

## THE HISTORY OF HOLLYWOOD IN AVIATION

by

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Back in the early days of the fast-growing film industry, the motion picture companies found that they had to have a lot of action in their stories. This was partly due to the lack of talking machines and partly due to the fact that a discerning public wanted a lot of animation in their photoplays. In these early cinemas, a monologue type of conversation had to be dubbed in between scenes in brief print.

It was only natural then that the various company's making motion pictures would turn to aviation for a large share of their necessary action. Consequently many fine aerial epics were made and in many cases some aerial action was added to pictures having little or no plot relating to aviation. With the advent of sound effects, talking machines, technicolor and vista-vision the trend in aerial epics continued.

Down through the years these air pictures had a tremendous effect on the general public. They helped publicize aviation, added gore and glory but mostly, they introduced the public to a much closer look at the prospects of aviation. True, they weren't always accurate in their presentation, but the public was not concerned with minor details.

The cutting room floor and the stock room provided a maze of jig-saw air scenes that were dubbed in here and there as was needed. How many of us recall scenes such as a DC-3 taking off into the air only to become a Ford Tri-Motor once it was airborne. Or the scene of a fighter plane diving vertically toward earth, while in the background layers of clouds were travelling vertically upward. In spite of all this many hundreds of thousands of feet of fine film were unreeled, portraying aircraft of the period and very live action film and plane crashes. Many of the plane crashes were real and were made by such well-known stuntmen as Dick Grace. Many aircraft of the period were transformed by the medium of fancy paint into colorful and historical semblances of the original article. Many fine pilots lost their lives making the scenes.

The following is a partially complete list of all the air pictures made through the years in a reasonably chronological order of release. If other members can recall other pictures not listed here, they are invited to help complete the list.

The earliest air sequence I recall involved a picture starring Baby Peggy. It seems our little heroine climbed to the top of a net-diver's ladder and while perilously wavering atop same, was rescued by a wingwalker on a rope-ladder dangled beneath an old Jenny.

Here are some others:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PERILS OF PAULINE, serial, some scenes.</li> <li>2. SNOWED IN, involving the destruction and robbery of air mail planes by a blinding searchlight. A serial.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. SILENT VALLEY, starring Tom Mix. Mix rescues the heroine caught ahead of a stampede by dangling beneath a Jenny on a rope ladder.</li> </ol> |
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4. -----, a picture starring Lupino Lane and depicting Lupino as a wingwalker. Lupino was the father of the present Ida Lupino.
5. NOW WE'RE IN THE AIR, starring Wallace Beery and Raymond Hattan.
6. AIR MAIL, the early version, a Lasky production.
7. THE SKY SKIDDER
8. THE SKYWAYMAN
9. STRANGER THAN FICTION
10. WOMAN WITH FOUR FACES
11. EAGLE OF THE NIGHT
12. ROOKIES, a balloon picture.
13. THE EAGLE'S TALONS
14. GO AND GET IT
15. GOING UP
16. SHADOW OF THE EAGLE, a serial.
17. GOLD
18. FLYING THROUGH
19. CORSAIR OF THE AIR
20. THE AIR PATROL, an Al Wilson thriller.
21. THE FLYING FOOL, an Al Wilson thriller.
22. FLYING DOWN TO RIO
23. GOING WILD
24. FLYING ROMEO'S, Charlie Murray and George Sidney, comedy involving a flight across the Atlantic.
25. FLYING HIGH
26. ACROSS THE PACIFIC, with Monte Blue. A transpacific flight.
27. LEGION OF THE CONDEMNED, Gary Cooper.
28. YOUNG EAGLES, air war.
29. FLYING EAGLES, air war.
30. WINGS, truly one of the greatest all-time air pictures, starring Clara Bow, Charles Rogers.
31. AIR EAGLES
32. THE FLYING FLEET, scenes of the Naval Air Service.
33. LILAC TIME, another great air picture starring Colleen Moore and Gary Cooper.
34. THE AIR CIRCUS, involving a flying school at Clover Field.
35. THE DAWN PATROL, the early version starring Richard Barthelmess.
36. F.P. 1 (Floating Platform #1), based on the Armstrong Floating Platform as published in Popular Mechanics.
37. FLIGHT, story of Pensacola starring Jack Holt and Ralph Graves.
38. WAR EAGLES
39. THE SKY HAWK, involving some of the Zeppelin scenes left over from the forthcoming Hells Angels.
40. DIRIGIBLE, another Navy picture starring Jack Holt and Ralph Graves.
41. THE LAST FLIGHT, Richard Barthelmess.
42. HELL'S ANGELS, great air epic costing four million dollars and starring Jean Harlow, Ben Lyons and James Hall.
43. THE AIR MAIL, a Universal picture starring Pat O'Brien.
44. AIR MAIL MYSTERY, a serial.
45. THE WHITE HELL OF PITZ PALU, Ernst Udet flying among the Alps.
46. S.O.S. ICEBERG, air rescue in North.
47. THE LOST DIRIGIBLE
48. COCK O' THE AIR, Chester Morris and Billie Dove involving the bedroom adventures of a War Pilot. Small air scene.
49. THE AIR POLICE, starring Kenneth Harlan.
50. SKY DEVILS, using some of the left-over scenes from Hells Angels and starring William Boyd, Spencer Tracy.
51. THE LOST SQUADRON, another great air epic involving some fine stunt work, starring Richard Dix, Dorothy Jordan.
52. THE CRIMSON ROMANCE, using some of the leftover scenes of Hells Angels and starring Ben Lyons and Sari Maritza.
53. FORGOTTEN MEN, uncensored signal corps film documentaries of World War I containing many air scenes. Authentic.
54. GOLD CHEVRONS, similar to above.
55. THE BIG DRIVE, similar to above.
56. HELL'S HOLIDAY, similar to above. These four pictures were shown as part of an anti-war campaign in the early thirties.
57. THE FOUR ACES
58. THE SKY BRIDE, a stunt flying movie.
59. HELL DIVERS, another truly great air epic. All the air scenes being actual carrier work done with Curtiss O2C's etc., of the bi-plane era, and starring Wallace Beery.
60. CENTRAL AIRPORT
61. THE ACE OF ACES, air-war with Richard Dix.
62. POUR L'MERITE, a German air picture of World War I and its grounded flyers afterward. Wonderful scenes involving real Fokker Triplanes.
63. HELL IN THE HEAVENS, air-war starring Conchita Montenegro.

64. THE EAGLE AND THE HAWK, air-war film starring Frederic March.
65. SPEED WINGS
66. THE BROKEN WING, a plane crashes and Lupe Velez nurses the injured flyer back to health.
67. WAR CORRESPONDENT
68. THE DAWN PATROL, a truly great air epic starring Errol Flynn. Now being shown on TV.
69. FLYING DEVILS, starring Bruce Cabot, Eric Linden, Arline Judge.
70. NIGHT FLIGHT, based on the story by St. Exupery.
71. AIR HOSTESS, with Dorothy Knapp.
72. PARACHUTE JUMPER
73. BRIGHT EYES, starring Shirley Temple in which she bails out of a snow-capped plane in the arms of the pilot.
74. ABOVE THE CLOUDS
75. SOLDIERS OF THE STORM, Regis Toomey.
76. MURDER IN THE CLOUDS, with Lyle Talbot.
77. LOST IN THE STRATOSPHERE
78. DEVIL DOGS OF THE AIR, starring James Cagney and Pat O'Brien, flying in the Marine Corps. Now on TV.
79. WEST POINT OF THE AIR, starring Wallace Beery, concerns the training at Randolph Field.
80. WINGS IN THE DARK
81. ITS IN THE AIR, a Jack Benny picture with a balloon ascension.
82. THE AIR HAWKS, with Ralph Bellamy.
83. THE SKY RANGER
84. CEILING ZERO, great air epic of the air mail pilots with James Cagney.
85. THE SKY PARADE, based partially on two decades of aviation.
86. THE DEVIL'S SQUADRON, Richard Dix.
87. THE WOMAN I LOVE, a French air picture of World War I. Very good air scenes. Its French title was L'EQUIPAGE.
88. THE BIG HOP
89. WINGS OVER THE ANDES
90. WINGS OVER ETHIOPIA
91. LADIES CRAVE EXCITEMENT
92. FORCED LANDING, airliner picture.
93. STORM OVER THE ANDES
94. TAILSPIN TOMMY, series.
95. 13 HOURS BY AIR, airliner picture.
96. BORDER FLIGHT
97. EDUCATING FATHER, a Jones Family picture of getting father into the air and a resultant parachute jump.
98. CHINA CLIPPER, starring Pat O'Brien, history of an airline.
99. FLYING HOSTESS
100. FUGITIVE IN THE SKY, airliner picture.
101. WITHOUT ORDERS, airliner picture.
102. WINGS OVER HONOLULU
103. WINGS OF THE NAVY
104. ESCADRILLE
105. WINGS OF MERCY
106. FLIGHT FROM GLORY
107. RIDING ON AIR
108. LOVE IN FLIGHT
109. TEST PILOT, great air epic starring Clark Gable.
110. REPORTED MISSING
111. CRIMINALS IN THE AIR, airliner story.
112. ATLANTIC FLIGHT, with Dick Merrill.
113. HIGH FLYERS, a Laurel and Hardy comedy
114. SKY GIANT
115. OUTLAWS OF THE ORIENT
116. DANGER PATROL
117. CLIPPED WINGS
118. AIR DEVILS
119. TORCHY BLAINE IN PANAMA, Torchy makes a parachute jump near an ocean liner merely to make a trip to Panama.
120. FLIGHT INTO NOWHERE
121. TAILSPIN, a picture based on scenes of the Cleveland Air Races and a powderpuff air race, starring Alice Faye.
122. THE FLYING IRISHMAN, with Douglas Corrigan.
123. MEN WITH WINGS, great air epic in color based on the history of aviation.
124. FLYING CADETS
125. WOMEN IN THE WIND
126. FLIGHT TO FAME
127. PIRATES OF THE SKY, airliner story.
128. TRAPPED IN THE SKY
129. SECRET SERVICE OF THE AIR
130. FLYING G-MEN
131. MYSTERY PLANE
132. FLIGHT AT MIDNIGHT
133. LEGION OF LOST FLYERS
134. ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS, South American freight line, Hamilton H-47 and Ford Tri-Motor. Now being shown on TV.
135. FIVE CAME BACK, involves crash of airliner in jungle. Air scenes with Lockheed 12A, ground scenes with the one-and-only Capelis XC-12.
136. CLOUDS OVER EUROPE

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| 137. I WANTED WINGS                                              | 151. 12 O'CLOCK HIGH, story of the Eighth Air Force in England.                                                           |
| 138. 20,000 MEN A YEAR                                           | 152. MEMPHIS BELLE, authentic combat scenes in color of the 8th Air Force and one of its planes.                          |
| 139. EAGLE SQUADRON                                              | 153. BAILOUT AT 43,000, testing bailout procedures at high altitudes.                                                     |
| 140. A YANK IN THE R.A.F., Tyrone Power.                         | 154. TOWARD THE UNKNOWN, an excellent story of the USAF and its test pilots.                                              |
| 141. INTERNATIONAL SQUADRON                                      | 155. BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER                                                                                           |
| 142. DESTINATION TOKYO                                           | 156. FLIGHT COMMAND, starring Robert Taylor.                                                                              |
| 143. 20 SECONDS OVER TOKYO                                       | 157. THE WINGS OF EAGLES, Naval aviation.                                                                                 |
| 144. FLYING TIGERS                                               | 158. THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS, a truly great air epic in color based on the adventures and ocean flight of Col. Lindbergh. |
| 145. SPITFIRE, story of the history of the Supermarine aircraft. | 159. JET PILOT, with John Wayne.                                                                                          |
| 146. BUSH PILOT, flying in Canada.                               | 160. LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE, to be released soon.                                                                           |
| 147. FIGHTER SQUADRON                                            |                                                                                                                           |
| 148. THE HIGH AND THE MIGHTY                                     |                                                                                                                           |
| 149. COMMAND DECISION                                            |                                                                                                                           |
| 150. BLAZE OF NOON, story of stunt flyers.                       |                                                                                                                           |

Editor's note: Further comments on motion pictures involving airplanes will be published in the next issue of the Journal, together with several very rare and interesting photographs. Two of these show a Boeing P-12 and a Keystone LB-6 in camouflage with Maltese Crosses! The foregoing list is a wonderful start, and all members are urged to send in their additions. Three that come to mind, and will be discussed in detail in the next issue, are DIVE BOMBER (now being shown on TV), CAPTAINS OF THE CLOUDS and HOUSE ACROSS THE BAY.

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### THE DAWN PATROL

In regard to the above list mention should be made of the fact that the motion picture THE DAWN PATROL is now showing on TV.

This 1938 film, made by Warner Brothers, stars Basil Rathbone, Errol Flynn, David Niven and Barry Fitzgerald.

The film opens with the Royal Flying Corps in 1915, and from then on follows the story of the "59th" fighter squadron and its nemesis "Von Richter". If the story can be ignored, AAHS members should enjoy the flying scenes.

Travel Air's are used for both Fokker D-7's and Nieuport fighters, and one "Nieuport" shows clearly to be a Thomas Morse S-4. The photos recently shown in the Journal are not from this film as each of these fighters carries the roundel on the side of the fuselage near the cockpit.

This is the movie with the famous scene of the Standard J-1's, painted in check-board German markings, being blown up and shot down by strafing Nieuports.