

What Happened Next?

- The United States awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, to Eddie Rickenbacker for his 26 victories over German warplanes during World War I.
- Eddie Rickenbacker drove in the first Indianapolis 500 Mile Race in 1911. In 1927, he bought the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for \$700,000. During the twenty years that he owned it, he helped to make it the famous racecourse that it is today.
- In 1938, Eddie purchased Eastern Air Lines and remained Chairman of the Board until the company merged with Trans World Airlines in 1963.
- In 1942, while on a secret mission for the government, the plane carrying Eddie and several others crashed into the Pacific Ocean. They were lost at sea for 24 days before the Navy rescued them.
- Eddie Rickenbacker was the father of two sons, David and William.