





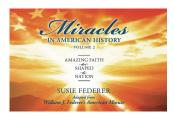
American Minute with Bill Federer Eddie Rickenbacker-"Fighting the Flying Circus" & "Seven Came Through" - "Thank God I have contributed my best to the land that contributed so much to me"

Read American Minute

He began his career as an auto racer, gaining international fame by competing in the Indianapolis 500 four times, earning the nickname "Fast Eddie" ... continue reading American Minute ...

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Miracles in American History-Volume TWO: Amazing Faith that Shaped the **Nation**

When World War I started, he was sent to France in 1917, becoming the personal chauffeur driver of General John J. Pershing.



His name was **Edward** Vernon "Eddie"

Rickenbacker, born OCTOBER 8, 1890.

During the First World War, **Germany's Red Baron** was dominating the skies.

Eddie Rickenbacker

requested that he be

transferred to the air service where he eventually became commanding officer of the **94th Aero Pursuit Squadron**, with its famous **"Hat-in-the-Ring" insignia**.

His squadron was responsible for destroying 69 enemy aircraft, the highest number shot down by any American squadron.

Flying over 300 combat hours, **Eddie Rickenbacker** personally shot down 26 enemy aircraft.

He was awarded the **Medal of Honor** by President Herbert Hoover in 1931.

Eddie Rickenbacker wrote his World War I experiences in the book, *Fighting the Flying Circus,* 1919, such as one story:

"... three-quarters of an hour of gasoline remained ... and no compass.

Then I thought of the north star! Glory be! There she shines! I had been going west instead of south ...



Keeping the star behind my rudder I flew south for fifteen minutes, then ... found myself above ... the River Meuse ... picked up our faithful searchlight and ten minutes later

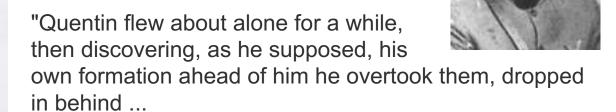
I landed ...

As I walked across the field to my bed I looked up ... and repeated most fervently, 'Thank God!'"



DVD Miracles in American History - Amazing Stories of Answered Prayer in Past National Crises

Eddie Rickenbacker wrote of the courage of fellow pilot Lt. Quentin Roosevelt, the son of President Theodore Roosevelt:



To his horror he discovered that he had been following an enemy patrol all the time! Every machine ahead of him wore a huge black maltese cross on its wings and tail! ...

Quentin fired one long burst ...

The aeroplane immediately preceding him dropped at once and within a second or two burst into flames.

Quentin put down his nose and streaked it for home before the astonished Huns had time to notice what had happened."

Quentin was shot down in a dogfight, July 14, 1918, as **Rickenbacker** wrote:

"Quentin Roosevelt's death was a sad blow to the whole group."

In recounting barely escaping death himself, Eddie

Rickenbacker wrote:

"I want to make it clear that this escape and the others were not the result of any super ability or knowledge on my part. I wouldn't be alive today if I had to depend on that.

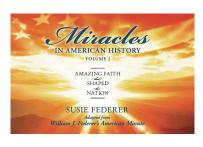
I realized then, as I headed for France on one wing, that there had to be something else.

... I had seen others die, brighter and more able than I. I knew there was a power. I believe in calling upon it for aid and for guidance.

I am not such an egotist as to believe that God has spared me because I am I.

I believe there is work for me to do and that I am spared to do it, just as you are."



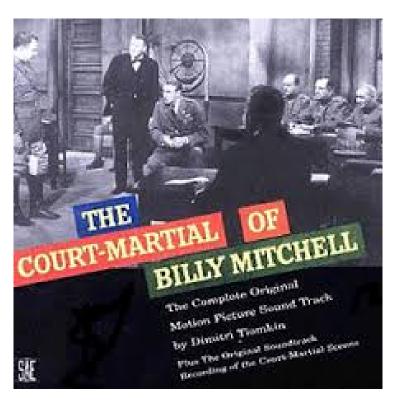


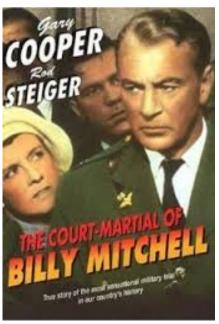
Miracles in American History-Volume
TWO: Amazing Faith that Shaped
the Nation

After World War I, **Eddie Rickenbacker** started an automobile company - the **Rickenbacker Motor**

Company, including technological innovations such as the first four-wheel brake system.

In 1925, in a highly publicized case, Eddie Rickenbacker supported General Billy Mitchell, who was court-martial for criticizing the military's failure to upgrade their airplanes.





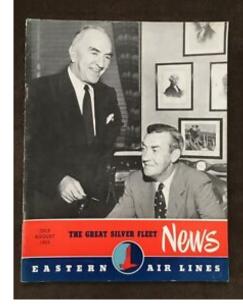
Gary Cooper starred in a 1955 movie distributed by Warner Brothers titled "The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell."

In 1927, **Rickenbacker** became owner of the **Indianapolis Speedway**, renown for its annual 500 mile auto race.

Eddie Rickenbacker worked for Eastern Airlines, and eventually bought it.

He had Eastern Airlines publish a company newspaper called Great Silver Fleet News. In it, under the column title
"Captain Eddie says," he
espoused old-fashioned values,
such as:

"If you cannot afford it, do without it. If you cannot pay cash for it, wait until you can; but do not in any circumstances permit yourself to mortgage your future and that of your family



through time payment plans or other devices";

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift";

"None of us here is doing so much work that he cannot do more."

He **opposed** President Franklin Roosevelt's **New Deal policies** as creating a "socialized welfare state," which drew criticism from the liberal media.

Roosevelt's administration even ordered NBC Radio not to broadcast Rickenbacker's remarks.

Rickenbacker gave an hour-long speech at the Chicago Economic Club, April 1961. titled "Conservatives Must Face Up to Liberalism," which was reprinted by the thousands as a pamphlet. In it, he stated that America's Founding Fathers were:

"... liberals in the true freedom-loving sense of the word ... In their zeal for liberty they feared the powers of government ... Government is like fire: a dangerous servant and a fearful master ... (It needs) limits, checks, balances, and control ..."

He continued:

"By some queer twist of language, the modern liberals are those who ceaselessly strive to pile up the power of government ... They systematically depleted the most precious resource in this nation's inheritance, namely, American freedom ..."

Rickenbacker added:

"Freedom is not a physical object. It is a spiritual and a moral environment ...

The evil of liberalism is its emphasis on material things and its disdain for the spiritual and moral resources that we call liberty.

The liberal would sweep aside the constitutional restraints upon government in a blind rush to supply food, clothes, houses and financial security from birth to death, from the cradle to the grave for everybody ..."

Rickenbacker explained that liberals view people collectively, while

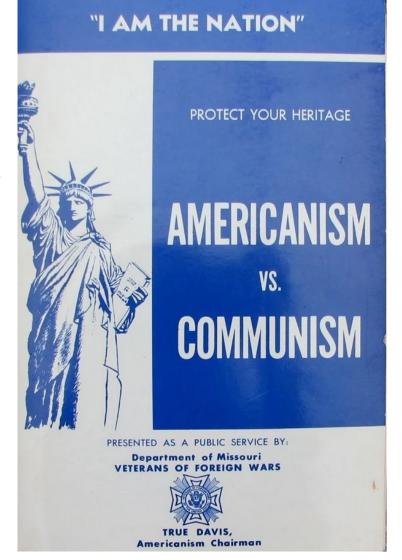
"... the conservative knows that to regard man of a part of an undifferentiated mass is to consign him to ultimate slavery."

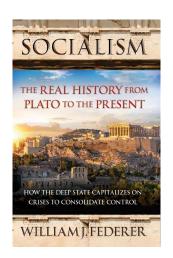
He told the **Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce** in 1949 that America "is rushing toward the welfare state—Socialism—unless some superhuman effort is made to head off disaster."

In his address titled "Americanism versus Communism," November 1, 1971,

Rickenbacker warned:

"A government that is large enough to give you all you want is large enough to take all you own first."





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presentations of: SOCIALISM - The Real
History from Plato to the Present: How
the Deep State Capitalizes on Crises to
Consolidate Control

In 1942, **Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson** asked **Rickenbacker** to go on a special mission to the **Pacific** to inspect the military bases.

Flying from
Hawaii to New
Guinea to meet
with General
Douglas

MacArthur, the plane's inadequate navigational equipment resulted in them being hundreds of miles off-course.



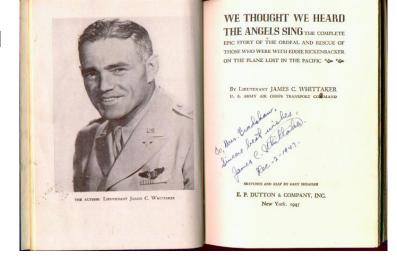
Out of fuel, the plane ditched in the ocean, October 21, 1942.

For 24 days, in almost hopeless conditions, **Eddie Rickenbacker** and **seven others** drifted aimlessly on the open sea.

Lt. James
Whittaker
described in his
book, We Thought
We Heard The
Angels Sing
(1943), that they
shivered wet all



night but baked in the burning sun all day, and fought off sharks:

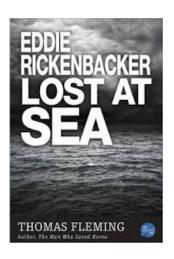


... Those giant swells hadn't looked so bad from high in the air, but down among them they were mountainous

Rick maintained with a perfectly straight face that he was not in the least upset ...



A swift movement beside our raft caught my eye and I turned. .. The water about the raft fleet was alive with the triangular, dorsal fins of sharks ..."



The crew would have given up had not 52-year-old **Eddie Rickenbacker**, the **oldest person on the raft**, continued to encourage them.

Lt. James Whittaker wrote:

"Col. James C. Adamson ... suddenly raised himself over the side of the raft and slid into the water. Quick as a flash, **Rick** had him.

We hurriedly pulled the rafts in close and helped push the Colonel back into his boat ... **Rick** took over.

I will not put down all the things he said. They would scorch this paper. But from then on, woe betide the man who appeared about to turn quitter ...

That man **Rickenbacker** has got a rough tongue in his head."

Lt. James Whittaker continued:

"At length Private Johnny Bartek got out his **Testament** and by common consent we pulled the rafts together for a prayer meeting.



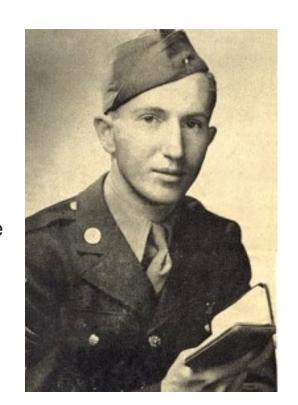
We said the Lord's prayer ...

... I didn't have the least notion that this open-air hallelujah meeting was going to do any good ...

I observed that **Rick** seemed to encourage the suggestion and appeared inclined to take part ...

Col. Adamson was reading from the Testament.

Suddenly Cherry stopped



him. 'What was that last, Colonel?' he demanded. 'Where is that from?'

'It is from the Gospel According to Matthew,' Col. Adamson replied. 'Do you like it?'

'It's the best thing I've heard yet. Read it again, Colonel.'

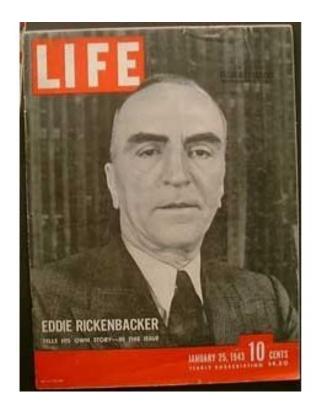
Col. Adamson then read from the 31st through the 34th verses of the sixth chapter of Matthew:

'Therefore, take ye no thought, saying: What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For these are things the heathen seeketh. For your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Lt. James Whittaker continued:

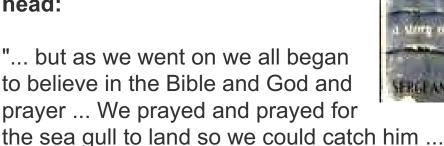
"I was somewhat impressed and said so. Then I was a little surprised at myself and added that the evil certainly had been sufficient unto the last two or three days ...



I thought of these words during the wet, dreary night that

followed. I dismissed them finally with the decision I would believe when I saw the food and drink. I was destined to see something startlingly like proof the following night."

Flight Engineer Private Johnny Bartek of Freehold, N.J., wrote in his book, *Life Out There* (1943) that on the 8th day, after reading from the Bible, Matthew 6:31-34, a sea gull landed on Rickenbacker's head:



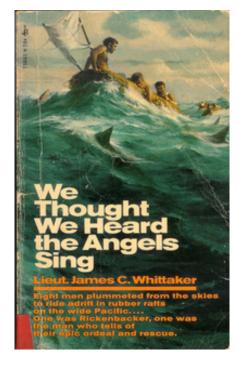
After reading the passage, about twenty minutes later, that's when the sea gull landed on **Eddie Rickenbacker's head."**

Rickenbacker caught it and they used it for food and fish bait, with a fishhook made from a bent key ring.



story of faith and course it

GEANT JOHNNY BARRES



Succumbing to exposure and dehydration, **Lt. James Whittaker** wrote further in *We Thought We Heard The Angels*Sing (1943):

"We said the Lord's prayer again ...

While we rolled and wallowed over the crests and into the troughs I was thinking that this was God's chance to make a believer of Jim Whittaker ...

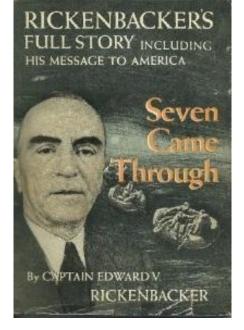
Eventually I became aware something was tugging insistently at my consciousness. I looked over to the left. A cloud that had been fleecy and white a while ago now was darkening by the second.

While I watched, a bluish curtain unrolled from the cloud to the sea. It was rain - and moving toward us! Now everyone saw the downpour, sweeping across the ocean and speckling the waves with giant drops.

'Here she is!' Cherry shouted. 'Thanks, Old Master!' Another minute and we were being deluged by sheets of cold water that splashed into our parched mouths and sluiced the caked salt off our burned and stinging bodies. We cupped our hands to guide the life-giving rivulets down our throats ...

We soaked and wrung out our shirts until all the salt was washed out of them. Then we saturated them again and wrung the water into our mouths."

Eddie Rickenbacker described their survival in his book, *Seven Came Through* (1943).



Regarding America, **Eddie Rickenbacker** wrote:

"I pray to God every night of my life to be given the strength and power to continue my efforts to inspire in others the interest, the obligation and the responsibilities that we owe to this land for the sake of future generations - for my boys and girls - so that we can always look back when the

candle of life burns low and say,

'Thank God I have contributed my best to the land that contributed so much to me.'"

Rickenbacker gave generously to:

Army Air Forces
Aid Society,
Children's Village
of Dobbs Ferry,
Boys Athletic
League, Big
Brothers,
Gramercy Boys



Club, Boys Club of New York, Madison Square Boys Club, Boys Club of America, and the Boy Scouts of America, as it emphasized "duty to God & Country" and being "morally straight."

He donated his **Bear Creek Ranch** in Texas to the Boy Scouts in 1957.



Eddie Rickenbacker had confided:

"It was clear to me that God had a purpose in keeping me alive ... I had been saved to serve."

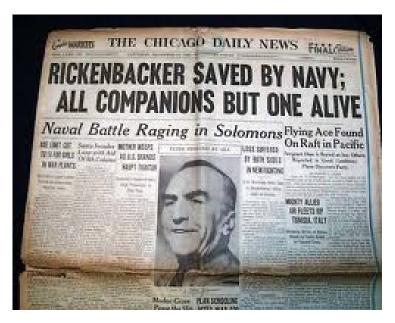
GOVERNMENT NOTES

Death-Rate of Aviators. Figures recently made public by the war department show that the danger incurred by aviators is three times as great as that incurred by the fighting forces generally. During the war there were 236 American aviators killed in fight while 296 were killed in accidents. In the table of deaths per 1000 of overseas officers the rate for flying officers is 123, while for all others it is 22.

THE PATHFINDER-

march 20, 1920: p. 25

OldMagazineArticles.com



Columnist Ray Tucker wrote:

"Rickenbacker has become an evangelist without knowing it. There is an unworldly gleam in his eyes and a quaver in his voice these days."

In 1943,
Rickenbacker
wrote an article
titled "When a
Man Faces
Death," published
in The American
Magazine, stating:

"The easiest thing in the world is to die. The hardest is to live."



In 1945, 20th Century Fox produced film starring Fred MacMurray as "Captain Eddie."

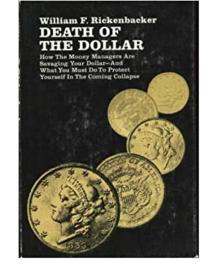


Eddie Rickenbacker died July 23, 1973.

Jimmy Dolittle, of the famous Dolittle's Raiders, spoke at his memorial service at **Key Biscayne Presbyterian** Church.

William F. Rickenbacker, one of Captain Eddie's two sons, entered the Air Force in 1951, being sworn by his father, and flew in the Korean War.

William later became a conservative writer and joined the staff of William F. Buckley's *National Review*.



William F. Rickenbacker wrote in an obituary of his father.

"Among his robust certainties were his **faith in God**, his **unswerving patriotism**, his acceptance of life's hazards and pains, and his trust in persistent hard work.

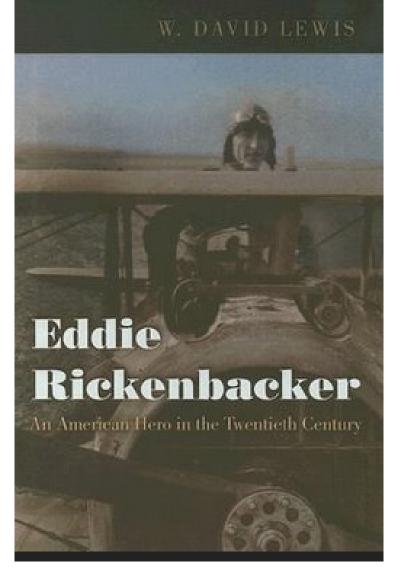
No scorn could match the scorn he had for men who settled for half-measures, uttered half-truths, straddled the issues, or admitted the idea of failure or defeat.

If he had a motto, it must have been the phrase I've heard a thousand times: 'I'll fight like a wildcat!"

In the book Eddie Rickenbacker-An American Hero in the Twentieth Century
(Baltimore, MD: The John Hopkins University Press, 2005), author W. David Lewis described responses to Rickenbacker's national radio broadcasts, such

as a letter from listeners in California:

"We listened to your radio broadcasts and now we know why you were saved, as we have needed someone in this good country of our who was not afraid to speak their convictions ...



... The history of our country shows that in every crisis God has always produced a man strong enough for the time and we feel strongly that you were the man for this time."

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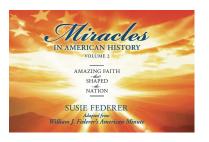


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Eddie Rickenbacker's story is in Miracles in American History-Volume TWO: Amazing Faith that **Shaped the Nation**



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