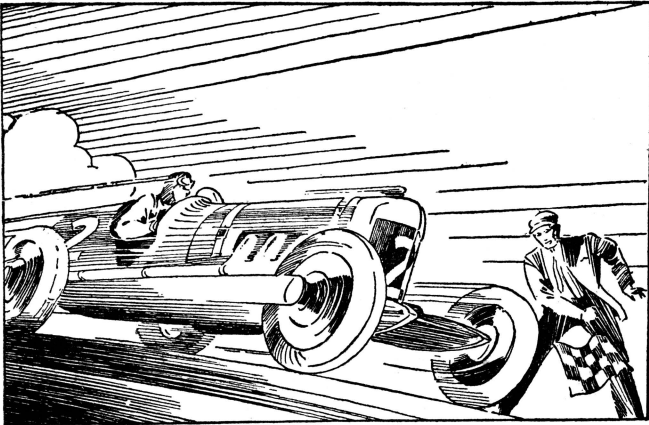


# They Had What It Takes

## XIV—EDDIE RICKENBACKER—OUR ACE OF ACES

By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



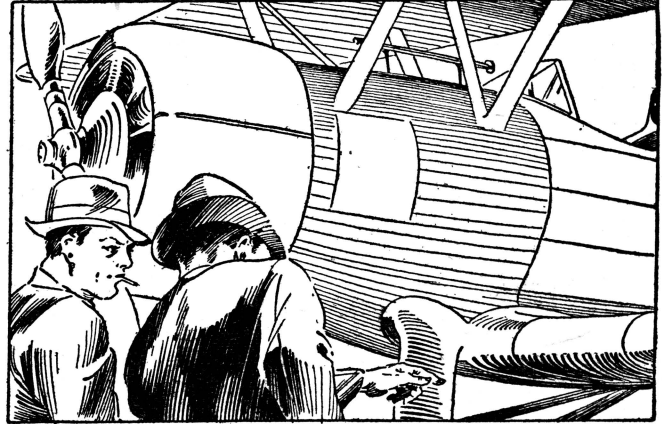
1—Born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1890, Edward Vernon Rickenbacker quickly developed an interest in mechanics. After taking correspondence courses in engineering, he received auto training with the Frayer-Miller Car Company; then from 1910 to 1917 he led a daredevil life as a racing driver. He had just contracted to compete in England when the War broke out.



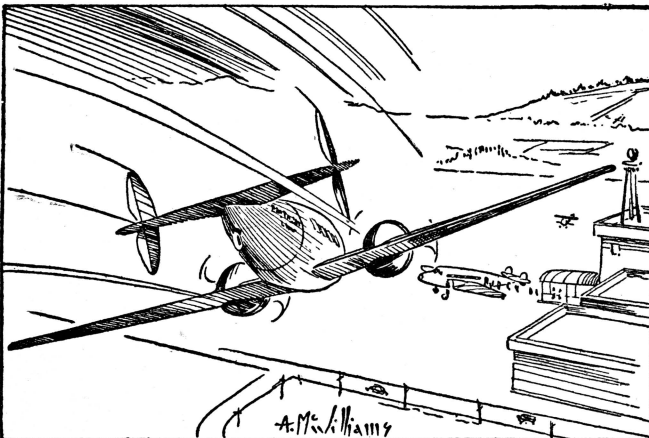
2—Enlisting immediately, Eddie forthwith was made a sergeant and was assigned as one of Pershing's chauffeurs. Soon, however, he transferred to the Air Corps at Tours, and from there he went to Issoudon with the rank of Lieutenant. Then as Captain commanding the 94th Squadron, he repeatedly led his flyers in successful sky sorties against the crack German *Staffels*.



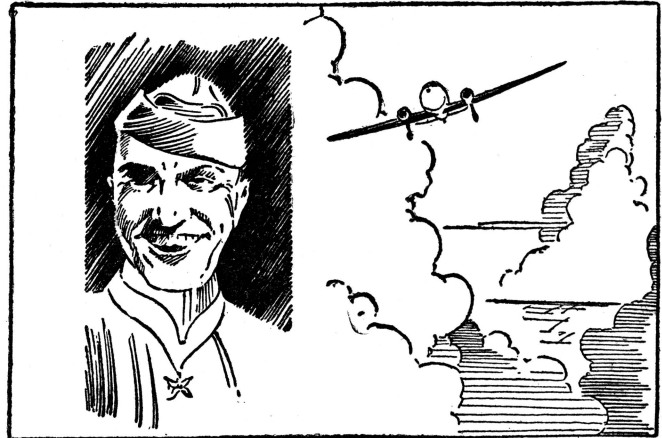
3—The War ended with Rick famed as our leading Ace—for he was officially credited with 25 victories! Returning home, the great airman wrote that dramatic book, *Fighting the Flying Circus*. Next, he produced the Rickenbacker motor car; and the fact that he used the 94th's Hat-In-The-Ring insignia for a trade-mark proved that aviation was still in his heart.



4—Later he went over with the Cadillac company, where he was put in charge of the La Salle Division. By this time, though, Eddie could not repress his old yen for the air any longer. And so it was that he left the automotive industry and went back into aeronautics, first becoming associated with the General Aviation Manufacturing Corporation as Vice President.



5—Then, in 1932, the renowned Ace switched over to the air transport field when he joined American Airways as Vice President. He continued in this capacity until 1935 when he went with Eastern Air Lines, operator of the celebrated 80-minute New York-Washington passenger service, as General Manager. It is this position which Eddie Rickenbacker now holds.



6—Distinguished as our outstanding War Ace, Rickenbacker has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and the D.S.C. with nine Oak Leaves. Moreover, France has bestowed upon him the Croix de Guerre with four Palms and has named him to her Legion of Honor. His fame deservedly lives on—and he still "flies in the fore" as one of our top-rank aero leaders.