

# Airplane Is 40 Years Old

## First Flight Was Made December 17

The aviation industry is celebrating its fortieth anniversary today.

It has just completed its 150,000th plane for use in this war.

Behind American production of some 10,000 war planes a month stands the first flight of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk just forty years ago today.

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright made a successful flight in the air because they refused to be laughed out of the idea that men could fly.

That one flight by the Wright brothers forty years ago built an entire new industry, and brought about a new profession for men.

This profession has been followed by the twenty test pilots of the Tulsa plant, pilots who play an important part in seeing that the planes made here are fit for fighting. On the skill of these pilots depends the lives of thousands of fighting men.

Two of these pilots, M. A. Moltrup and L. H. Connell, were flying long before the United States Department of Commerce issued licenses to fly. In fact, they both had licenses for international flying signed by Orville Wright himself. These were necessary for racing.

Moltrup was the seventy-



**MOLTRUP**



**CONNELL**



**CARROLL**

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first pilot in the world to fly. He has more than 15,000 recorded hours in the air and estimates he had some 10,000 hours before he made any record of them. He flew three first mail routes during the early days of airmail.

Only 596 men were issued Department of Commerce commercial flying licenses before Connell, for his is number 597.

Together the twenty test pilots, whose jobs the Wright brothers created, have flown approximately 12,465,000 miles... that's 500 times around the world. They've flown the length of that record-breaking flight made by Douglas planes nineteen years ago 500 times. Their accumulated flying hours total almost 10 years in the air.

Four other pilots besides Connell and Moltrup have more than 5,000 logged flying hours.

J. C. Carroll, Chief Test Pilot, and J. N. Laneri each have 5,000 hours. C. E. Coe has 6,000, and R. C. Hunton 5,000.

It is the spirit and daring of men like them which has made possible the tremendous strides of aviation since Kitty Hawk.

The production genius of Donald Douglas; the skill, the daring and the vision of fliers like Jimmie Doolittle and Eddie Rickenbacker are all a part of the 150,000 war planes that have roared off American production lines.

Their efforts which followed the early flights of Glen L. Curtiss; the tireless planning, designing, testing of such men as Glenn L. Martin, Igor Sikorsky and others are built into the war planes that America produces today.



**HUNTON**



**COE**



**LANERI**