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# Rolls-Royce Wraith Eagle VIII

AN HOMAGE TO HEROES

**A** GAINST INCREDIBLE ODDS, on a June night in 1911, two daring aviators completed the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. The task wasn't easy, but thanks to their tenacity and their plane's reliable pair of Rolls-Royce Eagle VIII engines, they made it and, in the process, made history.

To commemorate the duo's achievement, Rolls-Royce is releasing a special edition Wraith, aptly named the Eagle VIII.

Captain John Alcock and navigator Lieutenant Arthur Brown took off from St. John's Newfoundland, and right away, encountered trouble. A damaged radio cut off all communications. Flying at higher altitudes drove them into thick sleet, hail, and snow. Dropping lower enwrapped them in dense, blinding fog. Gauges iced over and the gas gauge stopped working.

Hammered by stiff winds and with no sense of the horizon, the disoriented men tossed and flipped their aircraft, sometimes just feet above the ocean waves. Still, they pressed on, finally breaking free from the harsh weather. Relying on the stars to guide them, they touched down in a bog in Clifden, Ireland. It was a harrowing 16-hour journey but a landmark achievement for air travel.

The gunmetal and grey Wraith Eagle VIII features design elements evocative of this nighttime adventure. Passengers are treated to a cabin in




*Harkening to the airmen's frosty gauges, the car's clockface has an iced background effect. It also faintly glows green, just like their plane's control panel.*

perspective with the plane's cockpit. Looking down on the dash and center console shows a modern-day, abstract interpretation of the view of the Emerald Isle coastline from high above. It's created using smoked Eucalyptus wood, vacuum metalized in gold and then inlaid with silver and copper.

Looking up at the vehicle's starlight headliner, its hundreds of illuminated fibers reveals the same celestial arrangements seen by Alcock and Brown. Their flight path is embroidered in cobber thread, as are the constellations.



The men's courage and their trip is a stunning tale and the Wraith VIII is an equally stunning tribute. Just 50 of these exquisite motorcars will be made available. 

*Matt Avery is an automotive author and historian. His new book, "COPO", documents Chevy's ultimate muscle cars, showcasing over 40 of the world's best COPO examples.*

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