

Aviation History: North Africa

Aviation History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which French aviator made the first non-stop flight across the Sahara Desert in 1920?

- A) Jean Mermoz
- B) Joseph Vuillemin**
- C) Henri Guillaumet
- D) Louis Bastié

2. During the North African Campaign, which aircraft was specifically modified for the 'Long Range Desert Group' reconnaissance missions?

- A) Waco YKC
- B) Beechcraft Staggerwing
- C) De Havilland Dragon Rapide**
- D) Miles Magister

3. What was the primary role of the German 'Sonderkommando Blaich' during the 1942 raid on Fort Lamy?

- A) Aerial reconnaissance
- B) Bombing mission against Free French forces**
- C) Paratrooper transport
- D) Fighter escort training

4. Which airfield, known as 'Marble Arch', was a strategic hub for the Luftwaffe in Libya?

- A) Benina
- B) Castel Benito**
- C) Mersa Matruh
- D) Agheila

5. The 1930s 'Aeropostale' route to South America utilized which Moroccan city as a primary stopover?

- A) Casablanca**
- B) Tangier
- C) Marrakesh
- D) Agadir

6. Which American aircraft type was nicknamed the 'Flying Boxcar' and used for heavy logistics in North African supply routes?

- A) C-47 Skytrain
- B) C-82 Packet
- C) C-54 Skymaster
- D) C-46 Commando**

7. In 1912, during the Italo-Turkish War in Libya, which aircraft was the first to be used for reconnaissance purposes by the Italian Air Force?

- A) Bleriot XI**
- B) Farman III
- C) Nieuport IV
- D) Caproni Ca.1

8. What was the codename for the Allied air transport operation that supported the invasion of North Africa in 1942?

- A) Operation Torch**
- B) Operation Bolero
- C) Operation Velvet
- D) Operation Husky

9. Which Egyptian aviation pioneer founded the first Egyptian airline, Misr Airwork, in 1932?

- A) Talaat Harb**
- B) King Fuad I
- C) Ahmed Hassanein
- D) Mohamed Sidqi

10. The 'Desert Air Force' (DAF) was formed in 1941 to provide tactical air support for which specific unit?

- A) US Eighth Army
- B) Eighth Army (British)**
- C) Free French Forces
- D) Royal Australian Air Force

11. Which famous French pilot disappeared over the Sahara in 1935 while attempting to break a speed record?

- A) Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**
- B) Jean Mermoz
- C) Marcel Goulette
- D) André Japy

12. What type of aircraft did the British use for the 'Desert Rats' support during the defense of Tobruk?

- A) Hawker Hurricane
- B) Gloster Gladiator**
- C) Fairey Fulmar
- D) Bristol Blenheim

13. Which aircraft was famously used by the Italians in 1934 for the 'Mass Formation Flight' across the Mediterranean to North Africa?

- A) Savoia-Marchetti S.55**
- B) Fiat CR.32
- C) Caproni Ca.133
- D) Macchi M.C.200

14. What specific aviation fuel supply crisis did the Axis powers face during the North African campaign?

- A) Lack of octane rating
- B) Lack of storage tanks
- C) Lack of transport tankers**
- D) Lack of refining capacity

15. Which airfield in Tunisia was a critical air superiority base for the Axis during the final stages of the North African campaign?

- A) El Aouina**
- B) Sfax
- C) Gabes
- D) Bizerta