Vladimir Mikhailovich Komarov Encyclopedia Article

Vladimir Mikhailovich Komarov

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Vladimir Mikhailovich Komarov

1927-1967

Soviet engineer, pilot, and cosmonaut who was among the first to complete a mission in a spaceship built for more than one occupant. On October 12, 1964, Komarov, a veteran of World War II and one of the original 18 selected to train as cosmonauts, piloted the three-man spacecraft *Voskhod* around the earth 16 times. In 1967 Komarov became the first human fatality of space travel when, after a problematic one-day test flight aboard the *Soyuz-1,* the main parachute on his descent craft failed to open. A crater on the far side of the moon is named after him.