

THE GRAND TOUR

PEDRO ZANNI'S ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT ATTEMPT, 1924 / PART ONE

100 years ago, in July 1924, Argentinian aviation pioneer Pedro Zanni and his mechanic Felipe Beltrame set off from Amsterdam in a Fokker C IV biplane with an ambitious plan to circumnavigate the globe by air. In the first half of a new two-part series, [RICARDO M. LEZON](#) details Zanni's preparations, including his fruitless negotiations with UK aircraft manufacturers

ON DECEMBER 7, 1922, following the conclusion of a long and meticulous study established earlier that year with the help of Argentina's *Oficina Metereologica Nacional* (National Meteorological Office), *Capitán* Pedro Leandro Zanni presented a proposition to the *Aero Club Argentino*, in which he laid out his plan to circumnavigate the globe by air.

Zanni's ambitious project envisaged a route of some 35,000km (21,800 miles) and was to start in Europe. The first section was originally planned to start in Rome and pass through Turkey, Iraq, Iran, north-western India and French Indochina. From Hanoi in the latter it was to continue north

Mayor Pedro Leandro Zanni beside Fokker C IV Ciudad de Buenos Aires, the landplane version in which he set off from Amsterdam on his circumnavigation attempt with mechanic Felipe Beltrame in July 1924. By the time he proposed the round-the-world flight in 1922, Zanni had set numerous speed, height and distance records in Argentina, as well as pioneering air mail routes, since 1914.

DIRECCIÓN ESTUDIOS HISTÓRICOS DE FUERZA AÉREA

