

At Carswell Field, Texas, thirteen airmen got their final orders from Captain James Gallagher. Their mission: to fly around the world -- non-stop. The flight is surrounded with wartime secrecy. There's no fanfare as the Lucky Lady, a B-50 medium bomber, takes off.

Key to the mission's success or failure is mid-air refueling from B-29's which have been converted into flying tankers. Top crew skill is needed for the tricky in-flight operation. The air force keeps secret the newly perfected gear by which the fuel line ~~passes from the tanker~~

from the B-29 tanker is passed to ~~the B-50, its big sister.~~ But once passed, the gas line, which streams out of the tanker's tail, is hauled aboard the thirsty Lucky Lady through the tail turret.

No flying time is lost during refueling. The B-50 keeps right on course, with her B-29 tanker flying right along, just above her.

Flying a course planned to steer well clear of Russia, the Lucky Lady makes four aerial rendezvous with tankers -- over the Azores and Saudi Arabia, both at night; the Philippines, at dusk; Hawaii, at dawn.

After twenty-three thousand, four hundred and fifty-two non-stop miles, she flashes across the finish line. Air Secretary Symington and

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General Vandenberg watch her touch down in a perfect landing. Newsreel cameramen, flown to Texas for an unnamed Top Secret story, record the

**Four**

historic moment. ~~Three~~ hundred years ~~ago~~ after Magellan blazed the first trail around the world -- in four years -- the ~~Lucky~~ Lady circles the

globe in four days -- non stop. <sup>3</sup> As the tired crew piles out, Captain

Gallagher reports: Mission completed. And air force chieftains congratulate

*overnight trucks # bombers into intercontinental slips and*  
the airmen whose historic flight pushes America's first line of defense

completely all the way around the world.