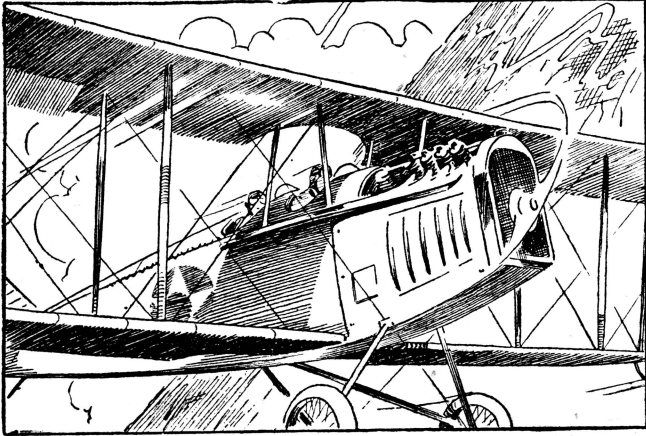


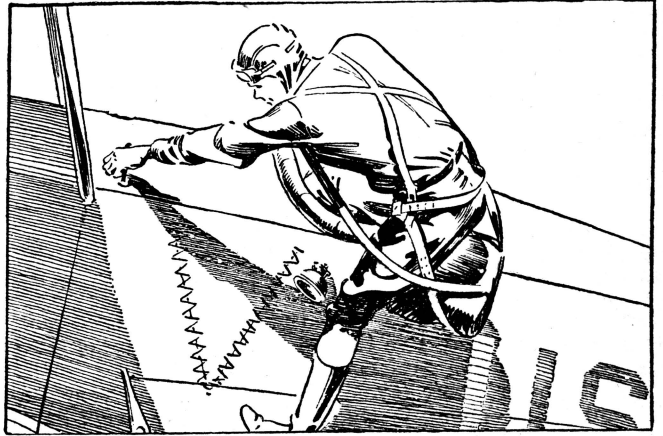
They Had What It Takes

XXI—JACK KNIGHT—AIR MAIL PIONEER

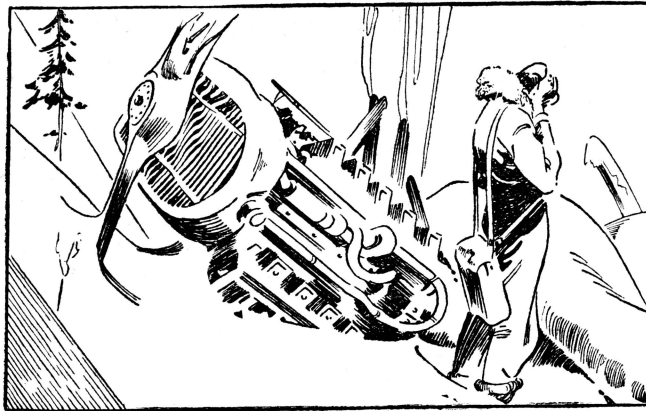
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



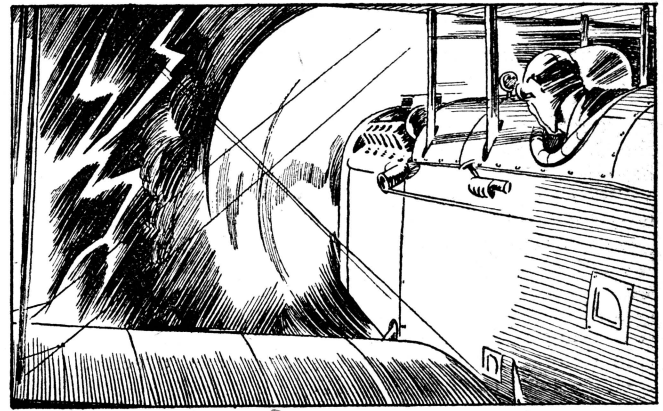
1—Jack Knight was born in Michigan in 1894. After completing his regular schooling, he developed a deep interest in machinery, and when war was declared, he joined the Army as a mechanical engineer. Next, he learned to fly. And exhibiting decided skill, he was assigned to Ellington Field, Texas, where he taught aerobatics during the remainder of the Big Fuss.



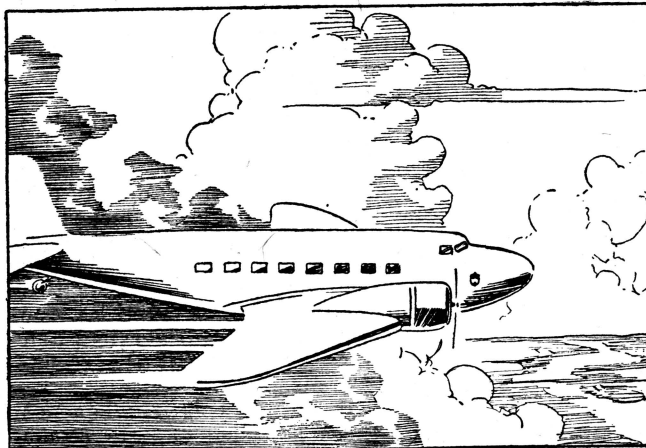
2—This Wolverine airman was one of the many war pilots who was not satisfied to remain on the ground after the Armistice. He soon bought himself a Jenny, and with the famed Eddie Stinson, he barnstormed about the country giving exhibition flights. Then in 1919, he signed up with the new air mail service which had just been organized the year before.



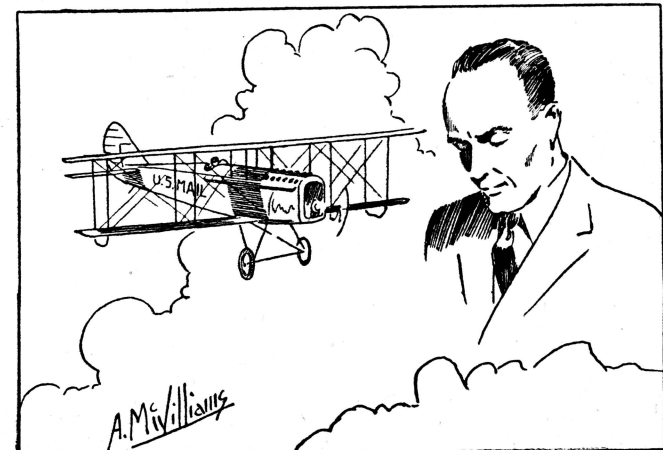
3—His first trips were between New York and Chicago. Later, he was switched to the Omaha-Cheyenne route. Near Cheyenne one day, his ship was fouled by canyon winds and he crashed into a deep snow drift on a mountain side. Suffering a broken nose and many cuts, he was unconscious for an hour. But he finally fought through seven miles of wilds for help.



4—In '21, he took part in the first night mail run—a demonstration to win continued Government support. Roaring into Omaha on his own leg of this grind, he found the flight cancelled due to bad weather. Furthermore, the relief pilot had gone home. Undismayed, however, Knight flew on to Chicago "on his own," guiding himself with a road map and flashlight.



5—During the years that followed, lighted airways were established. Then Jack Knight went over with United Air Lines, and in 1927, he began flying crack passenger planes between Chicago and Cheyenne. Continually, he added to his huge total of flying time. And today, this great Michigan sky pioneer has more than 18,000 officially logged hours to his credit!



6—Those 18,000 sky hours (they may be translated into the astounding distance of 2,400,000 air miles, or five round trips to the moon!) have placed Capt. Jack Knight well in the van of our commercial flyers. And though now retired from active flying, the Captain nevertheless continues his great work by directing United's public education program.