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Elsie MacGill: Queen of the Hurricanes

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Elsie MacGill

Queen of the Hurricanes



Elizabeth Muriel Gregory MacGill

★ Vancouver - 1905
+ Cambridge - 1980

In 1927, Elsie graduated from the University of Toronto – the first Canadian woman to earn a degree in electrical engineering

A Prominent Feminist
Elsie believed in change via the reform of existing laws and policies, and strongly condemned discrimination against women in the field of engineering.

Canada's First Female Aircraft Designer and the Hurricane

From 1938 to 1943, Elsie worked as the chief aeronautical engineer at Canadian Car & Foundry Company. During the Second World War, she was largely responsible for the design and production of the Hawker Hurricane fighter planes. By war's end, Elsie oversaw the production of 1,471 planes.

Later Career & Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

After the war, Elsie served as the Canadian representative in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and started a very successful consulting company that focused on civilian aircraft.