1897 – (declared dead 5 January 1939)
Aviator | Writer | Activist

When Amelia Earhart was a girl, few women led adventurous lives or had exciting careers. Any that did were likely to end up in Amelia’s scrapbook, where she kept newspaper clippings of all the women who inspired her. Amelia was determined that one day she would be one of these adventurous women, but it wasn’t until she took her first flight in an aeroplane in 1920 that she knew how. She was going to fly. But flying was expensive.

Amelia worked hard and saved up money from her various jobs. She even borrowed money from her mother to pay for flying lessons, eventually buying her own yellow plane, The Canary.

Once she had her pilot’s licence, there was no stopping Amelia. She was the first woman to fly to an altitude of 14,000 feet (4,267 metres), the first woman to fly across the Atlantic, the first woman to fly coast to coast across the United States and the first woman to fly solo from Hawaii to the US mainland across the Pacific Ocean.

Amelia’s daring feats captured the imaginations of people all over the world – but she had one more epic journey that she wanted to make. Determined to be the first woman to fly around the world, on 1 June 1937 Amelia embarked on what would be the beginning of her last adventure. After a number of successful flights, Amelia took off in New Guinea on 2 July – never to be seen again.

One thing you can do: keep a scrapbook of people that inspire you and look for ways you can inspire others.