

MAGNIFICENT WOMEN:

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was an American aviation pioneer. She is most known for being the first female to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean. She disappeared over the Pacific Ocean during her attempt to fly around the world.



24 July 1897 – Disappeared 2 July 1937

Aviation Pioneer

Amelia was born in Kansas, and after leaving school quite early, she engaged in the Red Cross First Aid to become a nurse. She took aviation lessons as a hobby to start with and managed to buy her own plane in 1922.

- In 1928, she was the first female passenger on a transatlantic flight. She wrote a book about her experience later that year.
- Between 1931 and 1932, she was the first woman to fly an autogyro, and to do it across the United States.
- In 1932, she flew across the Atlantic Ocean. She was the first woman to do it solo. This is the most known fact of her life.
- Between 1933 and 1935, she made numerous “first” flights, across the US, coast to coast, but also from Hawaii to the US coast.
- She was the first woman to attempt a flight across the globe in 1937. Sadly her tour could not be completed, as with over 22,000 miles done she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean near Howland Island.

Amelia was been a prolific author about her successes and was a massive promoter of women in aviation throughout her career. She was one of the first people to encourage passenger airline services.

The world tour in 1937

Following a failed first attempt to fly around the world, she decided to take a second chance. She was paired with experience flyer Fred Noonan to do this world tour. The route is carefully planned, the plane, a Lockheed Electra 10E is specially made for the occasion.

The flight went well until they lost contact and the plane was declared lost at sea. An extensive 17 day search was undertaken only an hour after their last radio contact. Sadly nothing could be found and after the standard 7 years of wait she was declared dead in absentia. Many theories exist regarding the disappearance and that Amelia didn't really die in the crash. None of the theories have been proven so far.

Earhart's accomplishments in aviation inspired a generation of female aviators, including more than 1,000 women pilots of the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II

Further information

- www.ameliaearhart.com
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelia_Earhart
- www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org/

The Ninety-Nines

The Ninety-Nines is the international organisation of women pilots that promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honouring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight. They were founded in 1929 by 99 licensed women pilots and Amelia Earhart was their first president.

