek the best deal with Hitler over Czechoslovakia he could get (wikipedia).

#### Wednesday

14 First flight of the *Graf Zeppelin II*, LZ-130, sister ship to the *Hindenburg*. Designed to operate on

non-flammable helium, it was denied use of the gas when the USA, the world's only source at the time, decided not to make it available. Instead, inflated with hydrogen, it was decided to use its long endurance and high lift capability to investigate military radio signals in other countries (A. Price).

A group of Germans opposed to Hitler and coordinated by the *Abwehr* (German Intelligence Services) had been organizing through the summer to arrest Hitler and stop the march to war with England and France. The trigger of this coup was to be his declaration of war on Czechoslovakia, expected September 15. But British PM Chamberlain's announcement that he was flying directly to Germany to meet face to face with Hitler derailed this plot (R. Moorhouse). See September 20, below.

Thursday

15 Munich Crisis, Meeting between Hitler and Neville Chamberlain, who comments Hitler appears to be "*a man who could be relied upon when he had given his word*" (Polsson). Hitler states self-determination for Sudetenland is something he is prepared to fight a war for (LoN). As Chamberlain had already decided not to go to war over Czechoslovakia his only recourse is negotiation (wikipedia).

In light of the limits of accurate bombing the RAF recommends that initial targets in the event of a war be restricted to clearly defined and identified military targets which can reasonably be attacked without causing unintended damage (J. Gray). In England over 200,000 volunteer for *Air Raid Precautions* and the *Air Raid Warden* services (Oxford).

RAF Fighter Command at this time has 21 squadrons operational, but only two of these are operating Hurricanes, the others are equipped with biplane fighters. Only 1 Spitfire is operational (F.K. Mason). The Wellington heavy bomber was not yet in Squadron service, either.

RCAF Air Training Command formed with headquarters in Toronto. Plans to have Elementary training done by flying schools, later courses (intermediate and advanced) done on Air Force bases. Planned output of 75 RCAF and 50 RAF pilots per year (CCMA).

Munich Crisis, In light of events in Europe Canadian Parliament votes \$6 million to the RCAF to purchase modern military aircraft from the USA (Douglas & Greenhous). See Oct. 7, below.

As part of this the RCAF sends a commission to the USA to explore the purchase of these aircraft. Among the aircraft examined was the B-18 and an order was placed for 8 (later 20) DB-280 Digby (a version of the B-18A) long ranged bombers for use as anti-submarine aircraft (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See December 1939.

The Canadian Army also sought new equipment, especially modern armoured vehicles. Prohibited from purchasing these from the USA by the *Neutrality Act* restrictions, they place orders in England, however with British industries working to re-arm their forces, were told they could not expect delivery until 1942 (S.J. Harris).

Eastern Air Command formed in Halifax (CCMA).

Sunday

18 Spanish Civil War, Republican forces are forced back to the line of the Ebro with heavy losses due to day long artillery barrages and air attacks since August (SCW).

Munich Crisis, French and British diplomats urge Czechoslovakia to accept Hitlers demands for Sudetenland in return for their guarantees to support the remaining country (LoN).

Tuesday

20 Munich Crisis, Czechoslovakia rejects British/French proposal, requests arbitration (LoN).

The group planning a coup to arrest Hitler re-organize, to go into effect when Hitler orders an invasion of Czechoslovakia. The plot required Hitlers presence in Berlin (R. Moorhouse). See September 26, below.

Wednesday

21 Munich Crisis, Forced by British and French refusals to allow arbitration, the Czechoslovakian government accepts their proposal (LoN). Churchill warns of the futility of appeasing Hitler (Polsson).

Planning for anti-aircraft balloon sites in major cities in England begun (J. Penny).

A hurricane that hit the northeastern USA killed over 650 people before dissipating in Quebec (wikipedia).

Thursday

22 Spanish Civil War, the losses on the Ebro show that the end is near. The remaining *International Brigades*, including Canadian *Mackenzie-Papineau* brigade, are withdrawn from combat prior to disbandment (*Main Events of the Spanish Civil War*). This was an effort to appease England, to open the borders to allow access to military equipment. It had no effect (SCW).

Munich Crisis, The *Graf Zeppelin II* airship makes an 11 hour flight on the Czechoslovakian border with a crew of 30 radio operators and their equipment, searching for evidence of radio detection or guidance systems, but finds nothing (A. Price). The Czechoslovakian government resigns as Chamberlain flies to Germany to meet Hitler again (wikipedia).

Friday

23 Munich Crisis, *Imperial Airways* HP.42 aircraft used for emergency evacuation of British nationals from Prague (M.J.H. Taylor).

Hitler issues new demands for predominately German regions of Czechoslovakia to be surrendered to Germany without plebiscites, and with their military fortifications and factories intact, which Chamberlain opposes (LoN).

New Czechoslovakian government mobilizes its army and air force (M.J.H. Taylor).

Saturday

24 RCAF places an order for the first 10 Hurricane fighters from England. They would like to order more but were constrained by budget limitations (C. Vincent). See November, 1938, below.

Monday

26 Munich Crisis, Hitler gives another speech attacking Czechoslovakia, threatening a war over his demands, and stating that the occupation of Czechoslovakia's German regions will be the last expansion of Germany (Polsson; Oxford; wikipedia).

Anti-Hitler plot plans to act September 28, anticipating Hitler will order the invasion of Czechoslovakia on that date (R. Moorhouse).

French and British diplomats are conferring in London, and France is engaged with the Soviet Union for support for Czechoslovakia. Other countries are preparing for a possible war (LoN).

Tuesday

27 Munich Crisis, Royal Navy fully mobilized (LoN). France announces it will not go to war over Czechoslovakia (wikipedia). President Roosevelt appeals to Mussolini and Hitler to find a peaceful solution to the crisis (LoN). Mussolini proposes Four Power conference of England, France, Italy and Germany (Oxford).

Wednesday

28 Munich Crisis, Hitler agrees to a four power conference on Czechoslovakia to be held in Munich (wikipedia).

This unexpected decision by Hitler again thwarted the planners of the coup to arrest him, and the plot fell apart after the signing of the *Munich Agreement*, as they realized they would have no support after his success (R. Moorhouse).

Thursday

29 Munich Crisis, Conference in Munich begins between Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain and Daladier to discuss German demands on Czechoslovakia (Polsson).

Unable to take over banks in the province of Alberta when the Lt. Governor refused Royal Assent (see Oct. 1937) the Social Credit government creates one, the *Treasury Board of Alberta*, to give it the financial ability to enact it's economic policies (wikipedia).

Friday

30 Munich Crisis, Early morning, *Munich Agreement* signed between Germany, Italy, England and France agreeing to the annexation of the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia to Germany. Hitler has convinced Daladier and Chamberlain that his plans for the expansion of Germany

are complete, and he will make no further aggressive actions in Europe. All his demands for Sudetenland were agreed to. England, France, Germany and Italy agree to preserve the borders of the remaining Czechoslovakia. Chamberlain returns to London where his quote of "*peace in our time*" is greeted with great relief world wide (Polsson), but privately he does not think it will last (Oxford). The plan, however, is seen by the public of many nations as a success in preventing a major European war (see December, below).

One of the effects on Czechoslovakia is to destroy the integrity of its defensive frontier fortifications and armed forces, and open the now weakened country to further dismemberment by its neighbours. Another, unforeseen, effect of the *Munich Agreement* was to demolish the remaining opposition by the German generals to Hitler (LH). In Russia Stalin loses any hope of a coalition against Germany with France and Britain, now believing (not without reason) that Chamberlain hopes to appease Hitler at Russia's expense. Without hope of a coalition he ends Soviet support for the Spanish Republicans and begins moves to come to an independent accord with Hitler. At about this time Soviet aviation advisors begin to withdraw from Spain, leaving their aircraft (M.J.H. Taylor). In effect the *Munich Agreement* was the death knell of the Republican government in Spain (SCW), and creating the opportunity for an accord between the Soviet Union and Germany, opened the way for the invasions of Poland and France.

Another result of the Munich Crisis was to put pressure on the expansion of the RAF. A decision was made that aircrew training in England, usually conducted in the better weather of the summer, was to continue throughout the winter. As it turned out the winter of 1938-39 was one of the worst in recent times, but the training did not stop as the need was great (L.F.E. Coombs). This should be considered in the requests of the RAF to establish training bases in Canada and other countries.

## October 1938

-- Wellington bomber enters RAF service (wikipedia).

-- During the month the first Coastal Command base went from daylight only to 24 hour operations to cover shipping off the coast of England (L.F.E. Coombs).

-- In Winnipeg the Christ Church Air Cadet Squadron is formed. This is an informal organization formed on the pattern of the Air Defence Cadet Corps organization in England. This is the first known air cadet squadron formed in Canada. Others would form in communities such as Montreal, Stratford, Edmonton and Vancouver (Air Cadet Museum & Archives). See April 9, 1941.

## Saturday

1 Munich Crisis, German troops begin occupation of the Sudetenland. Poland adds demand for surrender of Zaolzie region of Czechoslovakia (wikipedia). Chamberlain gives speech on the *Munich Agreement* from 10 Downing Street, London, greeted with cheers. Similar feelings



expressed in France and the rest of the world, which believes the threat of a major European war has been averted. It should be clear that public opinion was in favour of maintaining peace, and that a declaration of war by France and England would not have received universal support (A. Beevor). In judging this from a modern perspective it should be remembered that both Czechoslovakia and Austria had been created under the *Versailles Treaty*, and thus a valid case could be made that these actions were just corrections by Germany to a flawed agreement.

Subsidized flight training in British flying clubs begins under the *Civil Air Guard* scheme (L. Curtis).

Sunday

2 First flight of Dewoitine D.520 fighter in France (M.J.H. Taylor).

Open war in Palestine as Arab forces take over several towns by force, British mandate troops mobilized to force them back (LoN).

Monday

3 Spanish Civil War, British freighters *Gothic* and *Thorpe Bay* badly damaged by bombing at Barcelona (wikipedia).

Tuesday

4 Left wing supporters of the Popular Front government in France refused to support the *Munich Agreement* (LoN).

Wednesday

5 Speech by Churchill in British House of Commons stating that the *Munich Agreement* was a defeat for England and peace in Europe, and warning of further aggression by Germany (A. McCarten). He had little support for his views in the House.

Thursday to Saturday

6-8 Short *Mayo/Mercury* composite is used to establish a new world record for seaplanes of 9,652 km (5,997 miles) from England to South Africa (M.J.H. Taylor). Captain D.C.T. Bennett (Aus.) was the pilot of *Mercury*. See August 5, 1939.

Friday

7 The \$6 million allocation for the purchase of modern military aircraft for the RCAF during the Munich Crisis is rescinded (Douglas & Greenhouse). This delayed the planned purchases of these aircraft, but as the situation in Europe worsened the funds were found to continue the ordering process enabling many types such as the Harvard trainer and Digby patrol aircraft to be acquired soon after the war began.

In England it was thought that in the event of a war communications between cities would be disrupted by bombing, which many believed would begin right after war began. It was proposed to create a list of civil pilots not eligible for military service to provide emergency communications, which became the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) (L. Curtis).

## Saturday

8 In England applications from the public for flight training under the *Civil Air Guard* scheme have reached over 30,000, an indication of how popular flying was at this time. As a result it was decided to temporarily suspend applications while those in the system received instruction. At the same time it was being argued that the inclusion of women in the training scheme was a waste of funds, and attempts to include a flying component of the planned Women's Auxiliary Air Force were blocked (L. Curtis). See June 13, 1944.

## Monday

10 British troops retake Bethlehem in Palestine (LoN).

The first Wellington I for operational use is delivered to 99 Squadron RAF. The new bomber was 100 miles per hour faster than the Heyford it was replacing, could carry over 4 times the bomb load, and increased maximum range from 900 to over 3,000 miles (S. Bond). This is a good indication of the sudden increases in aircraft performance that were occurring in the 1930's and extending to the 1950's.

## Tuesday

11 Sino-Japanese War, After several months of bombing Japanese troops land in China to seize Canton, near Hong Kong, and close the Canton-Hankow railway and the Pearl River, used as an access to supply the Nationalist Chinese. At this time 70% of Chinese military imports came through Canton and Hong Kong up the Pearl River (B. Greenhouse).

First flight of the Westland Whirlwind twin engine fighter in Britain (M.J.H. Taylor). The design is kept secret and not publicly revealed until 1941 (T. Heffernan). This was a very small, modern, twin engined fighter carrying multiple cannons with a great potential, but development was slowed by it's Rolls-Royce Peregrine engines. The later decision to drop the development of the Peregrine in favour of larger Merlin cut short the construction of a very useful fighter.

Charles Lindbergh makes his third visit to Germany as a guest of the Luftwaffe (Ahlgren and Monier).

## Thursday

13 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Yorkbrook* sunk by bombing at Barcelona (wikipedia).

## Friday

14 First flight of the Curtiss XP-40 fighter in the USA, an inline engined fighter developed from the P-36/H-75 Hawk fighter (M.J.H. Taylor). Developed into the P-40 Warhawk, Kittyhawk and Tomahawk series of fighters.

## Saturday

15 First flight of the Bristol Beaufort torpedo bomber (*Flypast*, September 1986).

[date of the events in the movie *The Rocketeer*. For an idea of it's plot having some basis in fact see entries on Anticosti Island September 1937 above, R. Maddow, and the Murphy Ranch, December 8, 1941.]

Monday

17 Spanish Civil War, Soviet freighter *Katayama* seized by a Nationalist patrol ship (wikipedia).

Tuesday

18 #3 (B) Sqn. RCAF moves from Rockcliffe, Ontario to Calgary, Alberta, flying it's 8 Wapiti aircraft, the first long range transfer of an RCAF Squadron by air (CCMA).

Arab extremists occupy Jerusalem, British army sent in to regain control (LoN).

Munich Crisis, German Army begins to demobilize after occupation of the Sudetenland (wikipedia).

Friday

21 Hitler orders preparation of plans for military occupation of the remainder of Czechoslovakia (wikipedia).

21-24 #3 (B) Sqn. RCAF Wapiti aircraft arrive by air in Calgary, Alberta (B.W. Gowans). These 8 aircraft represented nearly half of the RCAF's only operational bombers. Thus over the last month the RCAF, despite the Munich Crisis, had placed a large part of it's combat capability in Calgary, home town of Alberta Premier **William Aberhart**, on a newly built airfield inside an area already controlled and protected by Army units.

Saturday

22 In Italy the Caproni 161.bis aircraft takes the world altitude record for piston engined aircraft of 17,083 m (56,046 ft.), a record that still stands (M.J.H. Taylor).

Sunday

23 Spanish Civil War, Soviet freighter *Tsyurupa* seized by a Nationalist cruiser (wikipedia).

Monday

24 Sino-Japanese War, Hankow falls to a Japanese invasion force, cutting off imports to inland China (B. Greenhouse). See February, 1939.

Danzig Crisis German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop meets with Polish Ambassador and states the Free Port of Danzig is German, and should be returned to Germany. He also gives notice that Germany wanted to create a highway and rail link between Germany and German East Prussia across the Polish Corridor, and wanted Poland to join the Anti-Comintern Pact. In return Germany would guarantee the Polish borders established after the war of 1914-1918 (<http://ww2db.com>).

Friday

28 Spanish Civil War, Final parade of the *International Brigades* held in Barcelona (wikipedia). They

are then disbanded and the veterans left for France. Many would face criminal charges and punishment when they returned to their countries, some chose to remain in France as exiles.

In Germany 12,000 Jews with Polish passports are rounded up and dumped without warning into the frontier zone between Germany and Poland (Oxford). Due to new anti-Jewish laws in Poland almost half are not accepted there either, becoming stateless persons (wikipedia).

Sunday

30 Broadcast of Orson Welles interpretation of H.G. Wells *War of the Worlds* (wikipedia).

Monday

31 Danzig Crisis Poland rejects German claim over Danzig, and states it has no interest in joining the Anti-Comintern Pact (<http://ww2db.com>).

## November 1938

-- The British Air Ministry places an order with Canadian Car and Foundry to build 40 Hurricane fighters, with more orders to follow. The RCAF lobbied to have Hurricanes built for their own use, but recognized that if they hoped to have the 2 planned fighter squadrons available as soon as possible they would have to continue to obtain these from England (C. Vincent). See March 25, 1939.

Tuesday

1 #6 (TB) Sqn. RCAF moves from Trenton, Ontario to Jericho Beach, BC (RCAF Sqns.). At the time these are the most modern military aircraft in the RCAF, and production was planned at Boeing Aircraft of Canada plant in Vancouver, again concentrating the RCAF's military assets in Western Canada.

RAF Balloon Command formed for anti-aircraft defence (RAF Timeline).

Wednesday

2 Felvidek region of Czechoslovakia taken by Hungary (wikipedia).

Spanish Civil War, Canadian built Spanish Republican freighter *Cantabria* was intercepted and shelled just off the east coast of England near Cromer by the Spanish Nationalist commerce raider *Nadir* and set on fire. The *Nadir* then interfered with ships trying to rescue survivors, and captured 24 of the crew and passengers. Other members were rescued by vessels in the area before the ship sank. The information that led to the interception had been provided by German agents in Denmark and passed to the *Nadir* when she was resupplying in Germany (wikipedia). That Nationalist ships could attack a vessel just off the coast of England without fear of consequences indicates how far the Chamberlain government was willing to go to sacrifice Spain's legal government in its opposition to socialist, communist and anarchist political movements.

Spanish Civil War, Soviet freighter *Max Hoelz* seized at sea by a Nationalist patrol vessel (wikipedia).

Friday

4 Spanish Civil War, British ship *Stanburgh* beached and written off after an internal explosion sailing from France to Barcelona, and the French ship *La Corse* bombed and sunk off Cape Matara (wikipedia).

Saturday to Monday

5-7 Two RAF Wellesley bombers make a non-stop flight from Egypt to Darwin, Australia, a new distance record of 11,520 km (7,158 miles). A third landed short in East Timor. This remains the longest flight made by single engined piston powered aircraft (wikipedia).

Monday

7 Assassination of German diplomat in Paris by a young Polish Jew whose parents had been dumped on the Polish border in October (wikipedia).

Tuesday

8 US Mid-term elections, Democratic party suffers serious losses.

Fifteenth Anniversary of the *Beer Hall Putsch* in Munich, Hitler gives speech at the Burgerbraukeller, one of the shrines of the Nazi Party. Attended by Georg Elser, who notices the lax security at the annual event (wikipedia).

Wednesday

9 "Kristallnacht", Jews and their homes, businesses and synagogues looted and burned in Germany, 91 Jews killed and 20,000 arrested, in retaliation for the assassination in Paris (Polsson). Prior to this the lives of Jews under Hitler had been cruel but relatively non-violent. They were encouraged to emigrate (but without their goods). Since 1933 only about 100 of those murdered in the concentration camps had been Jews. In the next few months, however, over 1,000 Jews would be murdered in the camps (Oxford). These actions were seen as barbaric outside of Germany, and public opinion about Hitler and the Nazi rule, which after the Munich Crisis had seen him as a peace maker, began to turn against him.

Swiss theology student Maurice Bavaud, armed with a pistol, planned to assassinate Hitler in the Nazi parade in Munich but his plan failed when Hitler passed by on the other side of the street, too far to shoot without risking other lives. He tried other attempts before being caught trying to get to Paris on a train on the 13th having run out of money. He confessed his intentions under interrogation and was executed in 1941 (wikipedia).

Georg Elser is a witness to the events of "Kristallnacht" in Munich. Distressed, he begins plans to assassinate Hitler at the 1939 Burgerbraukeller meeting (wikipedia). See Nov. 8, 1939.

Spanish Civil War, Greek freighter *Nicolau Eleni* seized in the Straits of Gibraltar by Nationalists cruisers (wikipedia).

After many delays the first Canadian Vickers built RCAF Stranraer flying boat, #907, is delivered in Montreal (H. Tate). #5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begins to re-equip with Canadian built Stranraer flying boats by the end of the month (RCAF Sqns.). The largest aircraft accepted by the RCAF to this date, the Stranraer features a large stressed skin fuselage and hull, with fabric covered metal wings, marking a major advance in aircraft construction in Canada, and a major enhancement of the Air Forces maritime patrol capabilities.

#### Sunday

11 Spanish Civil War, Dutch freighter *Hanna* torpedoed and sunk by a Nationalist submarine, and the Greek ship *Victoria* seized by a Spanish auxiliary cruiser (wikipedia).

#### Saturday

12 A fire swept the business section of Rouyn, Quebec, killing at least 8 people (www3.gendisasters.com).

In Germany all Jewish owned businesses are permanently closed, and German Jews ordered to collect and pay a fine of 1 billion Reichsmarks for the murder in Paris (wikipedia).

#### Monday

14 In a secret meeting President Roosevelt orders further expansion of the USAAC (J.C. Fredrikson).

144 Sqn. Audax K7417 force landed in England after mishandling of the engine controls, AC1 S.D. McNaughton RAF had undone his safety belt, was thrown out of the aircraft and died of his injuries, pilot **F/O F.C. Stibbard RAF (Can.)** safe (W. Chorley).

Lions Gate Bridge opened in Vancouver, BC (wikipedia).

#### Tuesday

15 Eastern Air Command and Air Training Command activated in Halifax, NS and Toronto, Ontario respectively (RCAF Sqns).

In Germany all Jewish children are banned from public schools (wikipedia).

Representatives of *The Central British Fund for German Jewry* (which evolved into the *World Jewish Relief*) meet with PM Chamberlain to request assistance from the British Government in relaxing immigration laws to allow immigration of children from Germany (including Austria), Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Free City of Danzig. Known as the *Kindertransport*, this program brought almost 10,000 children, most Jewish, from Nazi controlled or threatened Europe to England and other countries between Dec. 2, 1938 and May 14, 1940 (wikipedia). Among those children who were brought to England was **Joe Schlesinger**, later a well known journalist in Canada, and Stephanie Shirley, pioneering computer programmer in England, and to Switzerland Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the therapist and sex advisor in the USA. Canada and the USA would not accept *Kindertransport* children at this time (ref. CBC *The Current*, Interview May 13, 2019 with Dr. Westheimer).

Wednesday

16 *HMS Ark Royal*, the Royal Navy's first modern aircraft carrier, and the first aircraft carrier built with an armoured flight deck, commissioned (wikipedia; H. Adlam).

Mid-November, contract announced to build 80 (later 160) Handley-Page Hampden bombers in Canada for the RAF. This was a short contract intended to set up plants and give experience in British construction methods so that a later contract for the production of the Short Stirling 4-engined bombers in Canada could begin smoothly. It was intended to order 500 Canadian built Stirling aircraft initially, followed by another 500 if a war broke out. Canadian Associated Aircraft Ltd., a consortium of 6 companies (Fleet Aircraft Co., National Steel Car, Ottawa Car & Aircraft, Canadian Vickers Ltd., Canadian Car & Foundry and Fairchild Aircraft) was set up for this work. Two plants were built, with Federal Government assistance, at Malton, Ontario and St. Hubert, Quebec. This was the beginning of the Avro Canada and Canadair companies postwar.

Thursday

17 In Italy laws based on race are enacted, excluding Jews from higher education or holding public office, and limiting their civil rights (wikipedia).

Singer **Gordon Lightfoot** born in Orillia, Ontario (wikipedia).

Friday

18 Spanish Civil War, Battle of the Ebro ends in Spain (wikipedia). Republican forces have been forced to retreat with very heavy casualties and the loss of most of their equipment, ending their ability to continue the war as the supply from Russia is suspended. Nationalist air attacks played a major part in their victory (Hallion).

TCA Lockheed 14 Super Electra CF-TCL carrying air mail crashes taking off at Regina, Saskatchewan, killing the two pilots on board. This was the first crash of the new *Trans-Canada Airlines*.

Saturday

19 RCAF Senior Air Officer, previously responsible to the Canadian Army Chief of the General Staff, is made responsible to the Minister of National Defence, thus making the RCAF independent, and an equal with the RCN and Canadian Army. First RCAF Air Council appointed (CCMA).

Spanish Civil War, Latvian registered ship *Everards* seized by Nationalist patrol vessels off Gibraltar (wikipedia).

Sunday

20 In his weekly radio broadcast in the USA **Father Coughlin** defends the attacks on German Jews on Kristallnacht by relating it to attacks on Christians in the USSR. Following this his broadcast is dropped by several major radio stations. See December 18, below.

Tuesday

22 *British Airways* Lockheed 14 Super Electra G-AFGO crashed in England on a training flight, pilot E.G.L. Robinson and his co-pilot, R.P.J. Leborgne, were both killed. This was the aircraft and pilot that had brought PM Chamberlain back from Munich September 30, above. E.G.L. Robinson had emigrated from England to Canada, where he married and learned to fly, operating bush planes in Ontario before returning to England (*Peace Pilot at Rest*, Jeffery Ougler, *Sault Star*, November 27, 2013; merkle at forum/keypublishing.com; www.flightglobal.com)

Thursday

24 Danzig Crisis Hitler orders military planners to come up with a plan to occupy Danzig without causing a war with Poland (<http://ww2db.com>). See May 23, 1939.

38 Sqn. RAF becomes the second to begin re-equipping with Wellington I bombers (S. Bond).

75 Sqn. Harrow II K7002 damaged beyond repair practicing night landings, S/L J.H. Pool RAF and F/O R.H. Niven RAF (Can.) safe (W.R. Chorley). See March 25, 1939.

Snow storm along the Atlantic coast of Canada and the USA killed 44 people in the US (wikipedia).

Monday to Wednesday

28-30 *Lufthansa* Fw 200 D-ACON *Brandenburg* flies from Berlin to Tokyo via Basra, Karachi and Hanoi in 46 hours and 18 minutes, establishing a new speed/distance record of 13,844 km. Japan orders civilian versions of the aircraft and requests a military maritime patrol version of this aircraft to be built (wikipedia). The aircraft then flies to Manila on it's way to the Netherlands East Indies where *KLM* wanted to test fly it on their route to Holland, but a double engine failure on approach to land brought it down in the sea (R.J.M. Mulder and G. Ott).

Wednesday

30 Italy demands that France turn over Corsica and Tunisia to Italy (LoN).

Major labour unrest in France as the new right wing cabinet imposes economic plans at the expense of workers (LoN).

Spanish Civil War, British ship *Eleni* sunk by bombers at Aguilas near Valencia (wikipedia).

The airport at Gander, Newfoundland, officially opened for operations, in a blizzard (C.F. Warren et al). With 11,600,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (1.08 sq. km.) of paved runways it is the largest airport in the world, although it has only basic facilities, one small hangar and no accommodation for large numbers of visitors. The air radio operation and weather forecasting station from Botwood was moved to Gander and began operations from the airport on this date, and a modern German Lorenz instrument landing system was added to it's equipment (C.F. Warren et al). Weather forecasting was also extended to provide the first weather reports to cover the Dominion, a great aid to the Newfoundland fishing fleet (C.F. Warren et al).



This facility was built in recognition that land based aircraft would soon begin flying the Atlantic, but at this time there are no land planes presently in service that can make use of the field and it's very large paved runways for this purpose except the Fw 200, although Italian, English and French designs are being developed. The only land plane in the Dominion, the meteorological DH.83 Foxmoth VO-ADE owned by the Commission of Government, is the only aircraft based there. As well as aviation facilities Gander also featured the first licensed pub in Newfoundland outside of St. John's (C.F. Warren et al). See May 15, 1939.

## December 1938

-- *Time Magazine* Man of the Year: Adolf Hitler, for his efforts to compromise on the Czechoslovakian Crisis and prevent a European war.

-- During the month RAF units in NW India were involved in punitive attacks (dropping leaflets announcing the bombing of a village that had proven ties to the insurgents, then returning to bomb the buildings when they had been abandoned) on villages supporting Mirza Ali Khan, known as the Faqir of Ipi, who had been engaged in a guerilla war on the Afghan border since 1937 (wikipedia; Ahmedzai operations discussion page at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See February, 1940.

Thursday

1 Voluntary registration for war service begins in England (LoN).

Non-Permanent Active Air Force (NPAAF) renamed the Auxiliary Active Air Force (AAAF) (CCMA). To pay for the increased costs of rearmament of the RCN and the RCAF some \$8 million was cut from the Army's budget (Douglas & Greenhous).

Friday

2 First *Kindertransport* group of 200 Jewish children arrive in England (wikipedia).

Sunday

4 In Tunis anti-Italian riots break out over Mussolini's demand the colony be turned over to Italy (wikipedia).

Tuesday

6 French-German pact guaranteeing their borders signed (M.J.H. Taylor).

Thursday

8 German aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin* launched. It was not completed during the war.

First decrees in Germany against the Romani, ordering them to register with the police (wikipedia).

Saturday

10 First flight of a Lockheed Hudson bomber for the RAF (M.J.H. Taylor).

Noble Prizes announced in Stockholm. Enrico Fermi was awarded the Nobel for Physics. German Richard Kuhn won the prize for Chemistry, but would not receive it until 1949 due to the ban on the prize by Hitler (wikipedia). The prize for Literature was awarded to US author Pearl S. Buck "for the body of her work" which led to thousands in the USA ordering "The Body of Her Work" from bookstores (Buck autobiography).

Thursday

15 #2 (AC) Sqn. RCAF, Atlas I #403 crashes at Cardinal, Ontario, F/O R.M. McKay and Cpl P. Wilkinson bailed out and safe (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com; R.W.R. Walker).

Saturday

17 German research ship *Schwabenland* secretly leaves Germany for an expedition in the Antarctic (wikipedia).

First flight of the Gregor FDB-1 biplane fighter. The first fighter aircraft designed in Canada to fly, it was built by Canada Car and Foundry at Fort William, Ontario. Designed to be a Fighter/Dive Bomber (hence the designation FDB) the small and streamlined biplane fighter was all metal with a stressed skin fuselage, fabric covered wings, and hydraulically retracting undercarriage, designed to mount two .50 machine guns and carry light bombs. It was not put into production, and after being damaged in testing was stored and was later destroyed in a fire in 1945 (L. Milberry; wikipedia). The next Canadian fighter design was the CF-100 all-weather jet interceptor, which flew just over 13 years later.

Sunday

18 Belgium votes to expand and modernize it's air force (M.J.H. Taylor).

*Christian Front* members begin weekly Sunday protests outside the offices of radio station WMCA in New York to protest the stations decision to drop **Father Coughlin's** radio broadcasts. In following weeks the *Front* would extend these protests to the stations advertisers and prominent Jewish owned businesses in New York, several thousand people taking part (wikipedia). See February 20, 1939.

Friday

23 Off eastern Africa a Coelacanth, a fish long thought to be extinct, is caught and identified (wikipedia)

Spanish Civil War, The Nationalist army attacks and crosses the Ebro River into Catalonia (SCW).

Tuesday

27 Spanish Civil War, British freighter *Stancroft* bombed and sunk at Barcelona (wikipedia).

Saturday

31 PM **Mackenzie King** rejects a scaled down proposal for pilot training in Canada from the RAF as it still would be foreign controlled (Dalke).

At around this time F/L N.R. Harben RAF at #16 EFTS in England develops the Visual Link Trainer (VLT), a Link Instrument Trainer with no blind flying hood in a room with a painted horizon intended to teach simple flying techniques (A.D. English). See September 1942.