

## CONTENT

*Preliminary note*

*Polar flights: A challenge—past and present*

### **Part 1   Attacking the North Pole**

Sky Polaris: Science in flight

Before the start: The mind races faster and faster

Enough prepared: It starts now!

Out of Africa or to Africa!

The great jump: 3010 km across the Atlantic

Happy landing in Brazil: From Natal to Belem

A superlative: Always along the Amazon

Go west: To Manaus

A beautiful view in Brazilian: Boa Vista

A dream comes true: A detour over the Angel Falls

Global warming even here: South and Central America

Happy greetings: Landing in Mexico City

Between hope and fear: Grounded at the U.S. border

On a non-stop flight: Above the eastern USA

Endurance test for the polar flight: Canada's far north

Only one direction: Further north

Alea jacta est: There is no way back!

Problem of directions: Which way is south?

Welcome in Norwegian: Alesund

Finally, almost the last leg: Through the middle of Europe

End of the first part: Happy return to Spain

## **Part 2 Approaching the South Pole**

Patience is required: Waiting for departure

Flight with obstacles: Departure to the south

Somewhere: In Africa

On dangerous terrain: In Sudan

Island Hopping: Over the Indian Ocean

Only one—big— island, too: The fifth continent

Right in the middle: The red heart of Australia

Preparation is the key: Departure to the South Pole

The dreaded passage: Non-stop across the Antarctic

Done: Goodbye Antarctica

At the end of the world or Fin del Mundo: Patagonia

Around the world: Natal for the second time

The stormy equator: Across the Atlantic again

The final leg: From Cape Verde homeward

Epilogue

## **Appendix**

In plain numbers: The record

Born to fly: Miguel Angel Gordillo

About building a record airplane: RV-8 by Van's Aircraft

Safety first: Survival equipment

Performance of a drama: Spanish Polar Committee

Money makes the world go round: Financing

List of all airports: ICAO abbreviations