



**SUPPLY  
LINE**

## Nora Gibson and John “Jock” Elrick

Canadian Car and Foundry

Nora and Jock met while working together at a warplane factory. Women like Nora were important to the war effort, but most were laid off when the war ended.



Nora Gibson and Jock Elrick pose together on their wedding day in 1943.  
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### Life Before the War

Nora was born in 1922, into a large working-class family in Fort William, Ontario (now Thunder Bay). To help support her family, she left school early to work as a hairdresser. When the war economy took off, Nora quickly applied for a job in wartime production, at Canadian Car and Foundry (Can Car).

Jock was also from Fort William. He had been working at Can Car since 1937, when he was 17. Diagnosed with a heart murmur, he was not eligible for military service, so he remained in war production throughout the war.

## Can Car Couple

Nora spent six months in training before starting to work at the plant where she joined Jock's crew installing rivets in aircraft. She was one of the first women to work at Can Car. Soon, however, she would be joined by thousands more, as the plant began producing military aircraft.

The planes built at Can Car included the Hawker Hurricane. Production of the Hurricane was overseen by Chief Engineer Elsie MacGill – the world's first woman aircraft designer.

Jock did not know Nora before she came to work at Can Car, although he did know her family. Nora and Jock began a courtship and were married in 1943.

Nora left the plant for a few months after their wedding, but soon returned, as she missed the job. Because they were now married, Jock could no longer be Nora's supervisor, so she transferred to the electrical department. She worked at the plant until early 1945.

Nora left her job at Can Car in the spring of 1945, to give birth to the couple's first child. She would have not worked there much longer, in any case. Later that year, Can Car laid off the thousands of women they had hired during the war years.

## Postwar Life

Although Nora had enjoyed her war work, she did not return to the paid workforce until her children were older. Jock kept his job at Can Car, remaining with the firm until 1962.

They were married until Nora's death in 2008, at age 86. Jock died in 2012.