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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Musick, Edwin C.

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In 1927 Pan American Airways, Inc., was formed in New York and Musick joined the new firm as a pilot. Their first route operated between Meacham Field, Key West, Florida, to Camp Columbia Field, Havana, Cuba, as an airmail service only, using two Fokker tri-motored land monoplanes powered by Wright J-5 engines. Musick made the first trip of the new system on October 19, 1927, from Key West to Havana. In 1928 Musick obtained a United States Transport Pilot License No. 865.

The rapid expansion of the Pan American Airways system is largely due to their efficient, trustworthy operations, regularity of schedules and well-kept, up-to-date equipment. Musick remained with the service and continued to be one of their first-line pilots from the start. The firm soon extended their service to all of Latin and South America. An overhaul and service terminal was established at Miami in 1928 and Pan American began carrying passengers in addition to mail that year. Large Sikorsky and the huge Martin and Boeing "China Clipper" type, 4-engine, passenger carrying, flying boats were added to their fleet of planes as rapidly as they were developed, and eventually their well-known worldwide service was established.

During August, 1934, Musick, Sikorsky Company test pilot Boris Sergievsky, and Charles Lindbergh established eight seaplane load-carrying records at Stratford, Connecticut, flying a huge Sikorsky S-42 seaplane powered by four Pratt and Whitney 650-700 h.p., Hornet radial engines.

When Pan American began establishing their routes across the Pacific, Musick was chosen to make the initial flights. On June 13, 1935, Musick started these exploration trips when he flew a model S-42 Sikorsky, twin Pratt and Whitney engined, flying boat from the Pan American base at Alameda, California, to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in seventeen hours, and fifteen minutes. After two days there he flew on to Midway Island, 1,323 miles in ~~10~~ ten hours. By December he and his crew had flown across the Pacific. Routes were established to Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, and all major Far East points.

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