
West with Night by Beryl Markham

1902-1986

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OBITUARY NOTICE

Born October 26, 1902, in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England; died following surgery for a broken leg sustained in a fall, August 3, 1986, in Nairobi, Kenya. Horse trainer, aviatrix, and author. Markham became famous as the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west. She was raised in Kenya, where she made her living as a free-lance commercial pilot and racehorse trainer until 1936. She then returned to her native England and undertook her historic flight, four years after Amelia Earhart's transatlantic flight from west to east. Departing from Abingdon Royal Air Force field in England, Markham flew her single-engine plane for twenty-one hours and twenty-five minutes before lack of fuel forced her to crash-land in a bog in Nova Scotia, Canada. Although her plane was heavily damaged, she escaped with minor injuries and was later honored with a ticker tape parade in New York City, her original destination. Markham then returned to Africa, where, as a professional horse trainer, she subsequently trained eight winners of the prestigious Kenya Derby. She wrote the memoir *West With the Night*. Though overlooked when it first appeared during World War II, Markham's unconventional story was reissued to great popular demand and critical acclaim in 1983.

OBITUARY AND OTHER SOURCES

BOOKS

- Current Biography, H. W. Wilson, 1942.
- Markham, Beryl, *West With the Night*, Houghton, 1942.

PERIODICALS

- Chicago Tribune, August 7, 1986.
- Los Angeles Times, August 6, 1986.
- Newsweek, August 18, 1986.
- New York Times, August 5, 1985.
- Time, August 18, 1986.
- Washington Post, August 6, 1986.

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