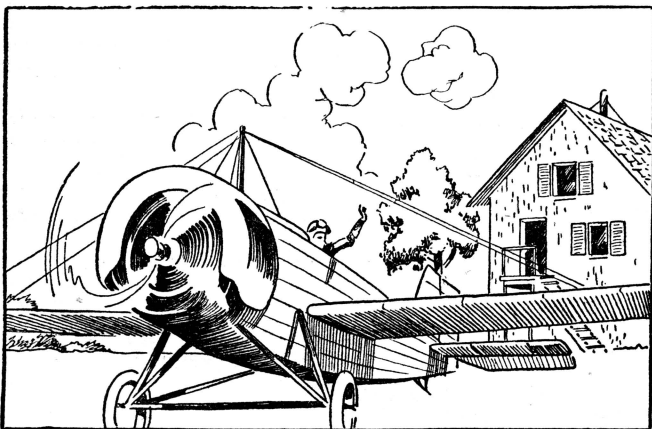


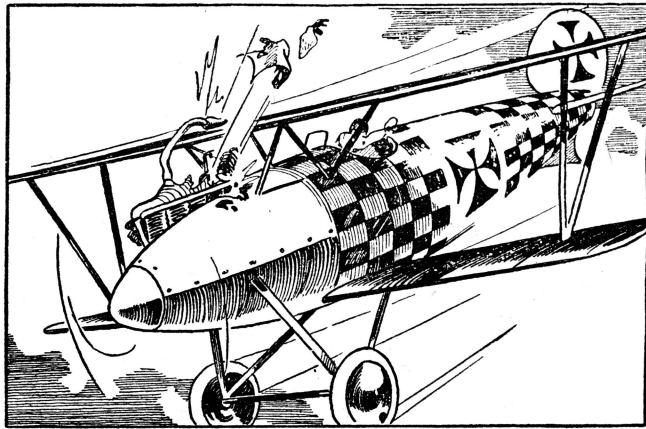
They Had What It Takes

XXV—ASSEN JORDANOFF—TOP-FLIGHT VETERAN

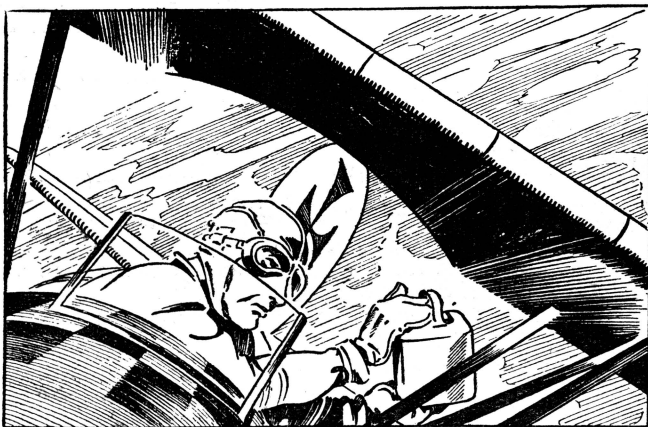
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



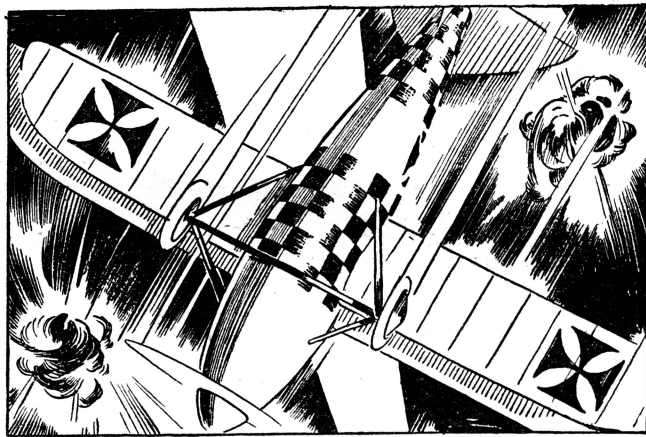
1—Virtually the day after his birth in Sofia, Bulgaria, Asen Jordanoff was eyeing the sky. And when only 12 he started to fly—at a time when the Wrights' achievement at Kittyhawk had hardly yet reverberated around the world! He built the first heavier-than-air machine in his country in 1912, and during the following months he flew in the Balkan War.



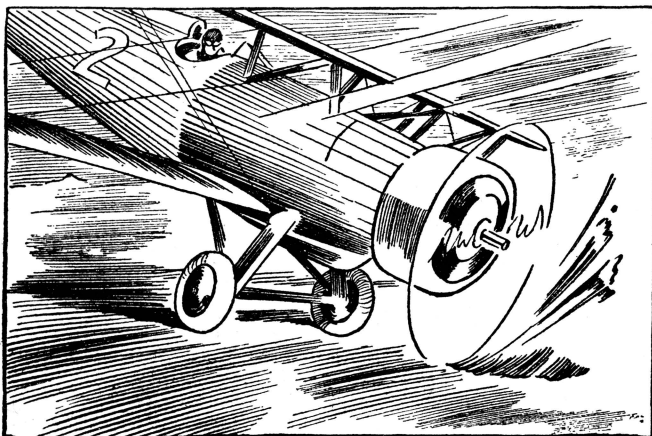
2—When his government went in with the Kaiser in the World War, the brilliant young Bulgar began flying German military planes against the enemy. It was while he was acting as an escort for a photography mission that he got into his first sky-fighting jam. Bullets smashed his engine, but he managed to land safely on a mountainside behind his own lines.



3—Having watched him go down, his assailants soon flew over again to destroy his crippled ship. But Jordanoff had his wits about him. With the aid of some peasants, he camouflaged his plane and saved it. Later, he dropped one of the first aero bombs—if not the first—when he pelted one of the enemy's concentrations with a tin can loaded with dynamite.



4—On another occasion, his stunting skill saved him from what looked like certain death. Searchlights spotted him flying low, then a terrific hail of "Archie" ringed him. But with quick maneuvers he escaped—and went on to become an Ace. After the War, he sailed to this country to be associated with Curtiss-Wright and other leading American aero firms.



5—Here, the veteran War flyer has proved himself to be tops at commercial piloting and at teaching students. Recently, too, he has tested various airplane instruments in flight, and he has advanced many improvements in this line. Caught in a gale on one test hop, he deliberately whirled his prop into the ground when landing—to keep from being swept away!



6—Considered one of the most competent and versatile flyers of our day, Asen Jordanoff has also become a noted aviation author. Besides writing numerous feature articles, he has turned out two exceptionally fine aero books—*Your Wings*—and *Flying and How To Do It*. And so we hail Asen Jordanoff for his contributions to aeronautical progress.