

The 1927 Dole Air Derby And The Thrilling First Flights That Opened The Pacific

In the early days of aviation, the world was captivated by the brave individuals who dared to take to the skies. Flying was an adventure filled with danger and excitement, and none embodied this spirit more than the aviators who participated in the 1927 Dole Air Derby—a race that opened up the Pacific to commercial aviation and showcased the immense possibilities of flight.

Origins of the Dole Air Derby

The Dole Air Derby was conceived by James D. Dole, a pineapple magnate from Hawaii, who sought to promote aviation and demonstrate the feasibility of air travel across the vast Pacific Ocean. Dole put up a substantial cash prize of \$25,000 (equivalent to over \$350,000 today) to be awarded to the first aviator to successfully fly from California to Honolulu, a distance of more than 2,400 miles.

The Pilots and Their Flying Machines

The allure of fame and fortune drew a diverse group of aviators from all over the world to participate in the Dole Air Derby. Among them was the famous pilot Charles Lindbergh, who had captivated the world just a year prior with his historic non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic. Lindbergh entered the race on behalf of the U.S. Army, aiming to further advance aviation technology.

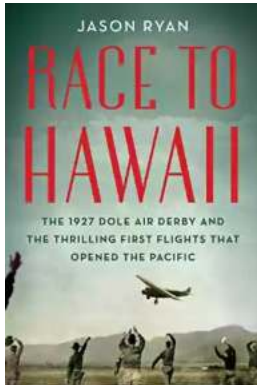
Race to Hawaii: The 1927 Dole Air Derby and the Thrilling First Flights That Opened the Pacific

by Jason Ryan(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Other notable participants in the Dole Air Derby included Australian pilot Kingsford Smith, who had already made a name for himself with his record-breaking flights and was considered a strong contender. Also, the experienced Canadian aviator Frank Goldsborough, who brought his expertise to the race, aiming to be the first Canadian to fly solo to Hawaii.

The Race Begins

On August 16, 1927, fifteen planes took to the skies from Oakland, California, marking the start of the Dole Air Derby. The atmosphere was electrifying as thousands of spectators gathered to witness the historic event. The pilots encountered challenging weather conditions, treacherous crosswinds, and mechanical issues along the way, making the race even more intense and unpredictable.

The Tragic Fate of Flight 8

On August 27, 1927, tragedy struck when Flight 8, piloted by Arthur V. Rogers, disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. Despite extensive search efforts, the plane and its crew were never found. The loss of Flight 8 served as a reminder of the

dangers faced by aviators during this era and the risks associated with pushing the boundaries of flight.

The Winner Emerges

After enduring arduous conditions and facing numerous challenges, two weeks and three days after the race began, Art Goebel and his co-pilot William V. Davis emerged as the winners of the Dole Air Derby. Flying the "Woolaroc," an aircraft named after the Native American word for "big noise," Goebel and Davis completed the journey in 26 hours and 17 minutes. Their triumph marked a significant milestone in aviation history and opened up new possibilities for commercial air travel across the Pacific.

The Legacy of the Dole Air Derby

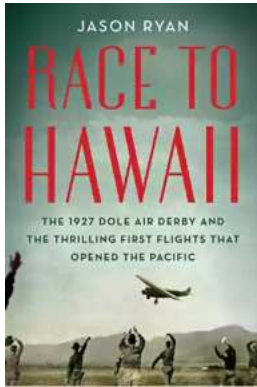
The Dole Air Derby not only showcased the bravery and skill of the participating aviators but also paved the way for future transpacific flights and the establishment of air routes across the Pacific. The race and subsequent technological advancements fueled public interest in aviation, setting the stage for the significant progress that would soon follow in the world of aviation.

The 1927 Dole Air Derby was a thrilling race that captured the world's attention and opened the doors to transpacific air travel. The brave aviators who participated in the race risked their lives to push the boundaries of flight and showcase the immense possibilities of aviation. Their determination and pioneering spirit laid the foundation for the modern aviation industry, forever changing the way we connect and explore the world.

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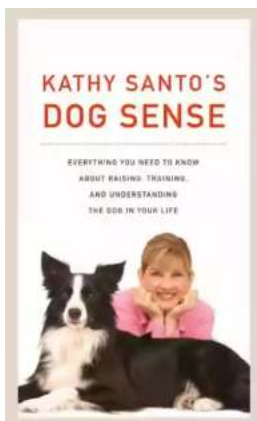
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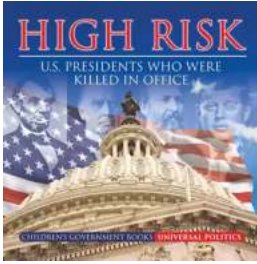


A thrilling account, *Race to Hawaii* chronicles the first flights to Hawaii in the 1920s, during the Golden Age of Aviation. These journeys were fraught with danger. To reach the tiny islands, fearless pilots flew unreliable and fragile aircraft outfitted with primitive air navigation equipment. The Dole Derby was an unprecedented 1927 air race in which eight planes set off at once across the Pacific, all eager to reach the islands first and claim a cash prize offered by "Pineapple King" James Dole. Military men, barnstormers, a schoolteacher, a Wall Street bond salesman, a Hollywood stunt flyer and veteran World War aces all encountered every type of hazard during their perilous flights. With so many pilots taking aim at the far-flung islands in so many different types of planes, everyone wondered who would reach Hawaii first, or at all.



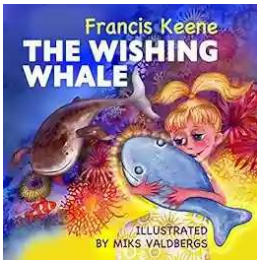
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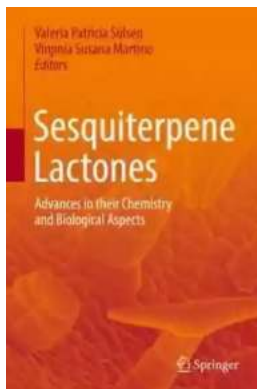
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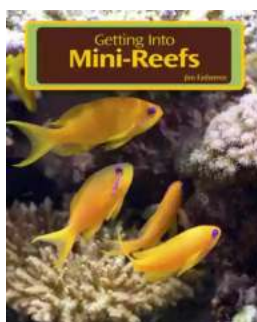
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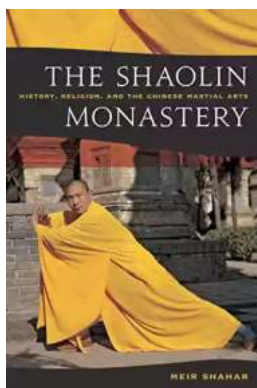
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