



blenheim partners

no limitations

Executive Search & Board Advisory

AMELIA EARHART



"Never interrupt someone doing what you said couldn't be done"

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was born 24 July 1897 in Atchison, Kansas to Amy Otis and Edwin Stanton Earhart. From her early childhood she had a great sense of adventure, she played games with her younger sister which involved imaginary journeys. She loved to read, and her favourite authors were Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, George Eliot and William Shakespeare. While she was in high school her mother moved her and her sister from Minnesota to Chicago when her father's alcoholism grew worse.

After Amelia attended Ogontz school in Rydal, Pennsylvania she moved to Toronto, where her sister was attending school. This is where she saw wounded veterans of World War I and consequently became a Red Cross volunteer. She worked in Spadina Military Hospital and came to know and ultimately admire the young fliers of the Royal Flying Corps. In 1918, she undertook a course in automobile repair, before being chosen to study medicine at Columbia University in 1919.

A year later she made the decision to join her parents in Los Angeles, as the aviation industry was beginning to take off in Southern California. Earhart was attracted to the air shows and flying demonstrations at the local airports and she had her first airplane ride from Glendale airport. Soon after she convinced her parents to help her take flying lessons with pioneering woman pilot, Neta Snook.

blenheim partners

In June 1921, Earhart made her first solo flight in a Kinner Airster. A year later she had saved two thousand dollars to purchase a three-cylinder Kinner Canary. In this plane she set a woman's altitude record of fourteen thousand feet. Unfortunately, flying was expensive and paid employment for women in aviation was scarce. In 1922, when her parents divorced, she sold her plane and returned to Massachusetts to teach English to immigrants. She also worked as a social worker at Denison House.

In 1928, Earhart was selected by publisher George P. Putman to fly with pilot Wilmer Stutz and mechanic Lou Gordon in a Fokker trimotor named "Friendship" to fly across the Atlantic. The flight was a success and she was given a hero's welcome when she returned to New York. Putnam produced the book "Twenty Hours Forty Minutes", which was Earhart's account of the flight, her observations on the role of women in aviation and the future of flying. In 1931, she then married Putman.

For the remainder of her life Earhart campaigned tirelessly for the cause of women in flying through participating in cross-country air races, flying an autogyro, and being a founder of the Ninety-Nine Club, an organisation of licensed women pilots. Her advice was sought by many airlines and airplane manufacturers, and she became a role model for young women throughout the country.

In 1935, Earhart became the first person to fly alone from Hawaii to California and the first to fly non-stop from Mexico City to Newark, New Jersey. The trustees of Purdue University purchased a twin-engine Lockheed Electra for her, and she then began planning a round the world flight. There were several false starts and minor accidents but finally on 1 June 1937 Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan took off from Miami, Florida. After a month they had flown across the Atlantic, Africa, and Southern Asia to Lae, New Guinea. The pair took off again on 2 July with the intention of landing and refuelling on tiny Howland Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, several hours later the Coast Guard cutter anchored off Howland Island heard a radio message from Earhart stating that she was lost and running low of fuel. Neither the plane nor the pilot or navigator were ever found.

Significance

Whilst Earhart did not complete her round the world flight, she had a great impact on the aviation industry and helped open many doors for future female pilots. Earhart showed that women had a place in fields that were generally restricted to men. In addition to her piloting accomplishments, Earhart was known for encouraging women to reject constrictive social norms and to pursue various opportunities, especially in the field of aviation. In 1929 she helped found an organisation of female pilots that later became known as the Ninety-Nines, where she served as its first president. In addition, in 1933, she debuted a functional clothing line, which was designed "for the woman who lives actively."

Earhart demonstrated enormous determination and perseverance, she never wavered her love and passion for flying when it became expensive or although it took multiple attempts to start a journey.

Blenheim Partners specialise in:

- Executive Search;
- Non-Executive Director Search;
- Board Strategy and Structure Consulting;
- External Succession Planning; and
- Executive Re-Engagement / Transition.

Founded in 2012, our team have acted as specialist adviser to many of the world's leading corporations on Board and Executive performance, capability and succession planning.

Our consultants have worked with clients from all sectors and a broad range of geographies. They include over 80 of the ASX 100, 10% of the FTSE 100, Private Equity, Multinational, Private Family and Mutually Owned Companies.

Our work includes assignments that are both local and international in scope.

Our team consists of senior Search Consultants, Human Resource Directors,

Psychologists, Coaches and exceptionally experienced Researchers.

Blenheim Partners is continually investing in knowledge and understanding as exemplified by our Thought Leadership "The Challenges of Attaining Growth", Industry Papers and monthly Market Intelligence reports.

Our philosophy is to develop deep and committed relationships with a select number of clients and help them deliver a superior performance by optimising the composition of their Board and Executive team.

Our culture is built on pride, professionalism, esprit de corps and client service.

Confidentiality

This report and the information contained in it are confidential and proprietary information belonging to Blenheim Partners. The report contains confidential and proprietary information based on data from public and private sources, including Blenheim Partners' proprietary database of information. The recipient will not use or disclose, or permit the use or disclosure of, this Report by any other person or for any other purpose. The information contained in this report is preliminary in nature and subject to verification by Blenheim Partners. Blenheim Partners does not guarantee its accuracy or completeness.



blenheim partners

no limitations

Executive Search & Board Advisory

Contact us

Sydney p +61 2 9253 0950

Melbourne p +61 3 9653 9510

w www.blenheimpartners.com