



OX5 NEWS

Published by and for Members of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers®

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 2

APRIL 1980

ALBERT A. VOLLMECKE **Aeronautical Engineer, Inventor and Designer**



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VOLLMECKE**

Born in Germany in 1901, Al Vollmecke earned an Engineering Degree from the University of Braunschweig in 1923 at which time he was employed by the Heinkel Company. Four years later, the Heinkel Company sent him to the United States as their representative. But shortly thereafter the Command-Aire Company, of Little Rock selected Vollmecke to be their Chief Engineer, and as such he designed the Command-Aire bi-plane. The latter was one of only three aircraft that successfully passed the 1929 Guggenheim "Safe Airplane Test" amongst great competition. And it was the only one of the successful three to go into extended production.

Some will recall that in 1930, Vollmecke designed and built the "Little Rocket" in which Lee Gehlbach won the All American Air Derby. And for this distinctive "win" both Lee and Al received a special tribute from the citizens of Arkansas, signed by the Governor.

Under Al Vollmecke's direction, Command-Aire received 14 ATC's that resulted in the construction of 116 aircraft, powered with OX5 engines.

Moving over to the CAA/FAA in 1933, and for the next 30 years, as an Aeronautical Engineer, Vollmecke originated and developed many advanced designs regarded as major contributions to the safety and performance of all types of civil and military aircraft. He served in the early 40's as Senior Member of the Air Force/Navy/Civil Aircraft Design Criteria Committee that achieved standardization of design, testing and analysis of new and modified aircraft. The result of this was a tremendous savings in money and engineering manpower during WWII.

Vollmecke has devoted practically a lifetime to the development and promotion of all phases of aviation, with emphasis on safety and reliability of aircraft and engines. His inventive genius and engineering abilities have served well to advance aviation by many years.

Being generally recognized as one of the foremost aeronautical engineers, the many technical papers he has authored have been widely accepted throughout the aviation industry as authentic guidance material.

In 1978, Al Vollmecke's name went into the OX5 Aviation Pioneers Hall of Fame, as one of many tributes to his accomplishments. He is an OX5er, and a member of Q.B.'s, and obviously he holds membership in many aeronautical engineering societies. He has also received NASA's Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding contributions to aeronautical engineering, particularly for his work in connection with structural and research programs over the previous 24 years, during which time he served as a member of NACA and NASA Research and Advisory Committees.

The foregoing accounts for one of the great aviation engineering personalities of our time, one who never sought nor expected notoriety for his behind-the-scenes expertise, and one whom we are glad to count as an associate.