

# UN-Qualified Innovators

## Orville Wright

Born 19<sup>th</sup> August 1871

Died 30<sup>th</sup> January 1948 (77 years)

He is credited with making the world's first powered flight, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1903, near Kitty Hawk North Carolina USA, in a plane he and his brother Wilbur designed and built. The plane flew 120 feet (37 meters) in 12 seconds.

Wright's occupation was that of a bicycle mechanic. He built and repaired bicycles.

What Wright did **NOT** have, was a **pilots license**, or **any qualifications**, in Aeronautical Engineering.

## Thomas Edison

Born 11<sup>th</sup> February 1847

Died 18<sup>th</sup> October 1931 (84 years)

He was an entrepreneur and an inventor. He CO-Founded General Electric. His innovations include the phonograph (1877), the incandescent light bulb (1878), the motion picture camera (1896), the first electricity-based broadcast system, the carbon microphone (1878) – used in telephones until the 1980's.

During his lifetime, Edison received 1093 U.S. Patents – for his ideas – plus many more in the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

What Edison did **NOT** have, was **any qualifications**, in ANYTHING.

Because:-

1. He was, to all intents and purposes, DEAF (L=0% & R=20%).
2. As a child he had received only **3 months formal** education.

His rescue was books. His mother Home Schooled him, and his father paid him **10c** for every serious book he completed. Between them, his parents created in him a voracious hunger for knowledge.

## Charles Darwin

Born 12<sup>th</sup> February 1809

Died 18<sup>th</sup> April 1882 (73 years)

Darwin was considered by others to be a Geologist, Biologist, Entomologist, Botanist, and Author. He studied as a medical student (two years), trained in taxidermy, and finally qualified as a Clergyman (never practiced).

Darwin stated himself to be a Naturalist – One who looked for answers in the natural world as opposed to the supernatural world.

What Darwin did **NOT** have, was **any qualifications**, in Anthropology.