

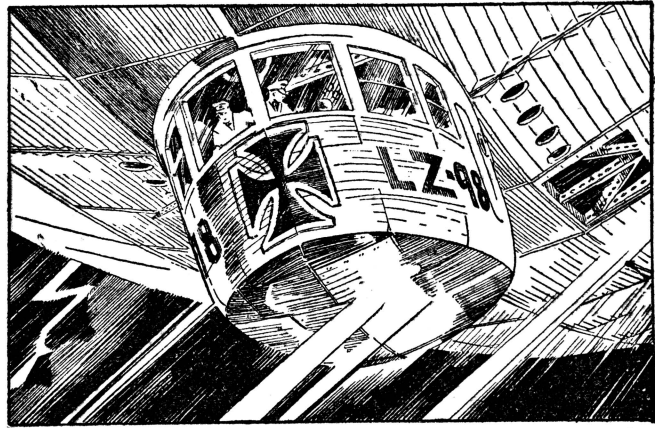
They Had What It Takes

IX—CAPT. ERNST LEHMANN—THE ZEPPELIN ACE

By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



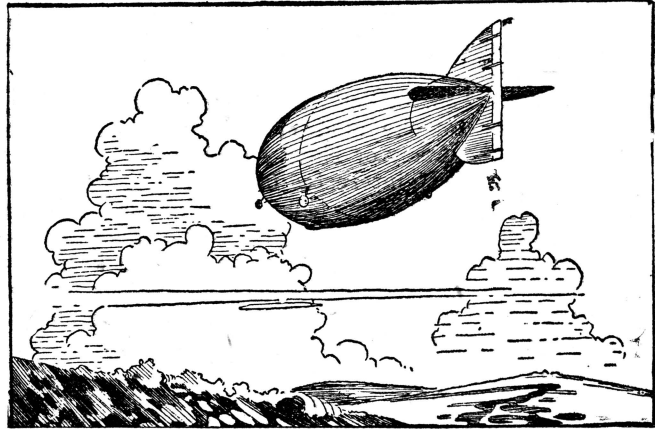
1—A chemist's son, Ernst A. Lehmann was born at Ludwigshafen in 1887. As a youth, he studied naval construction and served with the German fleet. Then the lighter-than-air sciences attracted him, and in 1911 he won an appointment to Count Zeppelin's staff. Lehmann's commercial dirigible, the *Sachsen*, was quickly commissioned when the War broke out.



2—During the dark years that followed, the young commander flew various Zeppelins over both the Russian and Western fronts. As a raider, he bombed London twice, Antwerp once. His closest scrape with Death occurred over the British capital in the LZ-98. It was only a miracle that the ship escaped, for A-A and M.G. fire virtually reduced the craft to a sieve.



3—Captain Lehmann also won credit for several dirigible developments, his most famous device being the observation cable car dropped below Zeppelins to direct the bombing. After the War, the Captain became associated with Dr. Hugo Eckener, and from 1923 to 1927 he was employed in this country by the Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation at Akron, Ohio.



4—On his return to Germany, Lehmann was made assistant director of the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshafen, and when the *Graf Zeppelin* made her initial flight to the United States in October 1928, he was in the control car as first officer. Later, he added to his impressive record by captaining the *Graf* on numerous trans-oceanic commercial flights.



5—Then in 1936 Lehmann was named commander of the newly-commissioned *Hindenburg*. This Titan of the skies was, roughly, his hundredth ship—and tragically it was destined to be his last. When the ill-fated dirigible burned at Lakehurst on May 6th, the veteran officer fought his way from the flaming wreckage, but two days later he died of his injuries.



6—Skilled by more than 1500 Zeppelin flights, Capt. Ernst A. Lehmann was one of the few real dirigible experts of the world. To this pioneer went numerous honors, among them the German Military Cross. Truly, Lehmann's courage was of the highest. He exhibited it to the last, and in his death, lighter-than-air aviation suffered a crushing blow.