



**SUPPLY  
LINE**

## Lorida Landry Langlois

Bomb Inspector, Singer Manufacturing Company

Although she began her career as a seamstress, when Lorida joined the Singer Manufacturing Company at the age of 21, it was to help build bombs.



Snapshot of Lorida Landry Langlois.  
Canadian Museum of History  
IMG2015-0235-0001-Dm

### Life Before the War

Lorida was born in 1920 into a French-Canadian family in rural Quebec. She had a strict Catholic upbringing, and while she earned money taking in sewing piecework – she was a skilled seamstress – her very traditional father would not allow her to work outside the home.

The circumstances of war, along with her age, gave her the opportunity to step outside this restrictive environment and obtain some independence for this first time in her life.

## New Opportunities for Women

Lorida began working at the Singer Manufacturing Company in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, in 1941. Her first job at the plant was doing office work, but as the war dragged on, the company shifted production from sewing machines to focus on **munitions**.

Singer soon brought more women into the workforce. Lorida transferred to munitions and began working as a bomb-detonator inspector.

Her job involved checking detonator needles and making sure that the caps on bombs screwed on and off properly. It was dangerous, and moved at a much faster pace than secretarial work. On the other hand, the pay was better. Lorida was happy to make a decent, steady paycheck for the first time.

Her life as a munitions worker was short-lived. While working at Singer, she met a co-worker named Elphège Langlois. Elphège was about ten years older than Lorida, and had been working at Singer since the age of 15.

He was also a part-time magician, and travelled around doing magic shows. He was a dapper and charming man, and Lorida was smitten. They were married in 1943.

The marriage put an end to Lorida's career. Singer company regulations did not allow married women to work for them. Lorida became a homemaker, while Elphège continued to work at the plant.

## Memories of the War

After the war, Lorida and Elphège had three children. He continued to work at the Singer company, retiring in 1975 after almost 50 years with the firm.

Lorida kept souvenirs of her time at Singer her whole life, including a set of candlesticks Elphège had made out of shell casings. These are now in the collection of the Canadian Museum of History. Lorida and Elphège were married until his death in 1982.

## Vocabulaire

### Munitions

military materials used in wartime or for warlike activities, especially weapons and the ammunition they fire.