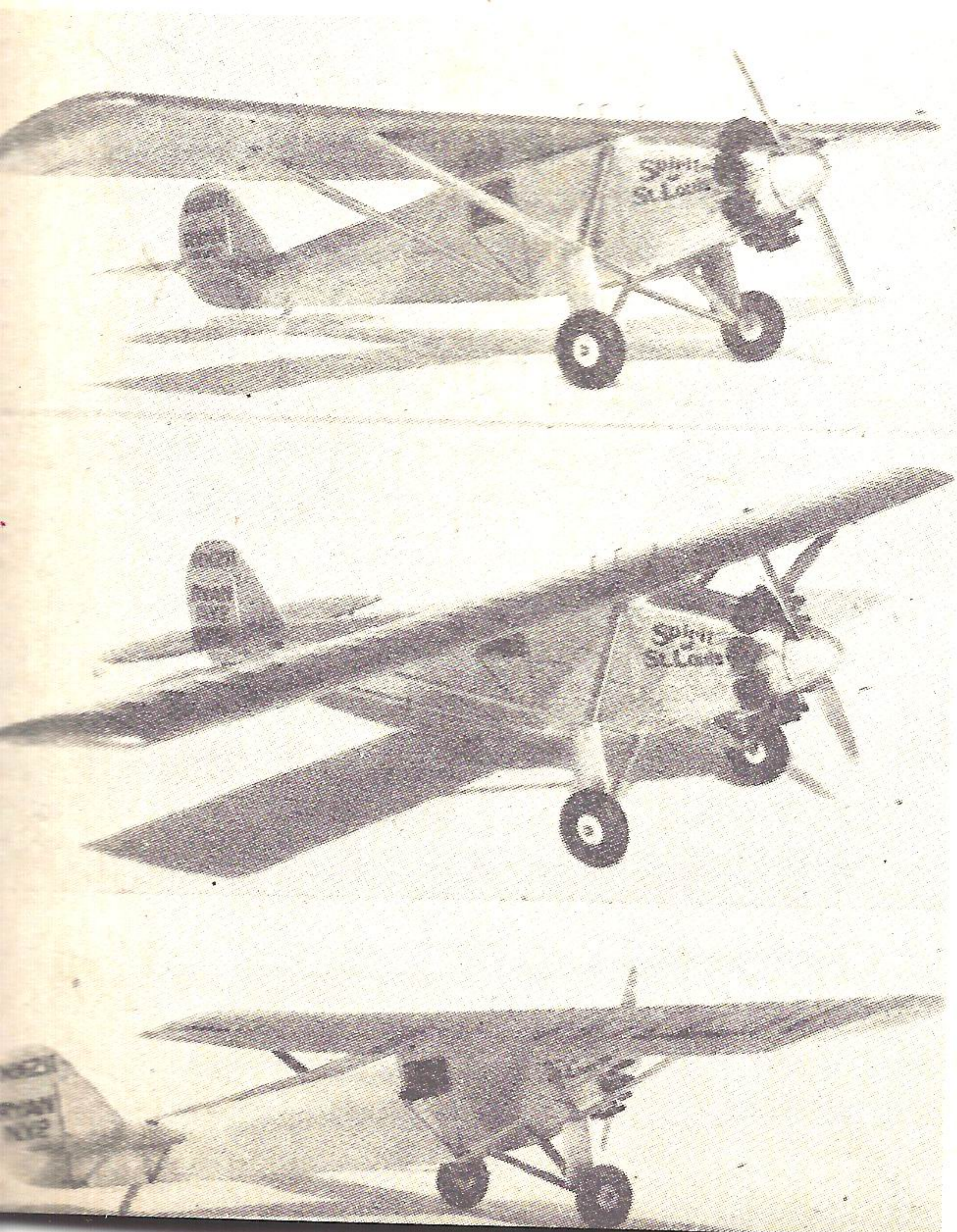


By HENRY STRUCK

How can you pass up this one? One of history's most famous planes as a control liner or free fighter.



THE epic transatlantic solo flight of Charles A. Lindbergh stands to this day as the most inspiring and dramatic achievement in the spectacular history of aviation. On May 12, 1927, then a virtually unknown young airman, he set down his silver ship at Curtiss Field, Long Island, to complete a one-stop jaunt across the continent and calmly announced his intention to fly on to Paris. Quickly he hopped his ship to nearby Roosevelt Field where Clarence Chamberlin and Commander Byrd were preparing their craft for the same test.

Early on the morning of May 20, "Lindy" eased his long frame into the tiny cabin and lifted the heavily loaded ship from the soggy field in an almost incredible take-off. Barely clearing high-tension lines at the edge of the field, he disappeared into the mists. Twelve hours later he was over St. John's, Newfoundland, the "jumping off place" for the journey across the sea. Fighting blindly through fog banks, now skimming at wave-top heights to escape icing, again climbing to 10,000 feet to