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

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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 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.

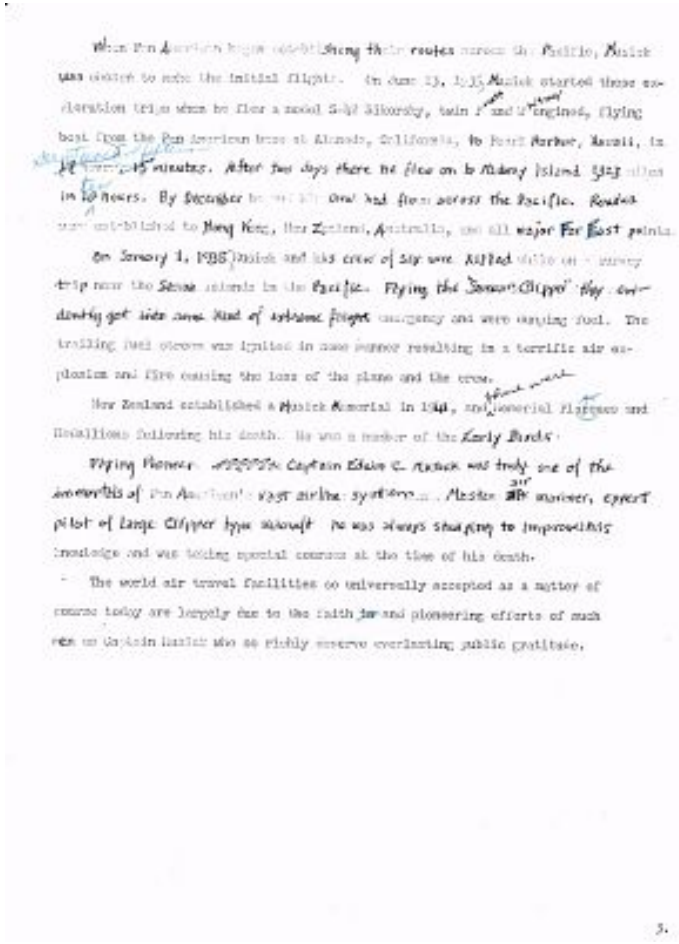
On January 1, 1938, Musick and his crew of six were killed while on a survey trip near the Samoa Islands in the Pacific. Flying the "Samoan Clipper" they evidently got into some kind of extreme flight emergency and were dumping fuel. The trailing fuel stream was ignited in some manner resulting in a terrific air explosion and fire causing the loss of the plane and the crew.

New Zealand established a Musick Memorial in 1941, and there were Memorial Plaques and Medallions following his death. He was a member of the Early Birds.

Flying Pioneer Captain Edwin C. Musick was truly one of the immortals of Pan American's vast airline system. Master air mariner, expert pilot of large clipper type aircraft he was always studying to improve his knowledge and was taking special courses at the time of his death.

The world air travel facilities so universally accepted as a matter of course today are largely due to the faith and pioneering efforts of such men as Captain Musick who so richly deserve everlasting public gratitude.

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