

# **Eddie Rickenbacker Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Eddie Rickenbacker Papers

**Span Dates:** 1915-1973

**ID No.:** MSS37812

**Creator:** Rickenbacker, Eddie (Edward Vernon), 1890-1973

**Extent:** 36,000 items ; 131 containers ; 52.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Repository:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Abstract:** Army officer and aviator. Correspondence, speeches, writings, notes, newspaper clippings, printed material, and other papers concerning Rickenbacker's career as an aviator and army officer, chairman of the board of Eastern Air Lines, and advocate of conservative causes.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Rickenbacker, Eddie, 1890-1973.

Rickenbacker, Eddie, 1890-1973. Rickenbacker. 1967.

### Organizations

America First Committee.

Committee for the Monroe Doctrine.

Committee of One Million Against the Admission of Communist China to the United Nations.

Conservative Party of New York State.

Eastern Air Lines, inc.

John Birch Society.

### Subjects

Aeronautics, Commercial--United States.

Aeronautics.

Conservatism--United States.

World War, 1914-1918--Aerial operations, American.

### Places

United States--Politics and government--20th century.

### Titles

*Manion forum (Radio program)*

### Occupations

Army officers.

Aviators.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Eddie Rickenbacker, army officer and aviator, were given to the Library of Congress by Rickenbacker's estate in 1973 and 1974.

### Processing History

The Rickenbacker Papers were processed in 1974. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

## Transfers

Sound recordings and films have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture and Broadcast Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Eddie Rickenbacker is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The Rickenbacker Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Eddie Rickenbacker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1890, Oct. 8	Born, Columbus, Ohio
1917-1918	Enlisted in the army, joined the 94th Aero Squadron in France and became commander
1922	Married Adelaide F. Durant
1925	Defense witness in court-martial of Billy Mitchell Started the Rickenbacker Motor Co.
1927	Purchased the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis, Ind.
1935-1963	General manager, then vice president, and from 1954 to 1963, chairman of the Board of Eastern Air Lines
circa 1940	Joined America First Committee in opposition to American entry into World War II
1942-1943	As a civilian, reviewed military morale and technical issues at American installations in Europe and Asia and made fact-finding trips around the world, including the Soviet Union
1948	Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor
1973, July 27	Died, Zurich, Switzerland

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Eddie Vernon Rickenacker (1890-1973) span the years 1915-1973. The collection consists of correspondence, speeches, writings, notes, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other papers chiefly concerning Rickenbacker's career as an aviator and army officer in World War I, chairman of the board of Eastern Air Lines, and civic and political activities, especially after 1960. The papers document his political views and affiliations, including on behalf of conservative causes such as the America First Committee, Committee of One Million Against the Admission of Communist China to the United Nations, Committee for the Monroe Doctrine, the radio program "Manion Forum,"

Conservative Party of New York State, and the John Birch Society. Included also are drafts and related material pertaining to his autobiography, *Rickenbacker* (1967), and transcriptions of audiotapes made in its preparation. The correspondence is primarily from 1960 to 1973.

The papers are organized into seven series: [Correspondence File I](#), [Speech File I](#), [Book File](#), [Miscellany I](#), [Correspondence File II](#), [Speech File II](#), and [Miscellany II](#).

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Correspondence File I, 1915-1968](#)
- [Speech File I, 1930-1970](#)
- [Book File](#)
- [Miscellany I, 1915-1973](#)
- [Correspondence File II, 1940-1973](#)
- [Speech File II, 1922-1928](#)
- [Miscellany II, 1913-1972](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-67	<b><u>Correspondence File I, 1915-1968</u></b> Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, subject, or topic within chronological spans.
BOX 67-75	<b><u>Speech File I, 1930-1970</u></b> Speeches and speech material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 75-97	<b><u>Book File</u></b> Notes, drafts, transcripts of interviews, pages proofs, galleys, photographs, and other material relating to the publication of Rickenbacker's autobiography and other works, including <i>Fighting the Flying Circus</i> . Arranged by title of work or type of material
BOX 98-107	<b><u>Miscellany I, 1915-1973</u></b> Notes, movie scripts, printed matter, albums, birthday greetings, and other miscellaneous material. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 108-127	<b><u>Correspondence File II, 1940-1973</u></b> Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, subject, or topic within chronological spans.
BOX 127	<b><u>Speech File II, 1922-1928</u></b> Speeches and related material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 128-131	<b><u>Miscellany II, 1913-1972</u></b> Magazine articles, clippings, programs and announcements, and papers of his son, William F. Rickenbacker.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-67</b>	<b>Correspondence File I, 1915-1968</b> Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, subject, or topic within chronological spans.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1915-1961 “A” miscellaneous American Automobile Association Americanism essay contest Air Force Aid Society “A-M” miscellaneous “N-Z” miscellaneous
<b>BOX 2</b>	Davidson, H. Jones, A. E. Thom, Corcoran, Jr. Reports
<b>BOX 3</b>	Reports
<b>BOX 4</b>	Air Force Museum General World War I pilots reunions “B” miscellaneous
<b>BOX 5</b>	Big Brother Movement Birthday greetings 1940 1950-1961 1945-1959 Boy Scouts of America Boys Clubs of America Broadcasts by others Broadcasts 1945-1946 1949-1952 Longines-Wittnauer Broadcasts
<b>BOX 7</b>	Broadcasts, 1933-1948
<b>BOX 8</b>	Broadcasts-Air Travel Club Broadcasts regarding Rickenbacker 1953-1961 1948-1952 1944-1947 1943, Mar.-Dec. 1935-1943, Feb.
<b>BOX 9</b>	“C” miscellaneous

## Correspondence File I, 1915-1968

### Container

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	Christmas letters
	<i>Captain Eddie</i> movie
BOX 10	Christmas letters, comments
	Clubs and lodges
BOX 11	Club memberships
	Clubs, Bohemian
	Congratulatory letters
	Congressional Medal Award
	Contributions
BOX 12	Crusade for Freedom
	“D” miscellaneous
	Degrees received
	“E” miscellaneous
BOX 13	Eastern Air Lines management change
	25th Anniversary of Eastern Air Lines
	“F” miscellaneous
BOX 14	“F” miscellaneous
	50th anniversary of powered flight <i>Forbes</i> magazine award
	Forewords by Rickenbacker
	“G” miscellaneous
BOX 15	<i>Guideposts</i>
	“H” miscellaneous
	“Hat-in-the-ring”
BOX 16	High school victory corps
	Hoover Commission
	“I” miscellaneous
	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
	Invitations and new devices
	Invitations accepted
	1960-1961
	circa 1940-1959
	A-C
BOX 17	D-N
	O-Z
	Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y.
	“J” miscellaneous
	Junior achievement
BOX 18	“K” miscellaneous
	“L” miscellaneous
	Labor
	A-C
BOX 19	D-Ma
	Mc-R
	S-Z
	“M” miscellaneous
BOX 20	“M” miscellaneous

## Correspondence File I, 1915-1968

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	“Mc” miscellaneous
	Magazine articles, comments
	Mitchell, Billy
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BOX 21	National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
	National Air Council
	Newspaper articles
	“O” miscellaneous
	Organizations sponsored by Rickenbacker
	“P” miscellaneous
BOX 22	People-to-People Partnership
	Poems about Rickenbacker
	Presidential candidate
	“Q” miscellaneous
	“R” miscellaneous
BOX 23	Racing data
	Resolutions
	Richards, G. A.
	Rickenbacker Motor Co.
	Rogers (Will) Memorial
	“S” miscellaneous
BOX 24	“S” miscellaneous
	Speeches, miscellaneous
	Speech material not used
BOX 25	Speeches, reaction to
	Economic Club of Chicago, Ill.
	“Manion Forum”
	New York Chamber of Commerce
BOX 26	Statements by Rickenbacker
	1959-1961
	1953-1958
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BOX 27	1915-1944
	“T” miscellaneous
	Transcontinental record, 1935
	“U-V” miscellaneous
	Use of name and photograph
BOX 28	“W” miscellaneous
	World Sunday School Association
	World War II activities
	Bong, Richard I.
BOX 29	Miscellaneous
	“X-Z” miscellaneous
	Young Americans for Freedom
	Young people's letters



## Correspondence File I, 1915-1968

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
BOX 30	A-K	
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	Broadcasts	
	Birthday greetings	
	Conservative Party of New York State	
	Invitations accepted	
	A-L	
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	BOX 31	“Manion Forum”
Miscellaneous		
Radio and television		
Speeches and comments		
Statements		
BOX 32	1963	
	Air Force Aid Society	
	Air Force Museum	
	“B” miscellaneous	
	Big Brother Movement	
	John Birch Society	
	Birthday greetings	
	Boys Clubs of America	
	BOX 33	“C” miscellaneous
		Christmas letters
		Clubs and lodges
		Conservative Party of New York State
		Contributions
BOX 34	“D” miscellaneous	
	“E” miscellaneous	
	“F” miscellaneous	
	“G” miscellaneous	
	Goldwater, Barry, file	
	“H” miscellaneous	
	“I” miscellaneous	
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	A-C	
	BOX 35	D-J
K-M		
N-Z		
“J” miscellaneous		
BOX 36	“K” miscellaneous	
	“L” miscellaneous	
	Magazines	
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	“M” miscellaneous	
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## Correspondence File I, 1915-1968

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BOX 37	“A-G” miscellaneous (6 folders)
BOX 38	“H-M” miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 39	“N-V” miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 40	“W-Z” miscellaneous
	“N” miscellaneous
	New York World's Fair Corp.
	Newspapers
	“O” miscellaneous
	“P” miscellaneous
	People-to-People Partnership
BOX 41	“R” miscellaneous
	Radio and television
	“S” miscellaneous
	Speeches
BOX 42	Statements and forwards
	<i>The Tonight Show</i>
	“X-Z” miscellaneous
	1964
	“A-H” miscellaneous
	American Legion
	Birthday greetings
	Christmas letters
	Goldwater, Barry, file
	Invitations accepted
BOX 43	“J” miscellaneous
	“M” miscellaneous
	“Manion Forum”
	Monroe Doctrine Committee
	“P” miscellaneous
	People-to People Partnership
	“Q” miscellaneous
	“R” miscellaneous
	Radio and television
	Retirement
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BOX 44	H-N
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BOX 45	South African trip
	Speeches and comments
	Statements and forwards
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## Correspondence File I, 1915-1968

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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	Young people's letters
<b>BOX 46</b>	1965
	“A” miscellaneous
	Air Force Aid Society
	Air Force Museum
	American Economic Foundation
	“B” miscellaneous
<b>BOX 47</b>	Birthday greetings
	Boys Clubs of America
	Books by Rickenbacker
	Autobiography
	“C” miscellaneous
	Christmas letters
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	“E” miscellaneous
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	“F” miscellaneous
	“G” miscellaneous
	“H” miscellaneous
	“I” miscellaneous
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	“L” miscellaneous
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	Monroe Doctrine Committee
	“N” miscellaneous
	Newspapers
	“O” miscellaneous
	“P” miscellaneous
	People-to-People Partnership
	“R” miscellaneous
	Radio and television
	“S” miscellaneous
	Speeches
	Statements and forwards
	“T” miscellaneous
<b>BOX 50</b>	“U” miscellaneous
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## Correspondence File I, 1915-1968

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	“W” miscellaneous
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	Young Americans for Freedom
	Young people's letters
	1966
	“A” miscellaneous
BOX 51	Air Force Aid Society
	Air Force Museum
	Air Force World War I Combat Flyers
	American Economic Foundation
	Autograph requests
	“B” miscellaneous
	Birthday greetings
	Boys Clubs of America
	“C” miscellaneous
	Christmas letters
	Clubs and lodges
	Bohemian Club and Grove
	Question Club
BOX 52	“D” miscellaneous
BOX 54	1967
	“A” miscellaneous
	Air Force Aid Society
	Air Force Museum
	Autobiography
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	Comments
	A-J
	K-Z
	Prentice-Hall
BOX 55	Requests
	A-B
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BOX 56	M-P
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	“B” miscellaneous
	Birthday greetings
	Books by Rickenbacker
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	Christmas letters
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## Correspondence File I, 1915-1968

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BOX 58	"D" miscellaneous	
	"E" miscellaneous	
	Eastern Air Lines	
	"F" miscellaneous	
	First Fighter Wing 50th Anniversary	
	"G" miscellaneous	
	"H" miscellaneous	
	"I-J" miscellaneous	
	Invitations accepted	
	Tony Janus Award	
	"K" miscellaneous	
	"L" miscellaneous	
	"M" miscellaneous	
	Magazines	
	"My Personal Creed"	
	"N" miscellaneous	
	BOX 59	Newspapers
		"O" miscellaneous
		"P-Q" miscellaneous
		"R" miscellaneous
Radio and television		
"S" miscellaneous		
Statements and forwards		
Television miscellaneous		
"W" miscellaneous		
"X" miscellaneous		
BOX 60	Young people's letters	
	1968	
	"A" miscellaneous	
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	Air Force Museum	
	America's Future	
	Carr-Kiwanis	
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	M-Z	
BOX 61	Miscellaneous	
	School acknowledgments	
	Autographs requested	
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	L-Z	
	BOX 62	Autobiography
Miscellaneous		
Requests		
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	Tour schedules, 1967-1968
BOX 63	Fawcett
	Comments
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BOX 64	Q-Z
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	Big Brother Movement
	Birthday greetings
	Boy Scouts of America
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BOX 65	Christmas letters
	Clubs and lodges
	Question Club
	“D” miscellaneous
	“E” miscellaneous
	Eastern Air Lines
	“F” miscellaneous
	“G” miscellaneous
	“H” miscellaneous
	“I” miscellaneous
	Invitations accepted
BOX 66	“J” miscellaneous
	“K” miscellaneous
	“L” miscellaneous
	“M” miscellaneous
	Magazines
	“N” miscellaneous
	Newspapers
	“O-P” miscellaneous
	“R” miscellaneous
	Radio and television
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	Statements and forwards
BOX 67	“T-Z” miscellaneous
	Young people's letters
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BOX 67-75	<b>Speech File I, 1930-1970</b>
	Speeches and speech material.
	Arranged chronologically.

## Speech File I, 1930-1970

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BOX 68	1937-1940 1942 1943 1944 1945-1946
BOX 69	1947-1948 1949 1950
BOX 70	1951-1952 1953 1954-1956
BOX 71	1957-1959 1960 1961
BOX 72	1962 Jan.-Apr. May-Aug. Sept.-Dec.
BOX 73	1963 Jan.-June July-Dec.
BOX 74	1964 Jan.-June July-Dec.
BOX 75	1965-1969 1970s Statements 1923-1965
BOX 75-97	<b>Book File</b> Notes, drafts, transcripts of interviews, pages proofs, galleys, photographs, and other material relating to the publication of Rickenbacker's autobiography and other works, including <i>Fighting the Flying Circus</i> . Arranged by title of work or type of material
BOX 75	<i>Rickenbacker</i> Notes Introduction Finished manuscript
BOX 76	Chapter I Chapter II Chapter III Chapter IV Chapter V Chapter VI

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BOX 77	Chapter VII Chapter VIII Chapter IX Chapter X Chapter XI Chapter XII Chapter XIII
BOX 78	Chapter XIV Chapter XV Chapter XVI Chapter XVII Chapter XVIII Chapter XIX
BOX 79	Chapter XX Corrected galleys Page proofs
BOX 80	Transcripts of dictated notes Nos. 1-16
BOX 81	Nos. 17-33
BOX 82	Nos. 34-39 H
BOX 83	Nos. 39- I-47
BOX 84	Nos. 48-60
BOX 85	Nos. 61-73
BOX 86	Nos. 74-79 Carbon copies of transcripts of dictated notes Nos. 1-23
BOX 87	Nos. 24-44
BOX 88	Nos. 45-79
BOX 89	Job tickets from Dial Dictation Official pictures of World War I Poems and tributes to Rickenbacker Photographs of airplane engines
BOX 90	“Christmas Letters” “Pacific Mission” “This War Is Not Over” “World Mission”
BOX 91	Rickenbacker's life story <i>Fighting the Flying Circus</i>
BOX 92	Rickenbacker autobiography, manuscript “Life story of Captain Edward V. Rickenbacker”
BOX 93	Rickenbacker autobiography, manuscript
BOX 94	Rickenbacker autobiography, edited manuscript
BOX 95	Rickenbacker autobiography, mimeographed copy of manuscript
BOX 96	Rickenbacker autobiography, copy of manuscripts from Prentice-Hall <i>Fighting the Flying Circus</i> Final galleys



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	pp. 1-178
BOX 97	pp. 179-355 Photocopy of galleys
BOX 98-107	<b>Miscellany I, 1915-1973</b> Notes, movie scripts, printed matter, albums, birthday greetings, and other miscellaneous material. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 98	“Ace Drummond,” script Notes on missions in World War II Booklet from Donald Wills Douglas Dinner Life
BOX 99	Four scripts of <i>Captain Eddie</i> movie <i>Time</i> <i>Forbes</i> magazine Program of testimonial dinner
BOX 100-101	Albums of magazine articles 1915-1942
BOX 104-105	1943-1950
BOX 104-105	1951-1973
BOX 106-107	Fiftieth birthday greetings
BOX 108-127	<b>Correspondence File II, 1940-1973</b> Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, subject, or topic within chronological spans.
BOX 108	1940-1941, America First Committee 1964-1968, Wackenhut Corp.
BOX 109	1969 “A” miscellaneous Air Force Academy scholarship Air Force Aid Society Air Force Museum American Economic Foundation Autobiography Miscellaneous Carr-Kiwanis Club Comments A-F G-Z
BOX 110	Distribution to schools Requests Autographs A-K L-Z

## Correspondence File II, 1940-1973

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 112	“D” miscellaneous “E” miscellaneous Eastern Air Lines information “F” miscellaneous “G” miscellaneous “H” miscellaneous “I” miscellaneous Invitations, A-Z
BOX 113	“J” miscellaneous “M” miscellaneous Magazines “N” miscellaneous Newspaper “O” miscellaneous “P” miscellaneous “R” miscellaneous Radio and television “S” miscellaneous Statements and forewords “T” miscellaneous “U-Y” miscellaneous
BOX 114	1970 “A” miscellaneous Air Force Aid Society Air Force Museum American Economic Foundation Autobiography Comments Fawcett <i>From Father to Son</i> Prentice-Hall Inc.
BOX 115	Autographs A-L M-Z “B” miscellaneous Birthday greetings
BOX 116	Boy Scouts of America

## Correspondence File II, 1940-1973

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	Boys Club of America
	“C” miscellaneous
	Christmas letters
	Clubs and lodges
	Committee of One Million Against the Admission of Communist China to the United Nations.
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	Eastern Air Lines information
	“F” miscellaneous
	“G” miscellaneous
BOX 117	“H” miscellaneous
	“I” miscellaneous
	“J-L” miscellaneous
	“M” miscellaneous
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	“N-P” miscellaneous
	Newspapers
	“R” miscellaneous
	Radio and television
	Rickenbacker, William F.
	“S” miscellaneous
	Statements and forewords
	“T” miscellaneous
	“U” miscellaneous
	“V” miscellaneous
	“W” miscellaneous
	Wackenhut Corp.
BOX 118	1971
	“A” miscellaneous
	Air Force Aid Society
	Air Force Museum
	Autobiography
	Comments
	<i>From Father to Son</i>
	Prentice-Hall Inc.
	Requests
	Autographs
	A-K
BOX 119	L-Z
	“B” miscellaneous
	Birthday greetings
	Bohemian Club and Grove
	Boy Scouts of America
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	Christmas letters
	Clubs and lodges

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	Question Club
BOX 120	“D” miscellaneous
	“E” miscellaneous
	Eastern Air Lines information
	“F” miscellaneous
	“G” miscellaneous
	“H” miscellaneous
	“I” miscellaneous
	Invitations
	“J” miscellaneous
	“K” miscellaneous
	“L” miscellaneous
	“M” miscellaneous
	Magazines
BOX 121	“N-P” miscellaneous
	Newspapers
	“R” miscellaneous
	Rickenbacker, miscellaneous
	“S” miscellaneous
	Statements and forewords
	“T” miscellaneous
	“U-V” miscellaneous
	“W” miscellaneous
	Wackenhut Corp.
BOX 122	1972
	“A” miscellaneous
	Air Force Aid Society
	Air Force Museum
	American Economic Foundation
	Autobiography
	Comments
	<i>From Father to Son</i>
	Requests
	Autographs
BOX 123	“B” miscellaneous
	Birthday greetings
	Boy Scouts of America
	Boys Club of America
	“C” miscellaneous
	Bohemian Club
	Clubs and lodges
	Question Club
	“D” miscellaneous
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## Correspondence File II, 1940-1973

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BOX 124	Eastern Air Lines information “G” miscellaneous “H” miscellaneous Get-well wishes “I” miscellaneous Invitations “J-K” miscellaneous “M” miscellaneous “N-P” miscellaneous
BOX 125	“R” miscellaneous “S” miscellaneous Statements and forewords “T” miscellaneous “U” miscellaneous Wackenhut Corp. 1973 “A-B” miscellaneous Air Force Aid Society Autobiography Comments Requests Autographs
BOX 126	Boy Scouts of America Boys Club of America “C” miscellaneous Clubs and lodges “D” miscellaneous “E-H” miscellaneous “I-M” miscellaneous
BOX 127	Invitations “N-Q” miscellaneous “R” miscellaneous “S” miscellaneous “T-V” miscellaneous Wackenhut Corp. “X-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 127	<b>Speech File II, 1922-1928</b> Speeches and related material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 127	1922-1928, undated
BOX 128-131	<b>Miscellany II, 1913-1972</b> Magazine articles, clippings, programs and announcements, and papers of his son, William F. Rickenbacker.

## Miscellany II, 1913-1972

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BOX 128	Magazine articles, 1919-1960, undated Original transcripts for <i>Life</i> magazine and "Seven Came Through," 1943, undated
BOX 129	Newspaper clippings, 1913-1942, undated
BOX 130	Programs and announcements 1919-1955
BOX 131	1956-1968 Papers of William F. Rickenbacker (son), 1960-1972