

Jean Batten - the Garbo of the skies

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Jean Batten

She was threatened by a sandstorm over Iraq, which sent her little moth into a dangerous spin from which she recovered with great difficulty and landed safely.

Jean Batten: the Garbo of the skies — book review

However, her poor old DH60, that had already done at least 100,000 miles, did not share her enthusiasm for riding roughshod over the forces of nature and its engine gave up over Karachi, where it was wrecked as she tried to land at the airfield. She proved to be a gifted pianist and a talented ballet dancer, and seemed set to follow the path that the rest of the population had hacked through. When she visited her place of birth, Rotorua, she was presented with a chief's feather cloak and awarded the title Hine-O-Te-Rangi 'Daughter of the Skies' by the Arawa tribe of the mighty Maori.

Jean Batten

She never failed to credit her mother with being the inspiration for her success, and it was to her mother that she sent the famous telegram that read; 'Darling we've done it. The Final Years The war spelled the effective end of her flying adventures. She was, apparently, also quite enthralled by the feats of other aviators of the time like the Australian, Bert Hinkler, and the British pilots, Alcock and Brown.

Jean Batten: The Garbo of the Skies by Ian Mackersey

The rescuers will be able to draw on a range of devices from artificial satellites to custom designed rescue machinery to help them in their work. Thus ended the saga of the courageous, skilful, beautiful and absolutely ruthless aviatrix from the edge of the British Empire. But her mother was not to be put off by what she must have considered trivial perils.

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A marker on a taxiway signifies the spot where she landed to complete her most famous of flights.

Jean Batten: The lonely life of the 'Garbo of the skies'

Mackersey nicely delves into the personality of Jean both in the short and long views. This record generated a lot of media interest, and Bleriot's photograph crossed the Indian Ocean to reach the town of Rotorua, New Zealand, where it was cut out of the newspaper and pinned above the cot of a little girl, born two months before the flight. A third had died in his infancy.

Jean Batten

Jean was now a pretty teenager who showed all signs of blossoming into the breathtakingly lovely woman she would later become.

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