



## ROLAND GARROS

*Aviator (1888 - 1918)*

Garros was a French pilot famous for making the first non-stop flight across the Mediterranean Sea from France to Tunisia in 1913. He was also a skilled fighter pilot during WWI. On April 1, 1915 Garros shot down an enemy German aircraft by firing a machine gun through his propeller without damaging the propeller; it was the first time a pilot had managed to do so. On April 18, 1915 Garros' plane was downed in enemy territory. Garros tried to destroy his aircraft but was taken prisoner before he could. It is rumored that Anton Fokker developed his interrupter gear system after examining Garros' propeller design on the captured plane.