

Justin de Goutiere



Born: 1926
Majorca, Spain

Died: 1968

Family: Wife
5 sons

Pilot

B.C. Airlines

Author "The Pathless Way"

Justin Vernon de Goutiere was born in Majorca in 1926 to a French father and a Scottish mother, both of whom were born in India and raised in England. The whole family immigrated to British Columbia where Justin graduated from West Vancouver High School in 1944. Like many schoolboys, he made models of aircraft and it was this that first piqued his interest in flying.

From the age of 20, Justin had an eclectic mix of occupations. He raised turkeys at 20, supervised a naval shore installation construction at 21, and was a B.C. Provincial policeman at 22. It was at this time he had his first flying job in Quesnel British Columbia when he and a partner owned a Tiger Moth and an Aeronca Sedan for crop dusting. At 23 Justin drove a greyhound bus, at 24 he became a Royal Canadian Mountie and from 25 to 29 he owned a restaurant which he sold at a 700% profit.

After selling the restaurant in 1955, Justin was employed as a pilot by a coast construction firm. He flew 4,000 hours and gained an impressive knowledge of flying the B.C. coast during this period. In 1960, aged 34, he was employed by **B.C. Airlines**. Over the next six and a half years Justin flew another 7,000 hours and 1.3 million miles. In 1966 Justin was forced into early retirement due to illness. Two years later, he died leaving his wife, Anna, and 5 sons. He was just 42 years old.

Although Justin's time with BC Airlines was relatively short, his career with them was rich and varied. In 1964, when a major earthquake hit Alaska, Justin was based in Prince Rupert. Despite appalling weather, sometimes almost zero visibility, the damage done by the earthquake, and an infuriating customs agent in Juneau, he succeeded in transporting a reporter and photographer for CTV's Vancouver television station CHAN-

TV to the earthquake site. They provided the world with the first films of the earthquake's aftermath which broke coast to coast on Canadian and U.S. television late on Easter Sunday night.

Another of his tasks was transporting a whaler on an air search for whales. The whaler could then transmit the information to the ships below. On the one occasion he describes in his book, on a \$500 charter flight, they found 5 whales in the vicinity of the ships which the whaler judged to be worth about \$70,000.

Fascinating stories of Justin's experiences can be found in "The Pathless Way". In the last chapter 'Hangar Talk' are generous, affectionate and amusing accounts of other coastal pilots he has known and these have been used in several of the profiles in this project.

