



## BERNT BALCHEN

*Innovator/Aviator/Explorer (1899 - 1973)*

Balchen was an American aircraft engineer famous for modifying aircraft for polar travel. On Nov. 28-29, 1929, Balchen was the chief pilot of a crew of 4 men (including Richard E. Byrd) who became the first men to fly over the South Pole. Balchen was an expert in outdoor survival in cold climates, and many other pilots sought his advice for their own flights. Balchen modified the plane Byrd used for his North Pole expeditions, and also modified Amelia Earhart's plane for her transatlantic flight.

