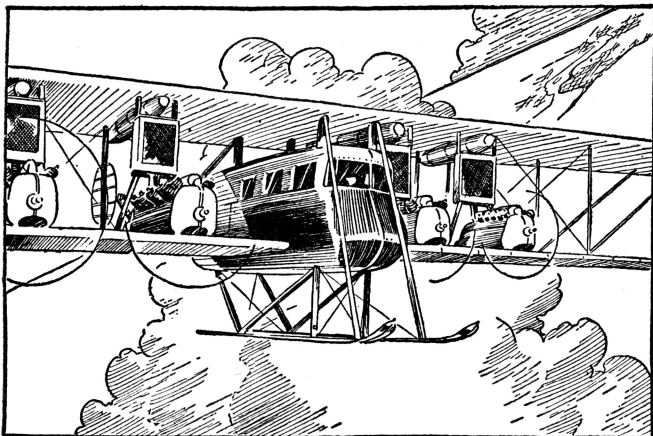


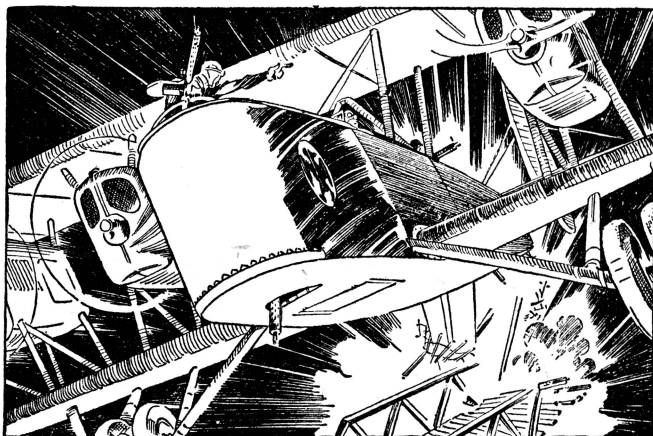
They Had What It Takes

VIII—IGOR SIKORSKY—MULTI-MOTOR MIRACLE MAN

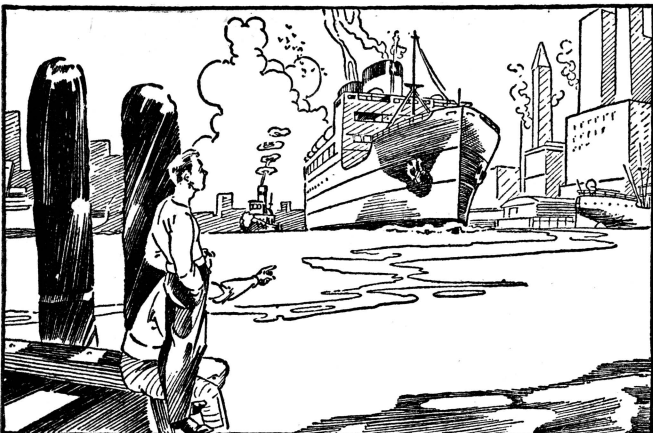
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



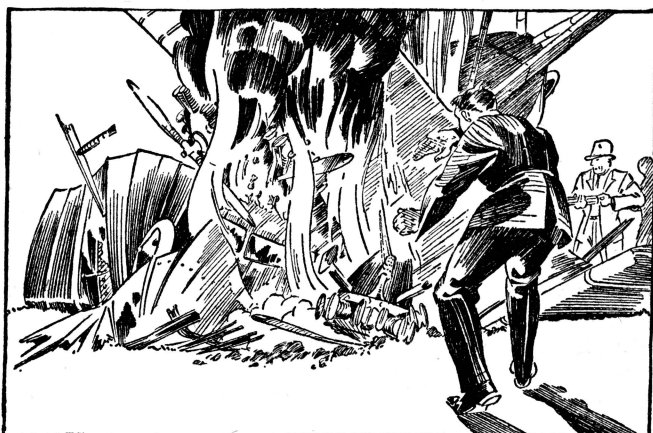
1—Born in Kieff, Russia, in 1889, Igor Ivan Sikorsky first attended local schools, then studied in the Navy College at Petrograd (now Leningrad). After further training in Paris, he returned home and conducted several pioneer experiments with helicopters. Then, in 1911, he built the first multi-motored airplane—a striking craft which mounted four 100-h.p. engines.



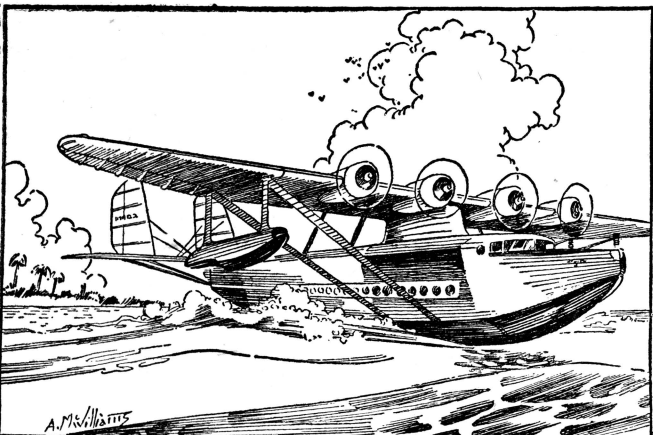
2—Two years later, the young designer entered a pair of planes in the Russian Military Competition—and carried off the two top prizes. The Czar was impressed; hence when war was declared in 1914, Sikorsky was commissioned to build bombers. He constructed no less than 73 four-motored ships, some of which are said to have mounted eleven machine guns.



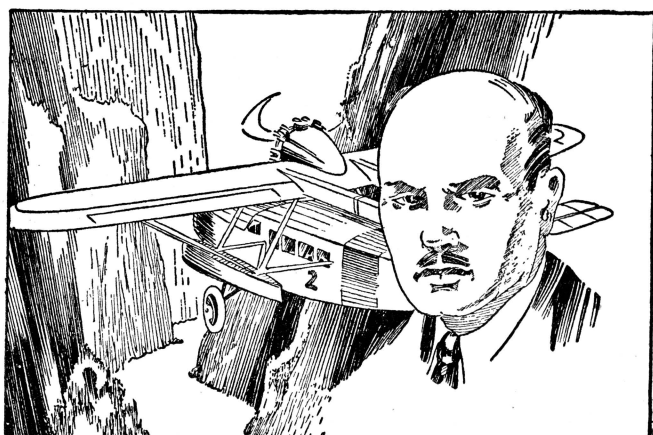
3—In 1918, France asked Sikorsky to make military planes. But the Armistice precluded this plan, and shortly thereafter, the designer and a few of his faithful mechanics boarded a trans-Atlantic liner and sailed to New York. Here, Sikorsky encountered hardships; for the U.S.A. wasn't very interested in aviation immediately after the War.



4—Nevertheless, 1924 saw Sikorsky developing his fourteen-passenger S-29. Then later came the three-motored S-35 amphibian for Rene Fonck's trans-Atlantic attempt. But Fate was frowning. On the take-off for France, the S-35 roared into a ditch and was destroyed in a mass of flames. Fonck and his co-pilot escaped, but their mechanic was killed.



5—Undaunted by this set-back, the skilled Russian established a factory near Bridgeport, Conn., and continued to design and build amphibians. Finally, he turned his attention to huge flying boats for P.A.A.'s inter-America routes. And most recently, his mammoth four-engined S-42 boats have been used to pioneer both the trans-Pacific and trans-Atlantic airlines.



6—Twenty-five years of noteworthy aircraft production have ensconced the name of Igor Ivan Sikorsky among the half-dozen great aero designers of history. His honors have been many, his fame is world-wide, his ships have achieved scores of records. And this multi-motor miracle man is busy this very minute—busy planning even greater craft of the skies.