



Marie Marvingt

1875 – 1963

French aviatrix is world's first female combat pilot

created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

“Fiancé of Danger” was her nickname. In 1910, she became the world's third licensed female pilot. During WW I, she served on the front lines as an infantryman after disguising herself and enlisting as a man in 1914. She then served as a nurse. Volunteering as a pilot in 1915, she became the world's first woman to fly combat missions. She was a war correspondent in North Africa. When she died at age 88, the pioneer aviator, journalist, screen writer, actress and world-class athlete in multiple sports was France's most decorated woman with more than 34 medals and awards. She was the first woman to climb most of the peaks in the French and Swiss Alps. The French Academy of Sports gave her a medal in 1910 "for all sports." She was the first balloon pilot to fly across the English Channel and North Sea. She had licenses to fly a balloon, monoplane, fixed-wing plane and helicopter. Her 1910 proposal to the French government for creating an air ambulance was rejected. A 1914 drawing (right) by Emile Friant depicts her concept. She lectured on four continents for creation of air ambulance service, and was a force behind the First International Congress on Medical Aviation in 1929. She received many awards for aviation medicine and established Morocco's civil air ambulance. At age 80, she flew in a two-seater U.S. Airforce combat jet. At 86, she bicycled more than 217 miles. She continued soaring to new heights.

