



He brings 'em back alive

HENRY HEIGIS, of Bloomfield, N. J., could easily claim the title of No. 1 Lifesaver of United Nations fighters. This 37-year-old engineer invented the "**Mae West**" life jacket for fliers, and the device that inflates rubber life rafts like the one that saved Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker. Secret of all his inventions is a flask of carbon dioxide (he's uncorking one in our photo). The carbon dioxide expands 450 times when released from a bottle; instantly inflates the raft or life jacket. Heigis also invented a fire extinguisher that saved 400 U. S. tanks and hundreds of United Nations planes during its first few months in use. In this case the carbon dioxide is used to smother the flames. One of his extinguishers put out an engine-room fire on President Roosevelt's sloop in 1933. Heigis says he gets his best ideas for inventions while walking his dog.

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