

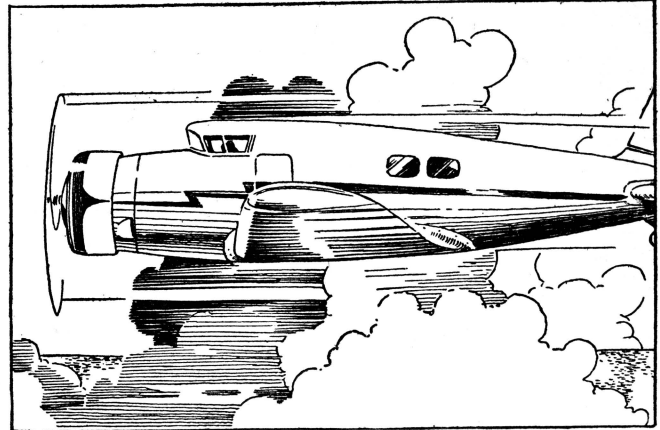
They Had What It Takes

XII—"DICK" MERRILL—ATLANTIC ROUND TRIPPER

By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



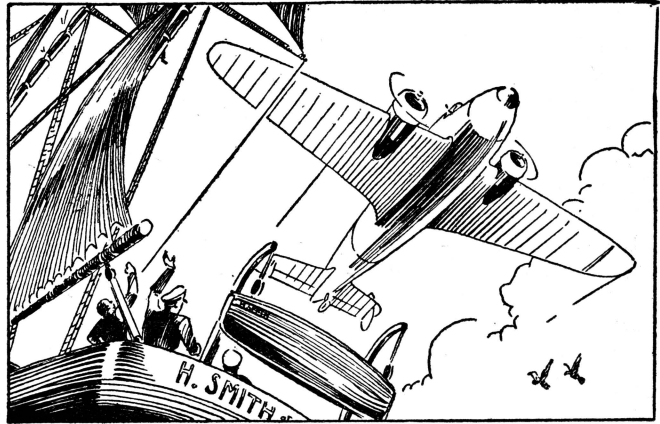
1—Born in Inca, Miss., in 1897, Henry T. Merrill was soon tagged "Dick" by virtue of his athletic prowess (from Dick Merriwell, you know). He attended the State U., won his wings after two years in the Navy, did some test piloting, then joined Pitcairn Air Transport. He first made the headlines by "caterpillaring" out of a fogbound mail plane near Charlotte, N.C.



2—In 1935, Merrill completed a dramatic flight from Argentina to Antarctica, ferrying a Northrop to Sir Hubert Wilkins, who needed the craft to search for the then-lost air explorer, Lincoln Ellsworth. Then in 1936 the Mississippian twice crossed the Atlantic in a Vultee—over in August, back in September—with Harry Richman, the entertainer, as his partner.



3—Rejoining Eastern Air Lines, "Dick" was promoted to the position of chief pilot. Then Fate wrote his name in her "crack-up book." On his routine Miami-New York run, a terrific storm struck, forced him to pancake his Lockheed Electra in a forest. He suffered a broken jaw—but his skill in handling the ship brought his passengers through the ordeal unscathed.



4—Then in May, 1937, Dick Merrill chalked up his most sensational aero achievement. With Jack Lambie as co-pilot, he roared an Electra across the Atlantic to London, picked up photographs of the Coronation, and flew back to America—all in striking 1-2-3 fashion! The first feat of its kind, this memorable round-trip marked a new milestone in aviation.



5—Soon afterward, Monogram Pictures persuaded Merrill to star in *Atlantic Flight*, the current feature film dedicated to this skilled pilot's speedy double-conquest of the ocean. And so, Dick flew his Electra to Hollywood, and with Lambie accompanying him on this Thespian adventure, he faced a battery of cameras to prove that he was handy at reel flying, too.



6—Having covered more than 2,000,000 air miles in 12,000 hours of flying—and that, fans, represents nearly a year and half in the sky—Dick Merrill is our outstanding air line veteran. And renowned as a great "precision flyer" by virtue of his consistent success in dramatic flights, he has won a first-rank niche in the International Hall of Air Fame.