



Aircraft illustration from the book Eyewitness: The Amelia Earhart Incident.

Radio's Role In . . .

The Mystery Of Amelia Earhart

It's Been Exactly 50 Years Since This Famous Aviator Vanished. A Cryptic Radio Communication Was Her Final Message To The World!

BY TOM KNEITEL, K2AES, EDITOR

Was Amelia Earhart on a secret espionage mission for the American government when her aircraft vanished over the Pacific on July 3, 1937? Perhaps it was nothing of the kind. Perhaps this world-class aviator and her experienced navigator simply lost their way.

It's been fifty years and the search for the truth still continues—long after the search for Earhart's Lockheed Electra 10-E, tail number NR-16020, and its crew of two has long been abandoned. Books have been written about the incident, and many conflicting pronouncements and guesses have been made. Some have said that the truth will never come out and accuse the U.S. Government of keeping the lid held down tightly on the facts.

What has thusfar been given relatively lit-

tle attention amidst all of the digging has been Earhart's use of radio communications during "Lady Lindy's" attempt to fly around the world at the equator. This 27,000 mile route was the longest and most difficult challenge she could devise after duplicating Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic, and after setting many flying records for speed, distance, altitude, and endurance.

Earhart was about 40 years old when she embarked upon her final flight. Her navigator, 44-year-old Fred Noonan had been a pilot with Pan American. The aircraft was a twin-engine type with a range of 4,000 miles.

The flight began with equipment problems and delays, and a total switching of the flight plan which had originally been established for a flight from east to west, from Hawaii, in March of 1937. The actual flight



Amelia Earhart