

This Day in Naval Aviation - Month of February

February 4, 1917, the Secretary of the Navy directed that 16 non-rigid airships of Class B be procured. Contracts were subsequently issued to the Connecticut Aircraft Corporation, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, and the B. F. Goodrich Company.

February 4, 1944, in a test of refueling operations with the CVE Altamaha off San Diego, the K-29 of Airship Patrol Squadron 31 (ZP-31) made the first carrier landing by a non-rigid airship.

February 9, 1846, Wilhelm Maybach: born February 9, 1846 in Heilbronn, Wurttemberg, Germany; engineer; chief designer of the first Mercedes; instrumental in the design of the first Daimler gasoline engine; after Gottlieb Daimler's death, Maybach formed his own company, which supplied engines for Schutte-Lanz, Zeppelin, Parseval, and Gross-Basenbach airships.

February 12, 1935, after encountering a severe gust of wind, which caused a structural failure, the rigid airship Macon (ZRS-5) crashed off Point Sur, Calif., with two fatalities.

February 14, 1912, the first flight of LZ 11, the "Viktoria Luise," with the first passenger flight on March 4. It was named after Kaiser Wilhelm II's only daughter. The airship mainly flew within Germany and to Helgoland, Hamburg and Kopenhagen. Passengers were carried on 254 of these flights. The 1000th trip was made on July 5, 1915. The ship was destroyed at the aerodrome in Leignitz on October 8, 1915.

February 17, 1943, lighter-than-air operations over the Caribbean were initiated from Edinburgh Field, Trinidad, by the K-17 of Airship Patrol Squadron 51 (ZP-51).