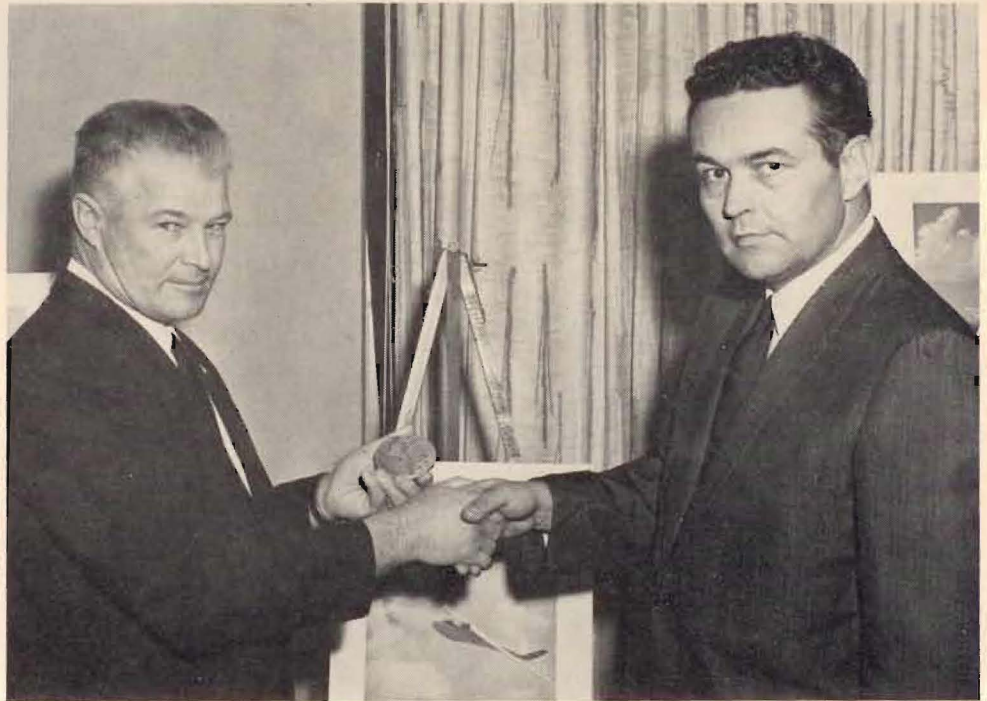


Photo by  
E. J. Reeves



## LILIENTHAL MEDAL AWARDED TO AL PARKER

The Lilienthal Medal, the world's highest soaring award, was presented to Mr. Alvin H. Parker on behalf of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale by John Ryan, President of the Soaring Society of America, in a ceremony at Dallas, Texas, on January 22, 1966. The medal, whose purpose is to commemorate a particularly remarkable sporting performance in gliding, was given to Mr. Parker in recognition of his flight, on July 31, 1964, from his home town, Odessa, Texas, to Kimball, Nebraska. The straight-line distance of 647.17 miles (1,041 km) established a new world record and surpassed the previous record by more than 100 miles. As the first soaring flight ever to exceed 1000 kilometers it attracted world-wide attention and universal admiration.

Al Parker was born in Irion County, Texas, in 1919. He lived in Midland, Texas, until he was 16, then moved with his family to Odessa. He graduated from high school in Odessa in 1937 and from Texas A&M, with a degree in Animal Husbandry, in 1941. Subsequently he spent three and a half years in the Army, three years of this in the First Armored Division. Al served as a Tank Platoon Leader and fought in the European Theater, in North Africa, in Southern Italy and at Anzio. He attained the rank of First Lieutenant and was awarded the Silver Star.

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The Lilienthal Medal is a perpetual award established by the F.A.I. in 1938 in honor of the great gliding pioneer and pilot Otto Lilienthal. The medal is made of silver and is seven and one-half centimeters in diameter. The obverse shows, in bas relief, two birds in flight being captured by a man; the reverse bears a wreath and the words "Federation Aeronautique Internationale" surrounding a blank space on which the year and name of the recipient is engraved. A Lilienthal Medal is struck each year and becomes the permanent property of the winner.

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### FAMOUS FIRST FLIGHTS

- ★ **Robert Kronfeld** made the first sailplane flight in excess of 100 kilometers soaring along the Teutoburgerwald range in N. W. Germany on May 15th, 1929.
- ★ **Arthur Martens**, flying the **Vampyr**, made the first flight in excess of 10 kilometers at the Wasserkuppe, in Germany, on August 25th, 1923.
- ★ **Wolfgang Klemperer** accomplished the first glider flight of more than a kilometer in his **Schwarzer Teufel** on September 4th, 1920, also at the Wasserkuppe.
- ★ **Otto Lilienthal** was the first man to fly 100 meters, a feat accomplished in one of his hang gliders during the year 1891.

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FRONTISPIECE: This photo by Alex Aldott of Al Parker in his Sisu over Odessa has been reprinted many times in many countries and has almost become a signature of Al's 1000-km flight.