



The ANTHONY FOKKER



Award
BEST CONTEST THEME " GOING DUTCH " SUBJECT



Anton Fokker was born in 1890 in the Dutch colonies.

At age 11, his family returned to Holland for Anton's education, but he was not a very ardent student. Fokker only made it through his high school exams by means of a *self invented crabbing-machine!* On to Germany to train in a car manufacturing school, but decided on the spot that he preferred a newly started course in aviation.

Perhaps it's best to just let Anthony tell you of himself (excerpts from 1931 autobiography)"Flying Dutchman"

School and I did not agree. I was full of mischief and found learning very boring; it rained complaints from the school masters to my father. Only one subject appealed to me, handicrafts, at which I excelled.

I had my boyhood headquarters in the attic at home. With real collectors' mania I gathered stuff there from which I made things to play with. I specialised in model trains.

I only started to construct aeroplanes because there seemed to be no one designing exactly the machine I wanted. Without the help of others I learned to fly it. But I never became a hero.



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I admit that I am proud of being a 'self made man'; *for that I am American enough.* But he that reads between the lines of this my history, will notice that sometimes I am sorry that I did not give others enough opportunity to help me learn. *(end excerpts)* Oh,yes.The one plane he and his class built? Crashed by a pilot that couldn't fly, course crashed with it. Staying put, Anton built his own plane with money his father sent. First factory was opened in Amsterdam. Opening a second main Fokker factory in USA, Mr. Fokker became the largest civil a/c manufacturer of the twenties.



Sadly, at age 49 Anthony Fokker died in America in 1939. Anthony was cremated in the USA, ashes returned to the Netherlands for burial.

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