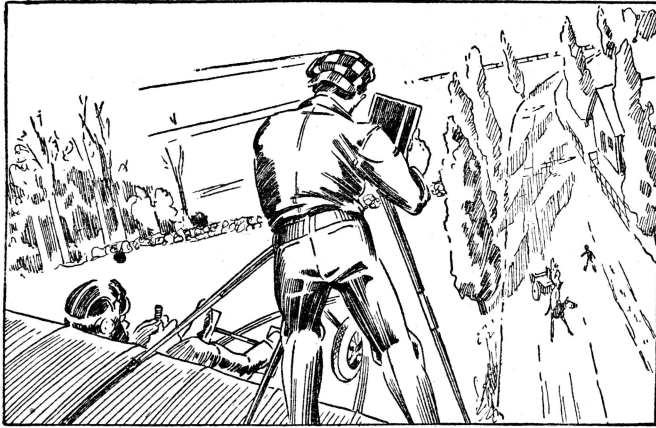


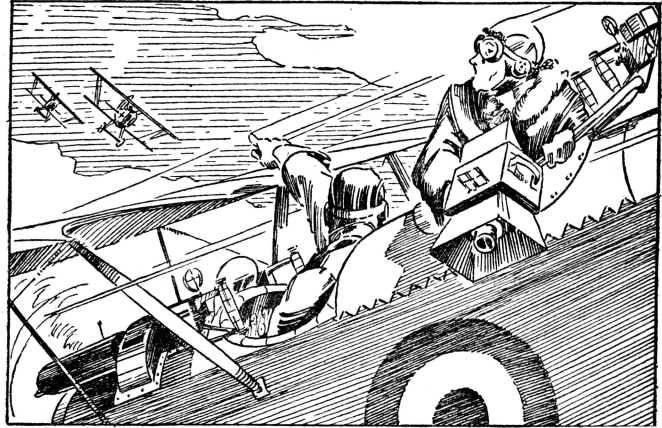
They Had What It Takes

XVII—SIR HUBERT WILKINS—AIRMAN EXTRAORDINARY

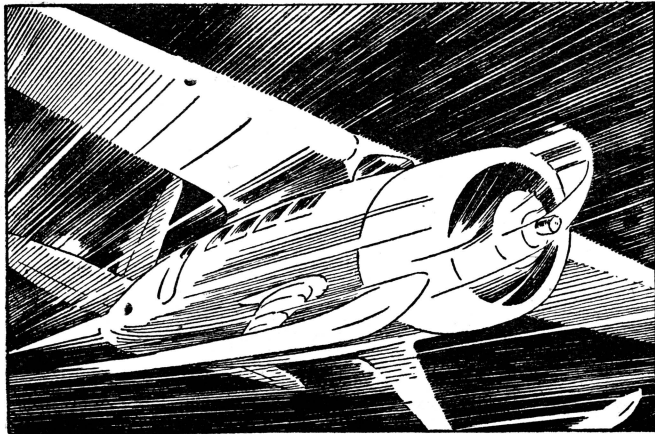
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



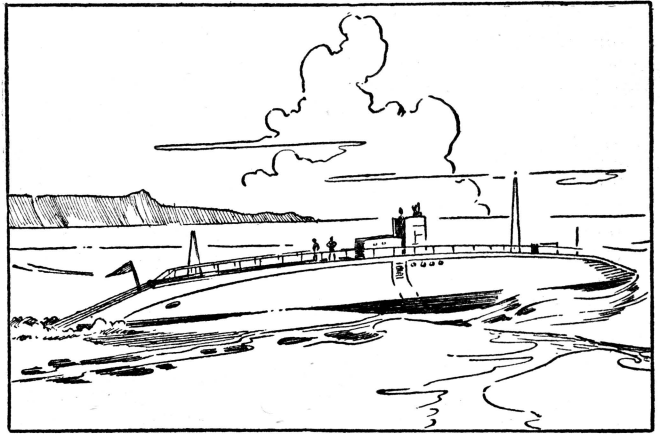
1—George Hubert Wilkins was born in South Australia in the year 1888. After attending the Adelaide School of Mines, he took up motion picture photography, specializing in stunt reels, including "shots" from the wings of speeding planes. At this time (1910) he learned to fly. Then he went to cover the Balkan wars as a photographer for a London newspaper.



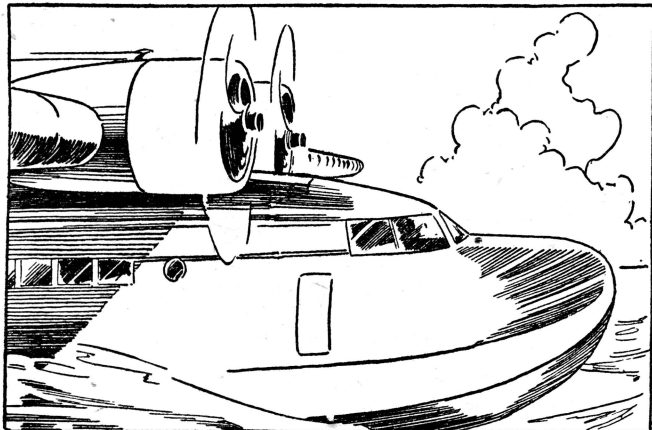
2—Just prior to the Great War, Wilkins accompanied the Stefansson expedition into the Arctic, again acting as cameraman. But in 1916 he returned home, enlisted in the Australian Air Forces, and became a Captain in the Air Photography unit. As a sky-battling photographer, he saw considerable action while shooting pictures of the German lines and gun positions.



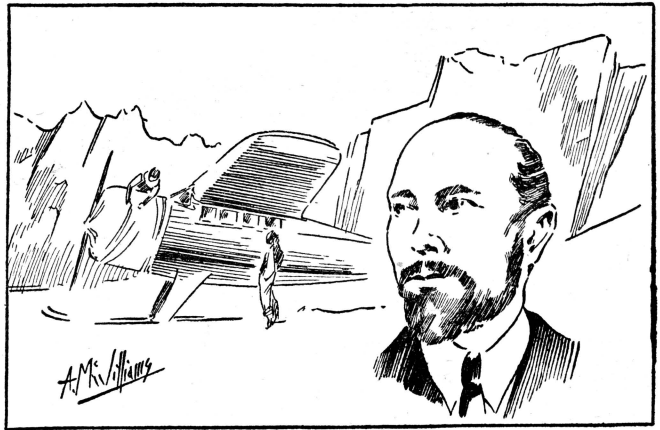
3—The War over, he figured in a futile try at an England-to-Australia flight. There followed a trip with Shackleton to Enderby Land, Antarctica. Then 1926 saw him at Point Barrow Alaska, from which he twice took off for Spitzbergen only to be forced down. Nevertheless, he managed to chart unexplored portions of the Beaufort Sea during these attempts.



4—But his third trans-Arctic try (1928) was crowned with success! For with Carl Ben Eielson at the controls of his Lockheed Vega, the Australian dashed off the 2,200 miles to Spitzbergen in a running time of 20½ hours. A flight over Graham Land in Antarctica was next. Then in 1930 Wilkins obtained a submarine and planned a truly sensational voyage.



5—His scheme was an under-ice sub trip to the North Pole! And though his first submarine failed to pass tests after he journeyed with her to Norway, Wilkins, his spirit unquenched, still swears he'll "take a shot at it." Meanwhile, this surprising Anzac has been flying a twin-motored plane over the Arctic searching for the Russian flyers lost late last year.



6—Knighted by King George V and awarded many medals, Sir Hubert Wilkins ranks high among the world's great airmen. Indeed, he might well be called a flyer-of-all-trades; for he has proved his skill as a pilot, mechanic, photographer, explorer and naturalist—just to name a few of his talents. True, bad luck had often dogged him—but he's always fought on!